

Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203

217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

On January 23, Gerald E. Hedberg, staff assistant for your Cooperative, completed his fifth year of service at Menard Electric.

During the December re-organizational meeting of the Menard County Board, David Crosnoe, system engineer for your Cooperative, was elected chairman of the Menard County Board. Congratulations Dave!

Now would be a good time to check the air filters on your forced air furnace. Remember, having clean filters helps improve the operating efficiency of the furnace, as well as improving the quality of air circulated in the home.



Two Menard Electric employees were honored in December for length of service to the cooperative. J. Dan Morgan (left) was cited for five years, and Glenn Squires received an award for 40 years of service.

Water Heater Rebate Program

In the December issue of the REN magazine, Menard Electric reported to its members that the Electric Water Heater Rebate Program was carried over to 1992.

As before, Menard Electric Cooperative will pay \$150 to members for installing an electric water heater which has a storage capacity of 40 gallons or larger. Beginning February 1, members may have to guarantee to the Cooperative that the water heater will be in place and in use for at least one year. For those members who are not already enrolled in the Load Management Program, the Cooperative suggests you do so at this time.

As a reminder, members who replace a fossil-fired water heater with an electric water heater will receive a rebate of \$175 providing the above requirements are met.

For those members who are not familiar with the Load Management Program it is simply a program

where the Cooperative places a load management control device on the water heater. This device enables the Cooperative to control the heating elements for peak periods only for up to four hours a day during the months of December, January, February, July and August. This helps the Cooperative reduce its overall demand, thus stabilizing our wholesale power rate.

Members enrolled in the program receive a rate reduction of three cents per kilowatt-hour from kilowatt-hour 600 to 1,000. This reduction is given to those members all 12 months of the year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office at 1-800-872-1203. If you have recently installed a water heater and would like to enroll in the Load Management Program and receive your rebate, please complete the information requested below and return it to the Cooperative office.

Name _____

MEC account number _____

Daytime telephone number _____

More electricity during winter months

Why do we use more electricity during the winter months?

That is a question we often receive this time of year, and although we have some ideas as to why one's usage may be higher than usual, we do not know specifically why a particular individual's electric energy usage is up. We do not know because we are not the ones who used the power. Even though the individual asking the question is the one using the power, he does not always know where he used it either. This is because we use electricity for so many things so many times a day we take it for granted and are not really conscious of the fact that we are using it.

For those who may be questioning why their electric energy usage is up in the winter months, we will list some of the easily overlooked uses for this time of year:

1. Holiday (Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day) cooking and baking.

2. More use of lighting because of the shorter daylight period.

3. Most heating systems require the use of electric power and run almost continuously during extremely cold periods.

4. Many use space heaters here and there in their homes and buildings.

5. Stock tank heaters and fountains are in use.

6. Engine heaters are being used for cars and tractors. In some known cases as many as five engine heating units are being used at the same time.

7. Electric blankets and heating pads are being used more.

8. Clothes dryers are used more and those in unheated rooms use more energy.

9. Forgetting to shut a light or an oven off and discovering it several hours or a day or two later.

10. Christmas tree and outdoor lights are left on during the evening.

Our New Year's resolutions are not new, we promise to . . .

. . . work as diligently as we can to provide adequate and reliable electric power to our members, striving constantly to keep quality of service high and the cost as low as possible.

. . . to search out and pass along to you ideas and information on efficient energy use.

. . . to be open and forthright with you, our members. If there is anything you want to know about our activities or policies, please tell us—we will pay attention.

We wish you a healthy, comfortable and prosperous New Year!

Meter reading dates

Many members try to assist our meter readers by making the meter more accessible during scheduled meter reading dates, either by moving debris from the meter area or restraining their dog(s). Any assistance you can give our meter

reader will certainly aid in securing the meter reading and help improve our billing procedures.

Listed below are the meter reading dates for February, March and April.

February 1992

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 1992

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 1992

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Electric heat installation rebates continue

Recently your board of directors elected to continue the Cooperative's Electric Heat Rebate Program. Under this program, members receive rebates for installing one of the most efficient heating and cooling systems on the market today, which means you can now pay less on heating and cooling bills because of the higher efficiency, as well as paying less to have them installed.

One of these systems is the air-to-air heat pump. Members installing an air-to-air heat pump having a SEER of 10.0 or greater will receive a one time rebate of \$250 per cooling ton.

Another even more efficient method to heat and cool your home is through the use of a geothermal system. This system is becoming increasingly popular and with good reason. Members installing a geothermal system

will receive a rebate of \$333 per cooling ton providing it has a SEER of 10.0 or greater.

Remember, in most cases both of these systems provide members with a five to seven year return on their investment and with Menard Electric's rebate, this return may be achieved in as little as three years. For those members who install ceiling cable or baseboard electric heat, Menard Electric also retained a \$50 per room rebate with a maximum of \$300 per household (bathroom excluded).

If you have any questions concerning these rebates or would like to find out about these systems, please contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office.

Become a blood donor

The need for blood in Springfield and surrounding communities is an ongoing and ever increasing one. By year end, 25,000 units will have been used in our local hospitals. To keep our local supply safe and adequate, new donors are needed. If you would like to take part in this important need in your community,

you may contact the Central Illinois Community Blood Bank at 217-753-1530.

Other blood banks in Menard Electric's service area are the Peoria Red Cross at 1224 North Berkley, Peoria, IL 61603, which services members in the Decatur/Lincoln/Havana/Manito areas; and in the Beardstown/Virginia/Chandlerville areas the St. Louis Red Cross can be contacted at 314-658-5840.

Dirty humidifiers may cause health problems

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

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

Minerals can also be released in the mist and settle as fine white

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

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

- Do not allow film and scale to develop in your humidifier. If possible, change the water in your room humidifier daily. Empty the tank before you fill it. If the tank is not removable, clean it often according to manufacturer's instructions.

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

- Drain and clean the tank of

your room humidifier before you store it. Clean it after summer storage. Remove dust on the outside of your unit.

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

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

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Friday, December 20, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff, and Meredith L. Worner, director Edward L. Allspach was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was discussed and an additional item under "Other Business" was added at the request of director Graff.

The minutes for the November 26, 1991, board meeting and the board executive session were approved as presented to the board.

The Inventory of Work Orders for November 1991 was approved. Manager Smith answered several questions relative to the bills submitted and the board approved payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved the application of 40 new memberships and 10 service permit applications.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of November 1991. The total margins for the month were approximately \$58,000 over budget. Total margins year-to-date are now about \$44,000 over the year-to-date budget. Manager Smith answered questions in regard to various items on the operating statement and balance sheet. The Outage Summary for the month of November had approximately one-third less outages than the same month last year resulting in less outage hours. The Safety Report showed one accident with an employee, however, there was no lost time for this injury. The Board approved the Operating Report for the month of November. Smith reviewed the sick leave program for the year 1991 and, after discussion, the board approved the continuation of the program for the year 1992.

The board reviewed the plans for the geothermal, heat pump and water heater bonus program for 1992. After discussion the board requested that management bring to the board at its next meeting, suggested changes in the water heater rebate policy.

Special occasion vouchers for the board for the month of November were approved.

President Goetsch appointed the Labor Committee for 1992: director Allspach, chairman; with directors Worner and Cline. Director Brauer was appointed as alternate.

Delegates for the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting at Anaheim are: for NRECA -- director Graff; for CFC -- director Cline; and for NRTC -- director Allspach.

Director Bell reviewed the recent activities of the AIEC. He also shared with the board the resolution of the NRECA board of directors which will be presented for the membership for consideration at the annual convention in February.

Director Carls reported on the recent Soyland board meeting. He mentioned that the board had adopted the recommendations of the Marketing Committee for the Soyland advertising budget for 1992 and the matching advertising dollars for the distribution members.

Manager Smith discussed the recent physical inventory and the board approved the inventory adjustment.

Staff assistant Hedberg reviewed the status of the capital credit refund for estates.

Director Cline, chairman of the Capital Credit Committee, reported on the activities of the committee. The committee had met prior to the board meeting and was recommending that the board consider a general refund in 1991 of the capital credits for the years 1945, 1946 and 1947. After discussion, the board adopted a resolution refunding the balance of the capital credits for the years 1945, 1946 and 1947.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury reviewed the recent insurance bids and after discussion the board accepted the bid of Federated Insurance.

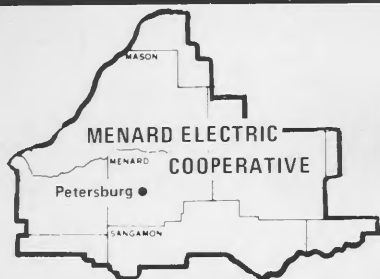
Manager Smith reported that the budget was completed with the exception of the revenue for 1992 and requested the board postpone the adoption of the budget until January. At that time the board could review rate recommendations from Southern Engineering.

Director Cline, chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, reported on the upcoming plans for the annual meeting. He said that the tentative date of the meeting was June 6, 1992.

Manager Smith gave a short review of the status of litigation with the Village of Riverton and the annexation problems in that area. Under "Other Business" the contract for janitorial services was approved with C&L Cleaning. The membership in the National Alliance of Business was discussed and the Board recommended the Cooperative not become a member of this organization. Director Graff discussed his concern as to the cost of health insurance.

Due to reviewing the rate study of Southern Engineering and consideration of the budget at the next meeting, the January meeting will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 1992.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



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Co-op Comments

Employees on the move

Todd Cloninger was recently promoted to journeyman lineman.

Jeff Schenkel was promoted to second-year apprentice lineman.

Marcel Verreault was appointed to leadman position.

Mark Bradley became the area serviceman serving the Riverton, Dawson and Illiopolis area.

On behalf of Menard Electric Cooperative, we would like to congratulate these individuals on their new assignments.

With spring just around the corner, many members take to the outdoors in an attempt to make ready for spring and summer activities, like planting trees and flowers and trimming bushes, etc. Your Cooperative would like to encourage all members to take a moment



Bradley

to look around the working area and make sure overhead power lines and/or buried electric lines are well out of the way. If you have any questions about the location of lines or trees that need to be trimmed, please contact the Cooperative office. Together, lets make this a safe spring season.

Rural insurance?????

Recently it has been brought to our attention that Cooperative members have once again received information about medical insurance. The questionnaire and policy currently being distributed has been underwritten by the Reserve National Insurance Company and it suggests that

rural electric cooperatives endorse the product.

We would like to inform everyone that Menard Electric Cooperative is not affiliated with this organization and has not made any such insurance available to its members through this or any other company.

Water heater load management program

If you have an electric water heater, Menard Electric Cooperative would like to give you an opportunity to save \$144 a year. All you need to do is allow the Cooperative to install a load management control device on the heating elements of your water heater. Once installed, you will receive a 3 cent rate reduction from kilowatt-hours used between 600 to 1,000. This could mean a savings of \$12 a month every month of the year.

Under the Load Management Program, the Cooperative installs a radio-controlled device on or near the heating elements of your water heater. This enables

Menard Electric to control the elements for periods of no longer than four hours on any one day during the months of December, January, February, July and August.

Although you can be susceptible to being controlled every day of the month, historically the number of days and hours in which the Cooperative actually controls your water heater is extremely low.

Should you have any questions or comments or would like to enroll and begin saving up to \$144, please contact the Cooperative office at 1-800-872-1203.

Dear Menard Electric Cooperative Member:

During the last four years your Cooperative's board of directors and employee's have gone to great lengths to hold down the cost of your energy bill. As a result the Cooperative has not had to increase retail rates since March 1988. However, during this same period, costs incurred by the Cooperative have continued to climb. There has been increases in the wholesale power cost and yearly inflationary increases in all other operating expenses.

Due to these increases the board of directors reluctantly adopted new retail rates for Menard Electric Cooperative. The new rates will go into effect with energy used after the March meter reading. Energy bills rendered on and after April 30, 1992, will reflect the rate adjustment.

The new rates will increase the Cooperative's revenue by approximately 4.35% and allow us to meet financial obligations as required by our lenders, CFC and REA.

For your review the rate schedule for Rate A (Farm and Residential Rate) follows:

	New Rate A	Old Rate A
Service Charge/mo.	\$16.00	\$16.00
First 200 kwh/mo.	.1290	.1290
Next 500 kwh/mo.	.1044	.0970
Next 800 kwh/mo.	.0994	.0910
Over 1,500 kwh/mo.	.0749	.0710

The above charges are subject to the State of Illinois Utility Tax, currently in the amount of 32/100 of a cent per kwh used.

A cost comparison of the new rate and the rate that has been in effect for the last four years is listed below.

	New Rate A	Old Rate A
(Tax not included)		
200 kwh/mo.	\$41.80	\$41.80
500 kwh/mo.	\$73.12	\$70.90
800 kwh/mo.	\$103.94	\$99.40
1,000 kwh/mo.	\$123.82	\$117.60
1,500 kwh/mo.	\$173.53	\$163.10
2,000 kwh/mo.	\$210.97	\$198.60

If you would like further information with reference to the adjustment of Rate A or any other Rate we invite you to contact the Cooperative office at 1-800-872-1203. All the Cooperative rates have been revised and will soon be available in printed form.

New employee



Brock Meyer

On February 3, Brock Meyer became the newest member of the Cooperative family. After a probationary period of employment, he will begin a four-year apprentice lineman program. During this time, he will be learning to build and maintain your Cooperative's electric distribution system.

Brock is a graduate of Havana High School and currently resides in Havana. Before coming to work for Menard Electric, Brock spent four years with

Illinois Valley Irrigation, helping to install irrigation systems for many of our members in Mason and Cass counties. Brock and his wife, Gina, and their two-year-old son, Blake, plan to relocate in the Petersburg area.

During Brock's spare time, he enjoys playing golf, softball, and weight lifting. Brock is anxiously looking forward to working with both the employees and members of the Cooperative. Menard Electric welcomes Brock, Gina and Blake to the Cooperative.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, January 28, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, by vice-president Carroll F. Cline. Directors present in addition to Cline were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, James G. Graff, and Meredith L. Worner. Directors Gary L. Martin and Warren D. Goetsch were absent at the time the meeting was called to order. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was discussed and approved as presented. The minutes for the December 20, 1991, board meeting were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for December 1991 were approved. The board considered approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved payment of said bills.

The board approved the application of 34 new membership and 10 service permit applications. Special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury presented the Special Services Report for the fourth quarter 1991. The board approved the Special Services Report. Service agreements for electric service for four members were also approved.

Manager Smith then presented the Operating Report for December 1991 and year-end 1991. Total margins for the month were approximately \$90,000 less than budget. This deficit was due to the recognition of the Cooperatives share of the environmental clean-up at Missouri Electric Works in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Other expenses for the month were approximately as budgeted and the margins for the year were \$462,000, about \$48,000 less than was budgeted. Manager Smith answered various questions relating to the Operating Report. He stated that member equity at the end of the year was 33.9 percent. The board reviewed the balance sheet and other end of the year indicators of note. TIER was 1.84 as compared to a TIER last year of 1.7. Manager Smith reviewed the Outage Summary for 1991 which shows the Cooperative experienced about 50 percent fewer outage hours per member as it did in 1990. The Cooperative experienced an ice storm in February 1990 that added many storm outage hours. The Safety Report for December 1991 showed no recordable illnesses or injuries. The board was advised that the employees worked the entire year 1991 without a lost time accident; this being the second year in a row that Cooperative employees had worked without a lost time accident. The manager's report was approved.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the month of December were approved.

The board then considered extending the member-

ship in the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative for five years. After discussion, it was approved to continue in NRTC.

Director Bell reviewed the recent activities of the AIEC. Discussion was held on the items that would be considered at the National Convention in February and items that would come before the CFC Annual Meeting. Director Bell then informed the board that the AIEC was conducting a market survey and that the Cooperative could have a study personalized for our own Cooperative members. Menard Electric had a personalized study in 1986 and in 1989. Bell recommended the personalized study for 1992, and the board approved it. Manager Smith discussed the 50-year history that is being developed by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The board approved the Cooperative contributing to the project.

Director Carls reported on recent Soyland activities. He mentioned that Soyland was planning to install a new SCADA system which would be compatible to your Cooperative's.

Director Allspach, chairman of the building committee, reported on recent activities of the building committee. He stated that Adams and Assoc. are working on typical floor plans. They are to make their presentation to the directors at the regular March 1992 meeting.

Vice-president Cline reported on the activities of the Annual Meeting committee. He presented an agenda for the Nominating Committee, when the notice is to be mailed out and said the Annual Meeting is planned for Saturday, June 6.

(Director Martin arrived and entered the meeting.) Manager Smith presented the staff recommendation for qualifications for the water heater rebate program for 1992. After discussion, the staff's recommendations were approved.

Director Cline, chairman of the Capital Credits committee, reported on recent activities of the committee. He reviewed the capital credit refund for estates to-date. The committee is recommending that a general refund of capital credits for the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 be made. After discussion, the committee's recommendation was approved.

Manager Smith reviewed the status of litigation with the Village of Riverton. He explained that a partial summary judgement had been rendered against the Village and that the balance of the complaint was set for hearing. He reviewed the current status of the Missouri Electric Works clean-up at Cape Girardeau.

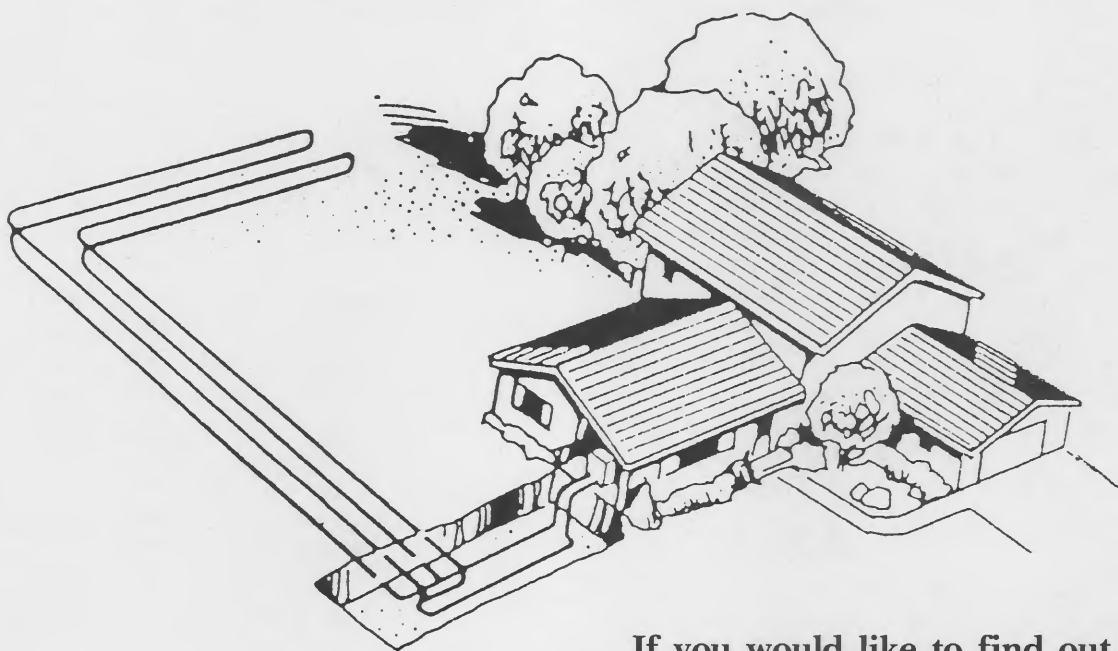
President Goetsch arrived at the meeting and also Jack Gaines, engineer from Southern Engineering. President Goetsch recognized Mr. Gaines to make a presentation of his recent cost of service and retail rate study. Mr. Gaines passed out a copy of his study and proceeded to explain it, item by item. After much discussion, the board approved Mr. Gaines recommen-

dition of a rate adjustment geared to increase the revenue of the Cooperative by 4.35 percent. Said rate changes would be effective with the energy used beginning with the meter reading on or about March 18, 1992. The increase will be reflected on bills rendered on April 30. The board discussed penalties for late payment of monthly energy bills. A charge of 1 ½ percent per month on the unpaid energy bill with a minimum of \$1, was approved.

Manager Smith presented to the board the 1992 budget, taking into account the increased revenue that would be provided by the rate adjustment. He went through the budget items with the board, explaining the differences from the budget that had been presented in December. After due consideration, the budget for 1992 was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Your Best Heating and Air Conditioning Value Begins with a G. But it's Not Gas. It's GeoThermal.



If you would like to find out the advantages of a geothermal system in your home, please contact the Member Service Department at your Cooperative office.

Water heater rebate program

Do you have an old, inefficient water heater? Would you like to replace it with a new, efficient unit?

If so, why not contact the Cooperative office and find out how the Cooperative can help pay for a new electric water heater. Members installing an electric water heater in a newly built structure or replacing an old inefficient electric model can receive a rebate of \$150. Members who are replacing a fossil-fired water heater can receive \$175.

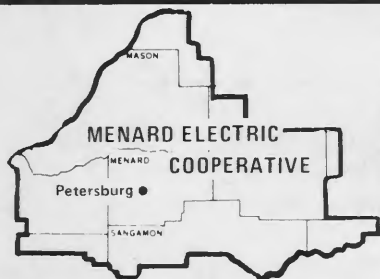
The water heater must have a storage capacity of 40

gallons or larger and be enrolled in the Cooperative's Load Management Program. If you have recently installed your electric water heater and would like to apply for your rebate, please complete the following information and return it to the Cooperative office.

Name

Account Number

Daytime Telephone Number



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Co-op Comments

During the February annual meeting of the Illinois Farm Electrification Council, Dorland W. Smith, manager of Menard Electric Cooperative, was elected to the office of president for 1992.

On March 13, 1992, Terry Cutright of Petersburg completed 20 years of service with your Cooperative. Terry is a leadman working on the Cooperative's line construction crew.

If you have an electric water heater and would like to save up to \$144 a year on your annual electric cost, why not call the Cooperative office and ask about the advantages of enrolling in the Cooperative's Load Management Program.

Menard Electric Cooperative's 1992 Annual Meeting of Members has been scheduled for June 6, 1992, at the PORTA High School in Petersburg. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Why not consider an air-to-air heat pump

With spring just around the corner, many members are considering replacing that old inefficient air conditioner. If you find yourself in this situation, why not consider the benefits of an air-to-air heat pump.

On outward appearances, it looks exactly like an air conditioner. During the summer, the heat pump operates just like an air conditioner, cooling your home as efficiently as a high efficient air conditioner. However, this is not the only job the air-to-air heat pump can do for you in your home; this system can supply you with efficient heat in the winter. Most of the high efficient heat pumps available today have an average heating efficiency of 220 percent and can heat your home at outside

air temperatures from 15 degrees to 65 degrees. With this added dimension, members have an opportunity to save money on both heating and cooling by just changing one unit.

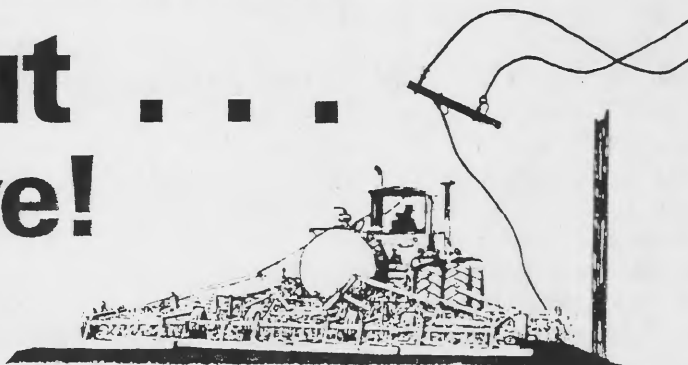
Another advantage to the air-to-air heat pump is a \$250 per cooling ton rebate you could receive from your Cooperative for installing a heat pump with a SEER of 10.0 or greater. In many cases, this rebate lowers the installation cost of the air-to-air heat pump to a level below a conventional air conditioning system.

If you would like more information or details on the air-to-air heat pump and how it could benefit you, please contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative.

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.



Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, February 25, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m., Central Standard Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Directors Edward L. Allspach and Michael E. Carls were absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was discussed and approved as presented. Minutes for the January 28, 1992, board meeting were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for January 1992 were approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved payment of said bills.

The board approved the application of 20 new memberships and 10 service permit applications.

Manager Smith then presented the Operating Report for January 1992. Total margins for the month were approximately \$74,000. He indicated that the cost of power was less than anticipated, due to a warmer January. The Operating Report showed delinquent accounts approximately \$6,500 less than the same date in 1991 and total member equity approximately 34 percent. The Outage Summary for the month of January showed not only fewer outages, but also less consumer outage hours; this was due to the mild weather experienced during the month. The Safety Report for January 1992 showed no recordable injuries or illnesses. The Manager's Report was approved.

Manager Smith reviewed with the board the 1991 year end REA Form 7. He went into detail on particular items and explained their significance to the board. After a general discussion, manager Smith reviewed the requirements for the Manager's Annual Certification for Compliance with the CFC Loans. The board approved the Manager's Annual Certification.

Staff assistant Hedberg reviewed the status of the Capital Credit Refunds on estates for the month of February. He explained that the Cooperative would be able to retire approximately \$115,000 in capital credits during 1992, based on 25 percent of the 1991 margins. The Capital Credit Committee will meet in the near future to discuss plans for the general refund retirement to be done later this spring.

Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month of January were approved.

Electric Service Agreements for two members were approved.

System engineer David Crosnoe and engineering technician Douglas Pettit presented information on a remote meter reading project. Crosnoe explained the possible need for remote meter reading and the possibility of it being connected with a home security service. The board requested that Crosnoe and Pettit provide them with an estimated cost for the project and gave a tentative "go ahead" to initiate a pilot project.

The board approved a contract with Burton Tree Service for right-of-way clearing for the year 1992.

Policies in regard to billing and terms of payment, due to lost or misplaced payments were considered at first reading. After some discussion these two policies will be put on the agenda for approval at the March board meeting.

Manager Smith reported on the recent Soyland activities in the absence of director Carls. He mentioned that Soyland is in the process of searching for a replacement for Ed Williams who resigned as manager. He reported that the Clinton plant would be down for refueling for approximately 70 days, beginning on or about March 3. The Soyland Annual Meeting will be held on March 18 after the regular monthly board meeting.

The board certified the candidates for directors of Soyland as Michael E. Carls and Dorland W. Smith. Carroll F. Cline was certified as the alternate director.

Directors attending NRECA's 50th Annual Meeting reported on the activities at the meeting.

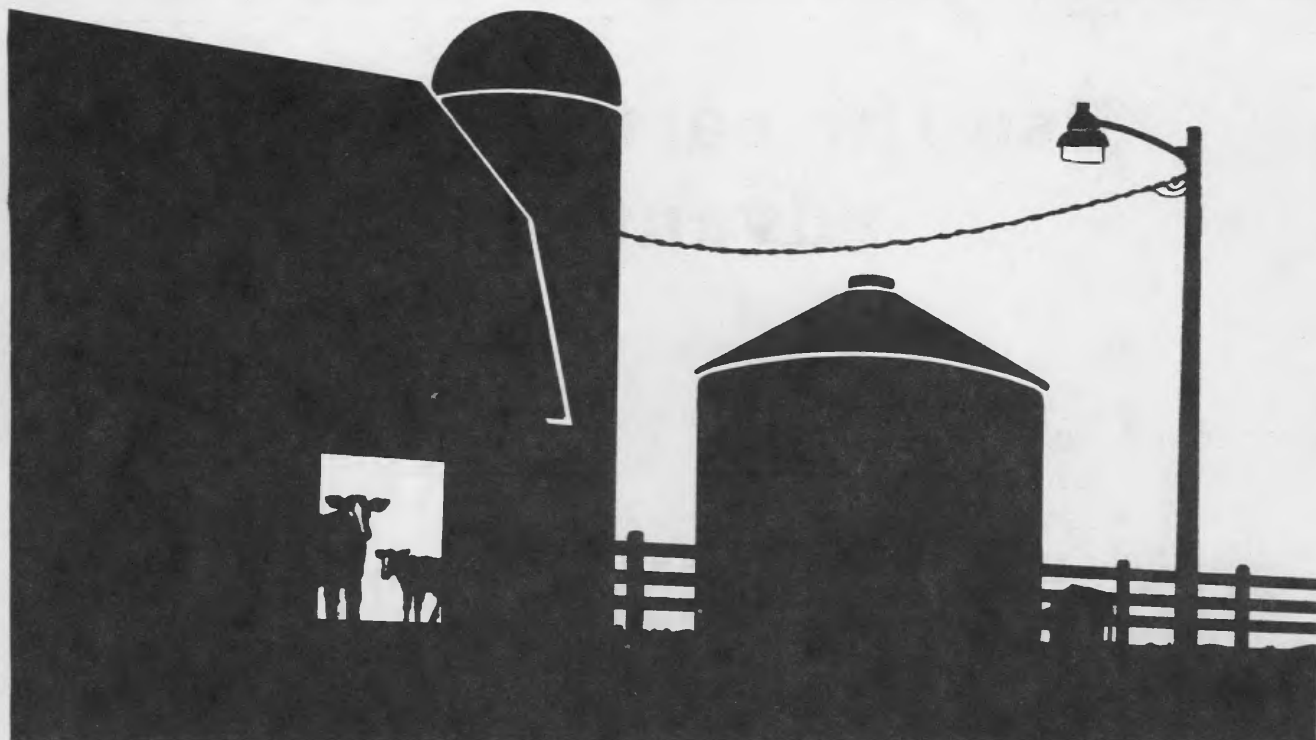
Director Cline, chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, stated that the annual meeting will be June 6, 1992. The Nominating Committee meeting will be held on April 2. Plans are being made to have a pork chop supper in connection with the annual meeting. It was suggested that the committee consider a speaker or entertainment for the 1992 Annual Meeting.

Manager Smith reported on the activities of Adams & Associates and plans for the building remodeling. He stated that Adams and Associates plan to be in attendance at the March board meeting to make a presentation.

Manager Smith reported on the current status of the litigation with the Village of Riverton.

The board was apprised that the Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C., will be held the first week in May and plans are being made to attend the rally.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.



Let us help choose your bin location

Before your bin site location is final, please contact the Engineering Department of your Cooperative so that the distance between the bin and overhead power lines can be measured. Failure to do so may result in additional charges to you or the owner of the bins if the Cooperative is required

to alter its facilities to comply with the new National Electric Safety Codes. Please do not hesitate to contact the Engineering Department of your Cooperative so that we can help you with your installation.

Changes in late charges and security lighting

In addition to the rate changes we informed you of last month, the board has also approved increases in the monthly security light charge and reminder fee amounts. Beginning with the March meter reading, the rental fees for a high pressure sodium security light will be \$6.00 a month; up from its previous amount of \$5.50 a month. The monthly rental fee for mercury vapor security lights will remain unchanged at \$7.35.

Over the past several years, the Cooperative has added a \$1.00 reminder fee to accounts whose balance was not paid by the 21st of the month. On May 21st, this fee will change to 1.5 percent of the unpaid balance with a minimum of a dollar.

If you have any questions about these changes, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office at 1-800-872-1203 or 632-7746.

Use care when using portable heaters

With a chill still in the air, many members rely on electric and/or fossil fired portable space heaters to help keep costs down while keeping warm. However, all heaters present some dangers. Since they give off heat, part of them will be hot and will burn something touching them, so keep a couple of feet between the heater and all flammable material. All portable heaters require special care when used in a home with children present. Special care should be taken with electric heaters to keep them away from water; water

and electricity make a lethal combination.

Here are some "do's" to consider:

- ... do choose a certified heater
- ... do make sure it is properly connected
- ... do read labels and follow all 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
- ... do not use or store flammable liquids near any portable space heater.

Use the earth to your advantage

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

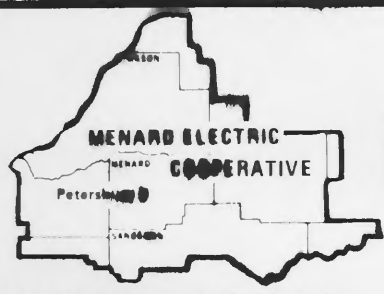


Fluorescent light bulbs

When would it pay for a light costing \$22 to be used instead of one costing \$.90? When you use it enough for the extra efficiency to be important and that may take less time than you think according to Bill Peterson, Extension Ag Engineer at the University of Illinois. A recent entry into the lighting market is a screw-in fluorescent light using 18 watts that produces just as much light as a 75 watt regular incandescent bulb. While the price is about \$22, the life of the fluorescent light bulb is 10,000 hours compared with about 750

hours for the ordinary incandescent bulb. That means you would use approximately 13 — 75 watt bulbs costing \$12 during the lifetime of one fluorescent bulb.

Also in that time, the electricity to run the 18 watt fluorescent bulb at 10 cents a kilowatt-hour would cost \$18, while the electricity to run the 75 watt incandescent bulb will cost \$75. The cost of bulb and electricity for the 10,000 hours will total about \$40 for the fluorescent bulb and \$87 for the incandescent.



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203

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PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

On May 3, Chris P. Hinton will have completed 10 years of service with your Cooperative. Chris is the Cooperative accountant and lives in Petersburg.

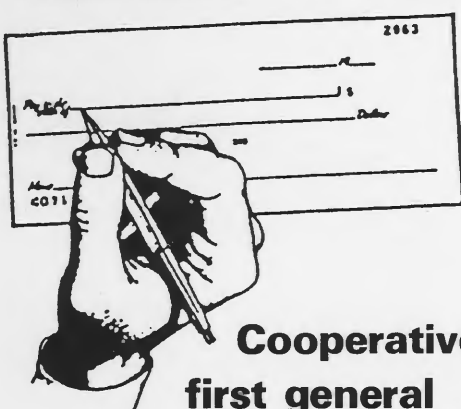
This spring and summer, Menard Electric Cooperative will continue its meter testing and pole testing program. Single-phase residential meters will be tested in the Athens, Cantrall and Sherman areas, while poles will be tested in the Athens, Williamsville, and Fancy Prairie areas. This program is one of many annual projects that your Cooperative Operations Department performs in an effort to improve the quality of service to its members.

If Menard Electric Cooperative is to continue to improve and be successful, all members should realize that they as part owners have a respon-

sibility to become involved. We invite all of you to take the first step in becoming active in your Cooperative by attending Menard Electric's 1992 Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 6, at the PORTA High School in Petersburg. Why not mark your calendar today?

Truck bids now being accepted

Your Cooperative is accepting sealed bids through April 30, 1992, for a 1986 GMC pickup with 88,251 miles. The truck will be available for inspection at the Cooperative office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, through April 30. Bids received will be opened Friday, May 1, 1992. Members of the Cooperative are invited to submit bids on the truck. The Cooperative reserves the right to reject any and all bids.



Cooperative makes first general capital credit retirement

Approximately 5,800 checks totaling slightly more than \$114,000 will be mailed early in May to members of the Cooperative who earned capital credits in the years 1945 through 1950. This represents the first general retirement of capital credits by Menard Electric Cooperative since its beginning in 1936.

Approximately one year ago at the annual meeting, the Cooperative announced the be-

ginning of retirement of capital credits by making retirement to estates and to date approximately \$75,000 of capital credits has been paid to the estates of former members.

The Cooperative, in addition to the general retirement, will continue to retire capital credits to estates for the balance of 1992 as long as the total retirement for 1992 is less than 25 percent of the margins earned in 1991.

Capital credits reflect each member's equity in Menard Electric Cooperative. Payment of capital credits to estates and the general payment for the years 1945 through 1950 is part of a plan to rotate membership equity.

The board of directors is striving to reach a goal of retirement of capital credits on a 20-year rotation cycle.

If you were receiving service from the Cooperative in the years 1945 through 1950 and believe you have earned capital credits and do not receive a check from the Cooperative during the month of May, call the office and request that your account(s) be investigated for the possibility of a capital credit amount due you.



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 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.

Excerpts from Menard Electric Cooperative's Policy Manual

Section IV

Member Obligations

. . . The member shall protect the equipment of the Cooperative on his premises and shall not interfere with nor alter, nor permit interference with or alteration of, the Cooperative meters or other property except by duly authorized representatives of the Cooperative. . . .

Meter Tampering and/or Diversion

Tampering with Cooperative meters to cause a reduction of electric usage or diversion of electric use around the meter will subject said service to all costs involved in restoring the meter and service to its proper order, the estimated kilowatt-hour consumption over the period of time involved in the tampering or diversion, plus a \$100.00 service charge.

Unauthorized Connection or Reconnection

Any service that has been connected or reconnected by a member regardless of the reason for disconnection, shall be subject to a \$25.00 service charge in addition to all charges necessary to connect or re-establish this service.

It is unfortunate that during recent weeks, Cooperative personnel have found some load management control devices inoperative, electric meters which appear to have been tampered with and Cooperative property damaged.

Actions which attempt to achieve credit and rebates that are not due, divert electric energy or damage property owned by the Cooperative are against the law. More importantly it adds to the cost of service for all members.

If you are aware of situations as listed above, PLEASE contact Menard Electric Cooperative, so that corrective action can be taken and your cost held to as low a level as possible.

Don't run into this guy

Attention farmers: Guy wires on utility poles can be hard to spot high atop large machinery. This year keep alert because hitting these guys could damage your equipment and place you in a life threatening situation.

During power outages, help us help you

With spring here we can all look forward to warmer temperatures and gentle spring showers. Unfortunately, these showers sometimes become anything but gentle, with high winds, damaging lightning, large hail, and in some cases, tornadoes. These storms can wreak havoc with Cooperative facilities.

During these storms, many members call the Cooperative to report an outage and, unfortunately, receive a busy signal. We realize it can be frustrating for you to call and receive a busy signal, but we ask for your patience, understanding and your help.

The more calls we receive, the easier it is to determine the extent of the trouble and the source of the outage. You should not assume that your neighbor has reported the outage. They may have phone trouble or may not be home. Waiting to report an outage could mean unnecessary delay in having your service restored. So please, keep trying to call!

We do ask that before you call you check your breakers and fuses. Then call the Cooperative and notify us of the trouble. Be sure to have your account number handy in order to help us with your location. We regret the inconveniences of electrical outages. With your help, we will do everything possible to restore your electric service quickly and safely.

**To report outages
call 1-800-872-1203 or 632-7746.**

Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed on Friday, April 17, in observance of Good Friday. The office will resume normal business hours on Monday, April 20.

Meter readers needed

Menard Electric Cooperative is currently accepting applications for contractual meter reading positions throughout the Cooperative service territory. Meters are read during a three-day period each month. If you are interested in completing a formal application, please fill out the information and return it to the Cooperative.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact your Member Services Department at 1-800-872-1203.

Name

Address

Telephone Number Account Number

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Standard Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer and Gary L. Martin. James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner were absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, attorney Charles K. Smith and auditor Ross L. Quint.

The agenda for the meeting was discussed and approved as presented. Minutes for the February 25, 1992, board meeting were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for February 1992 were approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved payment of the bills for the month of February.

The board approved the application of 53 new members and 13 service permit applications. The board approved electric service agreements for five members.

Ross L. Quint, CPA, from the R.L. Quint Auditing Service, reviewed the 1991 Audit Report and Financial Statement. After reviewing the report Quint answered questions pertaining to specific items in the audit for the directors. He also commented that the Cooperative had operated very well financially for the year 1991 and that the books were in excellent condition.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for February 1992. Total margins for the month were approximately \$70,000 over budgeted, year-to-date are approximately \$125,000 greater than the budgeted amount. He reviewed the key indicators and pointed out that the Cooperative's total equity to date was over 34 percent. Outages and their duration in February were far less than for the same period last year. The Safety Report for February, showed no lost time injuries or illnesses. The Manager's Report was approved as presented.

The manager discussed a recent FERC order reversal which may mean the cooperative will have to return to CIPS a refund received three years ago. He indicated that attorneys for Soyland and the other distribution cooperatives were looking into the possibility of a rehearing at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The board considered the agreement for past service liability in regard to the employee retirement fund and agreed to stretch this agreement out over a 30 year period.

The board discussed the proposal of the R.L. Quint Auditing Service to prepare the Cooperative's audit for the years 1992 and 1993. After discussion the board approved Quint's proposal to conduct the Cooperative's audit for the next two years.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the board were

presented and approved for the month of February.

The board considered the list of accounts as presented for writeoff. After discussion as to some of the amounts and reason for writeoff, the list was approved.

Staff assistant Hedberg presented the current capital credit estate refund list and reviewed with the board the amount that has been refunded to date. Manager Smith requested the Capital Credit Committee consider a committee meeting to discuss the upcoming general refund for the years 1945-50. The Committee agreed to meet on March 31st at 7 p.m.

Director Bell reported on the recent activities of the AIEC. A short discussion was held on several bills that have been introduced into the Illinois General Assembly.

Director Carls reported on the recent Soyland board meeting and annual meeting. He reported that a search for a general manager is underway.

Manager Smith presented the financial budget for the proposed pilot remote meter reading and home security project that had been presented to the board in February. The board was in agreement with the pilot project and approved the financial budget for the Engineering Department.

Final reading on revision of the policy on "Billing and Terms of Payment" and on "Lost or Misplaced Bills and Payments" was approved.

Director Cline, chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, reported on the status of the annual meeting plans. He stated that the Committee is looking into the possibility of a speaker and/or entertainment.

The Nominating Committee for the Annual Meeting was appointed by the board, and the meeting was scheduled for April 2.

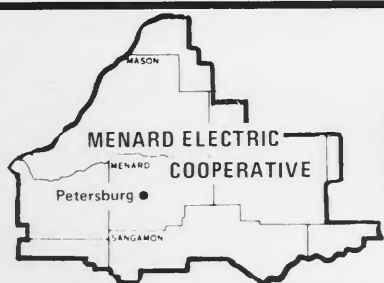
Building Committee chairman Allspach discussed the activities of the Building Committee. A typical floor plan for the remodeling of the present building was presented and discussed in some detail. A special meeting was set for Tuesday, April 21 at 8 p.m. to consider the report of Adams & Associates.

Manager Smith discussed the need for a new group agreement in the Missouri Electric Works/EPA cleanup as we are now operating as settling defendants and the Steering Committee had been dissolved. The board approved the manager signing the new group agreement. Manager Smith advised the board that the Trust Agreement for the settling defendants had been revised and that this new trust Agreement needed to be signed by one of the board officers. The board approved the president signing the new Trust Agreement.

A discussion was held relative to the policy on "Consumer Debts Other Than Electric Energy." After discussion the board requested that the manager and staff bring a recommendation to the board.

The next regular meeting of the Cooperative will be Tuesday, April 28th at 7 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

55th annual meeting

The 55th annual meeting of members of Menard Electric Cooperative is set for June 6, 1992, at the PORTA High School located at the west edge of Petersburg. Prior to the business meeting, there will be a free pork chop dinner served by the Cass County Pork Producers Association. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Members will elect three directors and hear reports from the manager and officers. At the conclusion of this years meeting, members will be entertained by the ever popular "Menard County Singers" — a treat you won't want to miss.

55 years ago by a group of concerned citizens. These citizens had a simple goal; to improve the quality of life in the rural areas of central Illinois. Through their interest, hard work and dedication, Menard Electric Cooperative has become a success. Every Cooperative, no matter how successful, constantly needs the support of its members to assure that the Cooperative is moving forward.

Mark your calendar and join with friends and neighbors at Menard Electric Cooperative's 55th annual meeting. See you on June 6th.

Menard Electric Cooperative was organized over

Pool clearances

With the arrival of spring, our thoughts turn to ways to enjoy the nice weather. One way to enjoy the weather and to beat the heat of the summer is taking a dip in a swimming pool. Realizing this, many people will begin construction of a swimming pool in their backyard. Unfortunately, all too often members do not consider overhead power lines as they stake out the location of their new pool. Below is a diagram showing clearances of

electric lines over and adjacent to the pool area which are required by the National Electric Safety Code.

Menard Electric Cooperative would like to encourage all members installing a pool to contact our engineering department so that proper location and clearances can be determined. Failure to do so may result in additional costs to the member if a line has to be relocated.

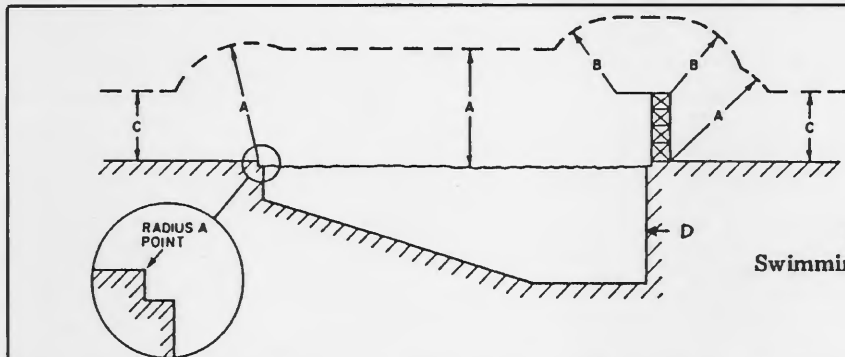


Fig 234-2 Swimming Pool Clearances

- A. Clearance in any direction from the water level, edge of pool, base of diving platform, or anchored raft
- B. Clearance in any direction to the diving platform or tower
- C. Vertical clearance over adjacent land
- D. Underground supply cables shall not be installed within 5 ft. of a swimming pool or its auxiliary equipment

	Neutral and Secondary (ft)	Primary (ft)
A	22.0	25.0
B	14.0	17.0
C	15½	18½

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, April 28, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Director Edward L. Allsach was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved as presented. Minutes of the March 24, 1992, board meeting were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting.

Inventory of Work Orders for March 1992 were approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved payment of the bills for the month of March.

The board approved the application of 63 new members and 21 service permit applications. The board also approved electric service agreements for seven members.

Earl L. Pillsbury gave the Special Services Report, commenting on the number of new irrigation accounts for the year 1992. He indicated that three of these replaced diesel units. Member Services Report was approved.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for March 1992. Margins for the month were approximately \$60,000 over budget. Year-to-date total margins are approximately \$185,000 greater than the budget amount. He reviewed key indicators and other vital statistics. The Outage Report was reviewed and outages in March were far less than for the same period last year. The Safety Report for March showed no lost time injuries or illnesses. In conclusion of the Manager's Report, he reviewed a residential revenue and total revenue comparison of all of the distribution cooperatives in the state with those of Menard Electric. The Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Manager Smith brought the board up to date on the recent FERC Order reducing a refund received from CIPS three years ago. He indicated that the proceedings for rehearing had been presented at FERC. The Cooperative efforts for a rehearing at Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), should be known in 30-60 days.

The board considered the future service liability

agreement to the employee retirement fund and agreed to pay the future service liability over five years, when the moratorium on payments is lifted.

The board considered Special Occasion Vouchers for the board and they were approved for the month of March.

Director Cline, chairman of the Capital Credit Committee, reported on the recent committee meeting. He reported that the first general retirement of capital credits for the years 1945 through 1950 would be made early in May. Over 5,800 checks totaling approximately \$114,000 will be issued. He also indicated that checks less than \$5 would not be mailed but would be available for members to pick up in the office. Staff assistant Hedberg reviewed the current status of the capital credit refunds to estates.

Director Bell commented on the recent activities of the AIEC.

Manager Smith reported on the recent Soyland board meeting. The third refueling of Clinton is about to be completed and Clinton should be back in production by mid-May.

Directors Graff and Worner reported on the Director's Conference they attended last month.

Annual meeting chairman Cline reported on the activities of the Annual Meeting Committee and the progress of the plans for the annual meeting on June 6.

Manager Smith reported on the request of REA to pass a resolution in regard to the selection of our consulting engineer. The board passed a resolution retaining Gene Richter as the Cooperative's consulting engineer.

Manager Smith reported on the activities in regard to the Riverton litigation and the Missouri Electric Works cleanup.

The board considered the revision of policies on employee-owned vehicles and mileage compensation for employee-owned vehicles. The board passed both policies on first reading, and will be brought to the board for approval at the next meeting.

The Building Committee discussed Adams & Associates' report given at the Special Meeting. After considerable discussion the board decided to wait on REA's evaluation of our facilities and the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The next regular meeting of the Cooperative board will be Tuesday, May 26, 1992, at 7 p.m. (central daylight time).

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Building a deck?

Enjoying the beautiful warm weather with a nice cold glass of iced tea on the deck is fast becoming an American pastime. If you find yourself wanting to build a deck this spring, we would like to offer a few words of advice.

Please keep in mind that we may have underground wires running to your home at or near the spot you might want to build a deck. So before you get out the pick and shovel, give

us a call and ask to have the underground line located.

When planning the deck, make sure it or the railing does not interfere with our access to the meter. The wrong measurement and/or poor planning can result in embarrassment and creates additional work to correct the error. The Cooperative must have access to the meter for reading and maintenance purposes. Please try to remember this if you plan construction of this type.

Special meeting

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held a special board meeting, Tuesday, April 21, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, attorney Charles K. Smith and architect James Adams from Adams

& Associates. The agenda for the meeting was to receive the report of the architects, Adams & Associates, in regard to plans for building, remodeling and site development.

James Adams presented the recommended floor plan and site plan for future development of Menard Electric's headquarters facilities. He also presented price estimates of the various phases for remodeling and site development.

After his presentation and answering questions for the board, Adams & Associates departed the board room. The board continued their discussions and deliberations and adjourned the special meeting at 10:30 p.m.

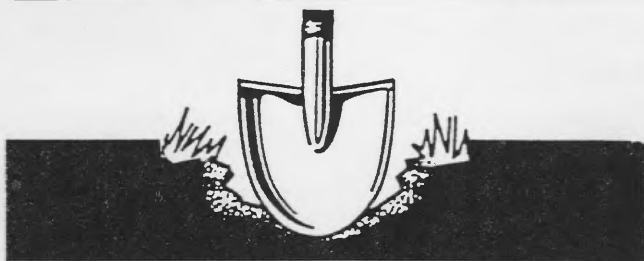
Budget billing starts in June

Budget billing for Rate A — Farm & Residential single phase services will begin with the June 30, 1992, bill. The Budget Billing plan is a method whereby the member is rendered equal monthly bills for an 11 month billing cycle. It begins with the June 30th billing and ends with the April 30th billing. The May 31st bill will show a credit or debit, depending upon whether the members

usage was higher or lower than the amount budgeted.

The monthly amounts are based on the actual usage of the previous 12 months. For new members, the budget amount will be determined from the best available data.

If you have any questions or would like to apply for the Budget Billing plan, please contact the Cooperative office and we will be glad to send you the necessary information.



Are you digging this spring?

If you plan to do any digging this spring and have questions as to whether or not there are underground power lines in the area, Menard Electric Cooperative encourages you to contact the office at 1-800-872-1203 and talk to our engineering department. We will help locate the line for you so there will be no chance of you coming in contact with a high-voltage power line.

We do not subscribe to JULIE services, so do not call them for location of Menard Electric lines. Call us — we can help!



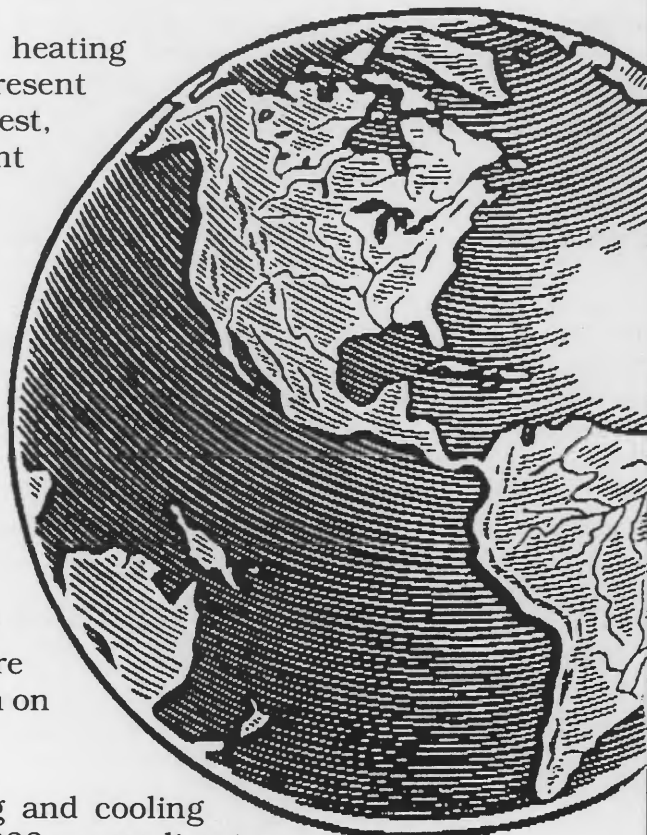
Congratulations to this year's Youth to Washington Tour winners and runners-up. Left to right are: Tony Karrick of Havana, tour winner; Jenny Carter of Williamsville, runner-up; Katrina Pollitt of Manito, tour winner; and Jay Basso of Petersburg, runner-up.

Use the earth to your advantage

Whether planning your new home's heating and cooling system or changing your present system, you're looking for the cleanest, safest, most dependable and efficient option. Don't overlook geothermal heating and cooling. It's right under your feet. This system has an unending fuel supply — the constant warmth of the earth around your home. With low-cost operation and maintenance, it will pay for its installation cost in just a few years.

Find out all about geothermal by contacting the Member Service Department of Menard Electric Cooperative. We will prepare a cost analysis on your home, at no charge, so you can compare the operating cost with any other system on the market.

Once you install a geothermal heating and cooling system in your home, we'll send you \$333 per cooling ton.



Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. The office will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, May 26.

Meter readers needed

Menard Electric Cooperative is currently accepting applications for contractual meter reading positions throughout the Cooperative service territory. Meters are read during a three-day period each month. If you are interested in completing a formal application, please fill out the coupon below and return it to the Cooperative.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact your Member

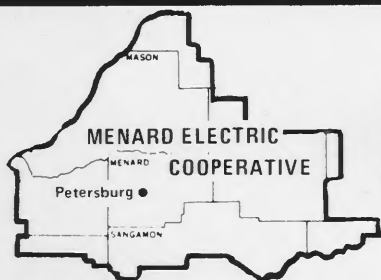
Services Department at 1-800-872-1203.

Name

Address

Telephone Number

Account Number



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675



Three members of Menard Electric Cooperative have been reelected to three-year terms on the cooperative's board of directors. The election took place during the cooperative's 55th annual meeting June 6, in Petersburg. From left are directors Carroll F. Cline of Pleasant Plains, Meredith L. Worner of Manito, and Robert I. Brauer of Oakford, along with Dorland W. Smith, manager of the cooperative.

Annual meeting report

Load management paying off

Load management programs of Menard Electric Cooperative continue to provide benefits for the member-consumers across the utility's system in portions of eight central Illinois counties. Reporting to members attending the cooperative's 55th annual meeting June 6, Warren D. Goetsch of Williamsville, board president, said the cooperative has more than 600 members enrolled in the water heater control program and that nearly 400 irrigation consumers are using the interruptible rate available.

The water heaters are controlled during peak demand times in the months of July, August, December, January and February, while the irrigation loads are subject to interruption during

the months of July and August. "The load management program is designed to give the cooperative some control over its peak demand," Goetsch said. "We are billed from our power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, for fixed costs and energy costs. A good portion of our bill is fixed costs, associated with our peak demand during the affected five months. Controlling these peaks helps us hold down our wholesale cost as low as possible. This effective load management enabled Menard Electric to achieve the lowest wholesale costs from Soyland again this year," Goetsch added.

His good financial news about 1991 didn't end there. Goetsch said the cooperative set a record



Above left: Warren Goetsch, board president. Right: The Cass County Pork Producers preparing the meal for the near-record crowd.



The Menard County Singers entertained during the meeting.

for kilowatt-hour sales, which were up about 10 percent from 1990. "This was due to weather conditions as well as membership growth," he added.

Manager Dorland W. Smith echoed Goetsch's comments about load management, encouraging all members to enroll in the water heater program and urging all irrigators to become active in the interruptible rate program.

Smith said member equity in the cooperative increased to 34 percent in 1991 and margins were on budget despite an extraordinary expense of more than \$100,000 to help pay for cleanup of a transformer repair and rebuilding site in Missouri. "Menard Electric, even though we had done nothing wrong, was involved with an environmental cleanup. This site where transformers had been repaired and rebuilt was found to be contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). Menard Electric had sent transformers there 30 years ago. Even though we didn't send any PCB-filled units, we became liable for a share of its cleanup costs," he said.

Goetsch reported that the cooperative had returned capital credits totalling \$98,405 in 1991 and that the board authorized the return of \$67,000 this year. This year's return was to

members who received service from the cooperative in any or all of the years 1948, 1949 and 1950.

He reminded members of a rate increase that had gone into effect in April. He said the increase was necessary for the cooperative to continue to maintain a fiscal condition sufficient to meet cooperative goals and requirements of the cooperative's bankers. The increase was approximately 4.4 percent.

Goetsch said the cooperative continues its efforts to assist in the economic and community development of its service area. "Menard Electric is a positive force in the area and works with other agencies to foster economic development to provide jobs and improve the quality of life throughout the territory," he said.

The report of Robert I. Brauer of Oakford, treasurer, reflected on the success of the cooperative. Brauer said total revenues were \$12,905,556 in 1991, up from slightly more than \$12.1 million in 1990. Brauer added that purchased power accounted for \$8,768,189 in 1991, or about 67.9 percent of expenses. Total margins for the year were \$461,933, he said.

Brauer said the board reluctantly decided on the recent rate increase only after considerable deliberation. "This is the first rate increase since March of 1988, when rates went up 3 percent," he said.

During the business session, three members were reelected to the board. They are: Carroll F. Cline of Pleasant Plains (District 1), Brauer (District 4), and Meredith L. Worner of Manito (District 6). All were elected to three-year terms.

Following the members' meeting, the board met in a reorganizational session and reelected officers: Goetsch, president; Cline, vice president; Worner, secretary; and Brauer, treasurer.

Two long-time employees of the cooperative were honored. Glenn D. Squires, area serviceman, was cited for 40 years of service, and Earl L. Pillsbury, special services coordinator, was honored for 25 years of service.

Attendance prizes — 55th Annual Meeting

Menard Electric Cooperative
June 6, 1992

Supplier gifts

Burton Tree — Electric trimmer — Harris Boeker, Chandlerville
Brownstown Electric — Snack & sandwich maker — Steve Carls, Athens
Area Glass — Igloo cooler & can coolers — John Root, Petersburg
Dalums Utility — 10 caps & 4 tape measures — Matthew Funkhouser, Petersburg; Vernon Edwards, Petersburg; Roy Desouza, Dawson; William Robinson Jr., Sherman; Ernest Pherigo, Havana; Woods Crum, Virginia; Charles Stock, Arenzville; Melvin Braker, Alexander; Virgil Gathmann, Manito; Buddy Romine, Ashland

Electric Lab — Hamilton Beach electric knife — Roy G. Ryder, Havana
R.R. Kinyon — GE AM/FM clock radio — Donald Gilroy, Forest City
U.S. Electric — Outdoor light fixture — Virginia Beckner Rush, Athens
WaterFurnace — Ice cream & yogurt freezer — Thomas Archer, Buffalo

Menard Electric Cooperative prizes

Robert R. Copper	Mason City	Rival two slice toaster
Dale Demonbrun	Oakford	Igloo 36 quart ice chest
Robert A. Dunton	Topeka	West Bend skillet/griddle
Melvin Fink	Emden	Rival hand held blender
Esther A. Fricke	Petersburg	Rubbermaid 10 quart ice chest
Lloyd F. Friedrich	Havana	West Bend curly cutter
Albert Glasscock	Springfield	Electric grill (Early Bird)
Judith Long Graff	Middletown	Rival hot pot
Alvin L. Hackman	Havana	West Bend dutch oven
Albert Hapack	Petersburg	Rival hand mixer
Charles E. Hawk	Buffalo	SKIL variable speed drill
Larry Heyen	Petersburg	Magnavox clock radio
Ralph Kreiling	Forest City	Hair dryer
McHarry Lynn	Mason City	Igloo 56 quart ice chest
Marion E. Maaks	Lincoln	Hot air corn popper
E.R. Milstead Jr.	Oakford	Rival ice cream & yogurt maker
Dean Mitts	Springfield	Automatic heating pad
Darrell Pfeiffer	Forest City	Sunbeam heat band
Maurice Plopper	Athens	West Bend slow cooker
Richard Showalter	Easton	West Bend coffeemaker
A.P. Smith	Buffalo	Rival can opener
Margaret H. Vogel	Mason City	Panasonic super lights
Homer Weidhuner	Greenview	Pollenex air cleaner

Proxy prizes

Kenneth Bohm	Havana	Hamilton Beach electric knife
William Buchanan	Tallula	Hamilton Beach electric knife
Richard W. Miller	Kilbourne	Hamilton Beach electric knife
Marvin Strader	Easton	Hamilton Beach electric knife
Rick & Ron Vance	Tremont	Hamilton Beach electric knife

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, May 26, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as presented. Minutes of the April 28, 1992, board meeting were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for April 1992 were approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved payment of the bills for the month of April. The board approved the application of 70 new members and 16 service permit applications. The board also approved three electric service agreements.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for April 1992. Margins for the month were approximately \$44,000 over budget. Expenses other than power cost are approximately \$6,000 under budget for the month. Manager Smith answered questions in regard to specific items of the budget that related to current monthly expenses. He reviewed the key indicators and other vital statistics. The number of members being served at the end of April was 187 more than in April 1991. The Outage Report was reviewed. There were fewer outages and outage hours than one year ago. The Safety Report for April showed no lost-time injuries or illnesses. The Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Manager Smith reviewed the status of a proposed service area agreement with CIPS.

The directors' Special Occasion Vouchers were considered and approved for the month of April.

The board considered the list of uncollectible accounts that had been presented and approved them for write off.

Director Brauer reported on the recent legislative conference that he attended with director Graff and manager Smith. He reported that they visited with legislators from our area, and with several of the Chicago legislators. They visited in the area offices of REA, and met the new area

director, Thomas Nusbaum.

Director Bell commented on the recent activities of AIEC. He mentioned that the Illinois Agriculture Legislative BBQ would be held Wednesday evening, June 3, and that tickets would be available for those wanting to attend.

Director Carls reported on the recent Soyland board meeting and related activities. He commented that the Manager Search Committee had interviewed prospective applicants. The board would be interviewing the final applicants at their regular board meeting in June. He commented that Clinton was being brought back on line and should be in production by the end of the week.

Staff assistant Hedberg reported relative to the general retirement of capital credit for the years 1945 through 1950. Checks were mailed on May 15. Additional estate applications have been received. Checks for less than \$5 had not been mailed and would be available for members to pick up in the office. Hedberg reviewed the status of the current refunds to estates.

Vice president Cline reported on the activities of the Annual Meeting Committee. The annual meeting notices and annual report had been put in the mail on May 22 and should be in all members' hands. He reminded the directors that proxies would be needed and encouraged them to secure proxies for the meeting.

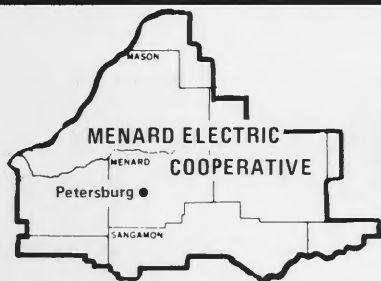
The board considered the policies on "Employee Owned Vehicles" and "Mileage Compensation for Employee Owned Vehicles." The board adopted both policies, which were revised at the March board meeting.

President Goetsch advised the board of the special meeting minutes and after discussion the minutes were approved as distributed to the members of the board.

Building Committee chairman Allspach entertained discussion in regard to the activities of the Building Committee. Manager Smith said that a representative of REA had evaluated our facilities under the requirements for the American Disabilities Act and made recommendations to bring the headquarters in compliance. The board referred consideration of "building needs" to the June 1992 board meeting.

Under "other business" the manager discussed the Economic Development Rate.

The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Tuesday, June 23, 1992, at 7 p.m. central daylight time. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 217-632-7746 PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

Todd Cloninger of Chandlerville resigned his position as a journeyman lineman as of June 5.

Glenn and Shirley Squires will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on July 25. Glenn is the area serviceman for your Cooperative, serving members in the Petersburg, Pleasant Plains and Athens areas. Congratulations to Glenn and Shirley!!

On July 24, Marcel Verreault will have completed 20 years of service with Menard Electric Cooperative. Marcel is a leadman on the line construction crew.

Recent studies have indicated that running dirty humidifiers in the home during the heating season can contribute to illnesses and respiratory problems. Now that it is not in use, it would be a good time to take a moment to clean the

humidifier and replace the filter.

Hundreds of Menard Electric Cooperative members have taken advantage of the Cooperative's Water Heater Load Management Program over the past several years. If you would like to become part of our Load Management team and save up to \$144 a year on your electric bill, please contact the Cooperative office.

Truck for sale

Menard Electric Cooperative is now accepting sealed bids on a 1985 2½ ton GMC cab and chassis. Sealed bids on the vehicle will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., August 14, 1992. The truck will be available for inspection at the Cooperative office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday until August 14.

The Cooperative reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Electric water heater rebates still available

Members installing an electric water heater with a 40-gallon storage capacity or larger and enrolling in our Load Management Program can receive a one-time payment of \$150. If the member meets these criteria and is replacing a fossil-fired water heater, the Cooperative will provide a rebate of \$175.

For members who are not familiar with the Load Management Program, it is simply a program where the Cooperative places a radio-controlled device on the water heater. This device enables the Cooperative to control the heating elements during the peak months of December, January, February, July and August. This helps the Cooperative reduce its overall demand, thus stabilizing our wholesale power rate. Members enrolling in the program receive a rate reduction

of 3 cents per kilowatt-hour from kilowatt-hour 600 to 1,000. This rate reduction is given to those members participating for all 12 months of the year.

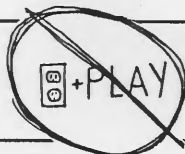
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office at 632-7746 or 1-800-872-1203. If you have recently installed an electric water heater and would like to enroll in our Load Management Program, please fill in the information below and return it to the Cooperative office.

Name _____

Menard Electric Account No. _____

Daytime Telephone No. _____

TEACH THE KIDS



TO PLAY IT SAFE.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, June 23, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Director Carroll F. Cline was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Homer J. Tice.

After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved with an addition to amend a deferred compensation agreement. Minutes of the May 26, 1992, board meeting were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for May 1992 were approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. Several items were questioned and after discussion the board approved the payment of bills for the month of May. The board approved the application of 52 new memberships and 18 applications for service permits. The board approved five electric service agreements.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for May 1992. Margins for the month were approximately \$300,000 less than budget. Expenses other than power cost are approximately \$6,000 over budget. Approximately \$100,000 in additional power costs were due to the repayment of the CIPS surcharge. Year-to-date margins are approximately \$80,000 under budget. The Outage Report for May 1992 was reviewed. The number of outages were approximately 50 percent less than last year. Year-to-date the average consumer outage hours are about one-tenth of what they were for 1991. The Safety Report for May indicated no recordable injuries or illnesses for the month. The Manager's report was approved as presented.

Attorney Tice reported on the status of Menard Electric Cooperative vs The Village of Riverton.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the directors were considered and approved for the month

of May.

The list of Uncollectible Accounts were presented to the board and were approved for write-off.

Earl Pillsbury reviewed the recent annual meeting.

Director Bell reported on the activities of the AIEC and commented on the recent budget approval.

Director Bell presented AIEC dues for 1992-93. After discussion it was approved to pay the AIEC dues in two installments, July 1, 1992 and January 1, 1993.

Director Carls reported on the recent Soyland board meeting and related activities. He stated that most of the meeting involved interviewing the candidates for position of manager. A new manager should be selected in the near future.

The board approved the franchise with the City of Petersburg granted by the City Council at their most recent Council meeting.

Discussion was held in regard to the board meeting dates and times for 1992-93. It was agreed the board would meet on the fourth Tuesday each month at 7 p.m.

President Goetsch made the appointments for delegates and alternates to the AIEC annual meeting and the NRECA and CFC Regional Meetings. Appointments to the standing committees were made and approved.

Gerald Hedberg reported on the activities of the capital credit refunds and the status of refunds to estates.

NRECA dues were discussed and the payment of the dues for the year 1992-93 was approved.

Manager Smith presented a request to amend the budget, to purchase a panel truck for the Engineering Department. After discussion it was approved.

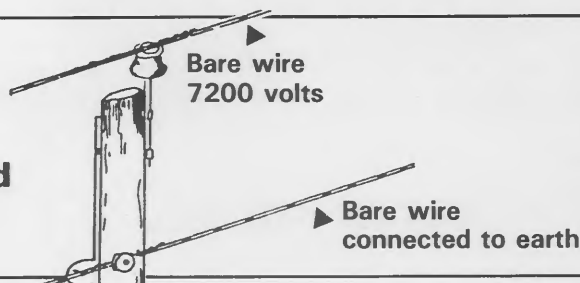
The Building Committee discussed building needs. Further discussion will follow at a later board meeting.

Under "Other Business" the board agreed to amend the Deferred Compensation Agreement with NRECA.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Are you aware?

that electric lines along roads and through fields are bare!



Heat pump advantage

Many members interested in installing a central air conditioning system in their home are looking at an air-to-air heat pump as an alternative. An air-to-air heat pump can cool a home with the same efficiency as a high-efficient air conditioning system, and there are some **definite advantages**.

First of all, there is a \$250 per ton rebate (provided it has a SEER of 10.0 or greater). In many cases this rebate will enable the member to install the air-to-air heat pump at a lower price than a

conventional air conditioning system.

The second advantage is that the air-to-air heat pump can perform two functions for you. In addition to cooling your home efficiently, it also gives you the ability to heat your home, if you so desire. Thus, giving you two ways to save.

Menard Electric encourages all members to take a look at these advantages. For more information, please contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office.

Vacation time doesn't always mean lower electric bills

Many members assume when they leave for vacation their electric meter stops running until they return. This is not always the case, since many items keep running whether you are home or away. If you return from your vacation and are surprised to see that your electric bill has not changed much, you may want to consider the following . . .

- Was the electric water heater turned off during your vacation? If the water heater is left energized, it will continue to maintain the temperature setting even if you are not using any hot water.

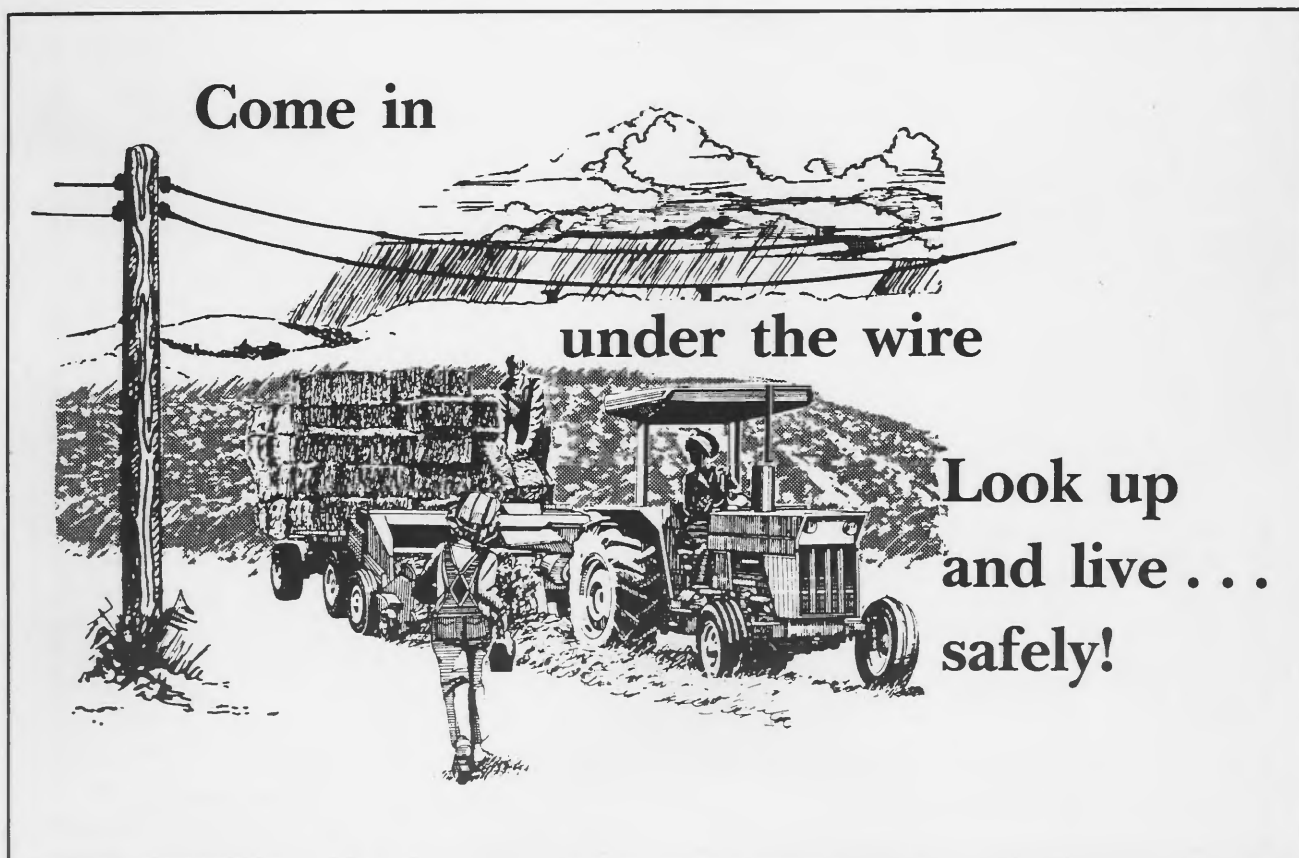
- Were the refrigerators and/or freezers left on? If so, they will continue to operate. If both are frost free units, they may have a six hour defrost cycle, defrosting the frost on the coils and then

cooling again within a few minutes.

- Another possibility could be the days which you were on vacation were actually split over two billing periods.

- Other common appliances which can contribute to kilowatt-hour consumption are dehumidifiers, clocks, automatic lighting and air conditioning. Another item which may be a contributing factor is that many vacationers bring home one or two weeks worth of laundry, giving the electric water heater and dryer a workout on the first day or two you are home.

If you have gone over the above list and still have concerns as to the amount of kilowatt-hours consumed while you were on vacation, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office.



Witness it for yourself!

The advantages of the geothermal heating and cooling system

Geothermal Field Day

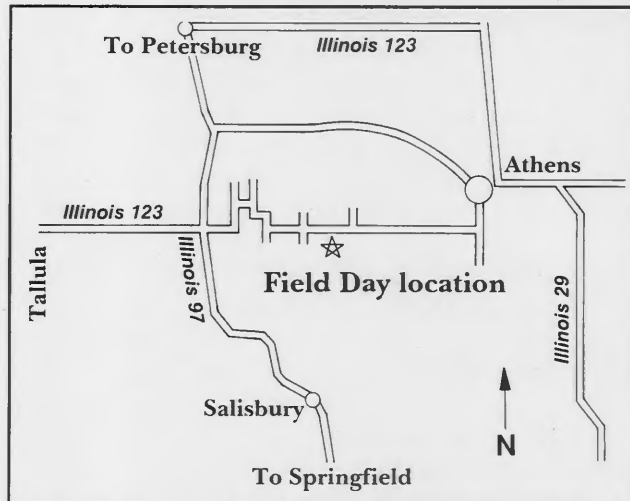
Thursday, Aug. 6

1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

4 miles south
of Petersburg

Hosted by:
**Mr. and Mrs. Leaman
Sawyer**

*Free sandwiches
and drinks served*



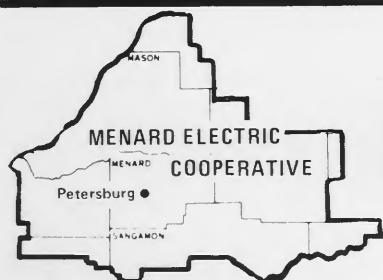
A geothermal heating and cooling system can save you from 30% to 60% on your heating, cooling and hot water bills. It uses the earth's renewable, natural supply of free energy — the soil around your home. It's 4 times as efficient as a fossil-fuel system. Visit the Sawyers and see for yourself.

Sponsored by: *Menard Electric Cooperative and
WaterFurnace of Illinois*

Contractors: *Collins Plumbing and Heating, Petersburg
Schleyhahn Construction Co., Ashland*

For more information, contact Kevin Keiser at:

Menard Electric Cooperative
Phone: (800) 872-1203 or
632-7746



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

On August 23, Bob Burris will have completed 10 years of service with your Cooperative. Bob is the area serviceman in the Mason City-Middletown-Williamsville areas.

Mark Bradley will have completed 20 years of service with your Cooperative on September 11. Mark is the area serviceman in the Sherman-Buffalo-Mechanicsburg-Illiopolis areas.

If your water heater is in poor condition and you

would like to replace it with a new, more efficient unit, remember the Cooperative would like to help. Simply install a 40-gallon or larger electric water heater, enroll in our load management program and receive a \$150 rebate. If you would like more information contact the Cooperative office.

On May 15, Menard Electric Cooperative mailed capital credit checks to all members who received service from 1945-1950. If you were an active member during that time and did not receive a capital credit check, please contact the Cooperative office.

Geothermal rate now available

During the July board meeting, your board of directors adopted the following Geothermal Rider to Schedule "A".

Applicability

Applicable as a rider to Schedule "A" for service limited to the geothermal electric heating system of all-electric homes when the geothermal electric heat system can be metered separately. This rider will be limited to members with approved geothermal heating systems and who are active participants in the Cooperative's Load Management Programs. All other electric service shall be provided under Schedule A.

Monthly rate

All kilowatt-hours used by Approved Geothermal Electric Heat Systems from the meter reading in September to the meter reading in May of

each year @ \$.0575 per kWh.

Metering and control

The electric heat usage will be measured separately. Supplementary electric heating devices are subject to the Cooperative's Load Management Control.

Power cost adjustment charge

The energy charges in the above rate shall be increased or decreased in accordance with the Cooperative's Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment Clause, Schedule "PA."

Wholesale tracker factor

If at any time the Cooperative's wholesale power supplier changes its fixed cost allocation to the Cooperative, a Wholesale Tracker Factor may be computed in accordance with Schedule "WTF."



Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day. The Cooperative office will reopen Tuesday, September 8, for normal business hours.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, July 28, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved with the addition of one item. Minutes of the June 6, 1992, organizational meeting and minutes of the regular board meeting held June 23, 1992, were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for June 1992 was approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. After discussion, the board approved the payment of the bills for the month of June.

The Special Services Report was presented to the board, by special services coordinator Earl Pillsbury. He recommended the 56th annual meeting be held June 5, 1993. He also gave an update on the Geothermal Field Day to be held Thursday, August 6. The report was approved.

The board approved the application of 81 new members and 17 applications for service permits. Four electric service agreements were approved.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for June 1992. Total margins for the month of June were approximately \$360,000 less than budgeted. Expenses for the month were approximately \$46,000 less than budgeted. Year-to-date margins are about \$440,000 under budget. This is due to the unseasonably cool and wet summer. Kilowatt-hours purchased and sold are approximately 6 million less than expected. The Outage Report for June 1992 was reviewed. The Safety Report for June indicated no recordable injuries or illnesses for the month. The Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the directors were considered and approved for the month of June.

The list of uncollectible accounts was presented and was approved for write-off.

Director Bell reported on the activities of the AIEC and made comments on the AIEC annual meeting to be held August 25, 26 and 27 in Springfield.

Director Carls reported on the recent Soyland board meeting and related activities. He announced that Kent Wick from Montana had been selected as the new general manager of Soyland and would be assuming his duties on Monday, August 17.

The board discussed the upcoming annual meeting of the Statewide Power Cooperative and recommended that manager Smith and delegate Graff write a letter recommending that Statewide Power not be disbanded.

The board considered a revision of the policy on Meeting of the Board of Directors. The policy was approved.

The board considered the revision of the Policy on Meter Testing. Final action on the Meter Testing Policy will occur at the August board meeting.

The board discussed the policy on depositories and signature requirements of the Cooperative's funds. The manager was asked to bring recommendations on this policy at the next board meeting.

After discussion the board approved a Geothermal Heat rider to Schedule "A," effective with the September meter reading.

Staff assistant Gerald Hedberg reviewed the status of the general capital credit and estate refunds.

Under other business the board discussed attendance at the NRECA Region V Meeting at Stevens Point, Wisconsin; the AIEC annual meeting to be held in August; and approved the attendance of the employees that are members of ACRE to the ACRE Breakfast on Thursday morning, August 27.

The next board meeting will be August 24, 1992, at 7 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Be careful when cutting winter wood

Cutting wood to be used for heat is a long and laborious task, which often begins in late summer and early fall. Menard Electric Cooperative employees encourage everyone to use extreme caution when cutting wood for this winter.

If a tree falls on a line, you and your neighbors could be without electricity for several hours. But

an even greater concern is the life-threatening situation that exists when an energized line is down. If anyone should come in contact with the line, it could be fatal. There are "old" tree cutters and "careless" tree cutters, but there are no "old careless tree cutters."



Bud Sams

In memoriam

William A. "Bud" Sams, retired employee of Menard Electric Cooperative, died at his residence on July 21. He was 71 years of age.

Mr. Sams began working for your Cooperative in November 1945. He became a journeyman lineman in 1948 and continued to perform as such until his retirement in November 1982.

He was a member of the Clinton Masonic Lodge, No. 19, A.F. & A.M., and St. Paul

United Church of Christ. A veteran of World War II, Bud was a member of the Menard County VFW Post 6871 and Kirby-Watkins American Legion Post 198. His dedication to all those around him and his never-ending work ethic will be sorely missed by all. Mr. Sams is survived by his wife, Delores, three stepchildren, Alan Fricke, Martin Fricke, and Susan Fricke; two step-grandchildren, Jennifer and Travis Fricke.

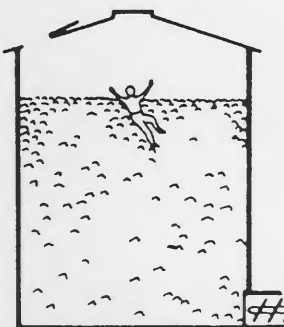
Are you building a new grain bin?

During this time of year many farmers begin thinking of the upcoming harvest and additional needs for storing their valuable commodity. All too often when we plan new grain storage facilities, little or no consideration is given to its location and its relationship to nearby power lines.

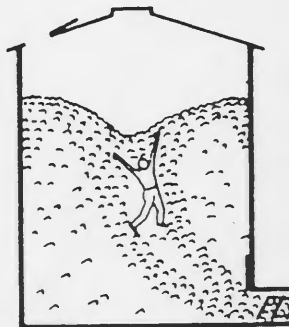
The National Electric Safety Code, 1990 edition, sets forth strict standards as to how close grain

bins can be to power lines. If you are contemplating building a new storage bin, you are encouraged to contact the Cooperative office so an engineer can evaluate the site. Failure to do so could result in additional charges to you or the owner of the bin if the Cooperative is required to alter its facilities to comply with the National Safety Code.

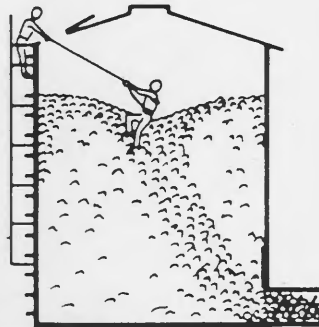
Don't die in the grain bin



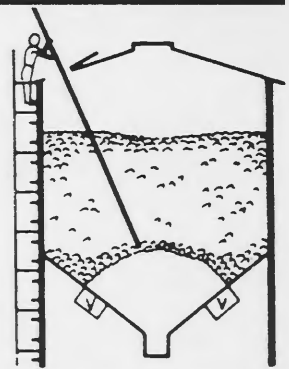
Grains are dangerous as quicksand even when not unloading.



Flowing grain sucks you under suddenly when unloading starts.



If you must go into the bin, use a lifeline and have someone there.



Break bridges with a pole. Use vibrators to keep grain flowing.

Weatherproofing your home

With the cold days of fall and winter just around the corner, many members' interest turns to home weatherproofing. Of the heat loss in our homes during the winter, 30 to 50 percent escapes through cracks and loose-fitting windows and doors.

For many of us, installing new replacement windows and doors is not feasible. But this doesn't mean we have to sit back and watch our money blow away in the cold wintry winds. Caulking and installing weather-stripping around windows and doors can provide a 5 to 15 percent savings, depending on the condition of your home. Caulking can be applied to the construction joints to provide an even greater reduction in infiltration.

Remember, a crack 1/12 inch around a door is equivalent to having a 4 x 5-inch hole in your wall. A clear silicone caulk can be applied to any cracks on the inside of your home, where cool air may be entering.

Having an adequate amount of insulation in your home this winter will help you keep warm at the lowest possible cost. The recommended "R" values of insulation for central Illinois are: R-11 in the wall and R-38 in the attic. In terms of fiberglass insulation, this means you should have at least 3½ inches in the wall and 12 inches in your attic. Adding insulation to your basement walls or crawl space will also help to complete the job of securing your home this winter.

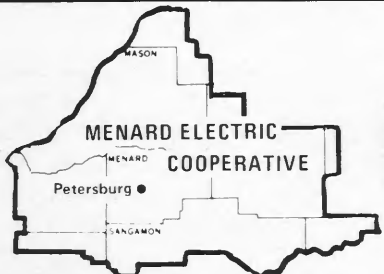
The cooperative needs access to its equipment

Situations where Menard Electric equipment cannot be reached because of overgrown trees, fences, patios, decks, etc., may cause the Cooperative to enforce its "Right of Access" Policy.

This policy states that authorized representatives of the Cooperative shall have the right of access to the premises of the member at all reasonable times for the purpose of reading, testing or inspection of meters; connecting or

disconnecting service; inspection of wires and apparatus; and making repairs of lines or rights-of-way. Unreasonable deterrents to access of Cooperative facilities shall cause the service to be disconnected. We encourage all members to please give consideration to the employees of the Cooperative and contractual meter readers. Lets make their job easier.





Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

On September 20, James Haddick of Petersburg will have completed 10 years of service with Menard Electric. Jim is a groundman/truck driver for your Cooperative.

Casey Duncheon of Oakford will have completed five years of service on October 1. Casey is the storekeeper and works in the warehouse at the Cooperative office.

Rhonda Satorius of Springfield will have completed 20 years of service on October 1. Rhonda is a clerk/secretary working in the Cooperative office.

If you have an all-electric home and are using a geothermal heating and cooling system as your primary source of heat, please contact the

Cooperative office to find out how you may apply for our new Geothermal Rate. Under this rate, kilowatt-hours used by the geothermal system from the September meter reading through the May meter reading will be billed at 5.75 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Capital credit allocations for 1991

Menard Electric Cooperative is a member-owned utility. As such, margins (income minus expenses) are allocated to members on a pro-rated basis. For the fiscal year 1991, the allocation factor is .037. To determine the amount of capital credits on an individual account, multiply the above factor by the amount paid for electric energy excluding tax. As an example, energy payments of \$1,000 times .037 = \$37.00 of capital credits assigned to the account for 1991.



Albert L. Hinrichs

In memoriam

working for your Cooperative in January 1938, he was employed by various contractors who built the first and second sections of Cooperative line in 1937. Upon his arrival in 1938, Mr. Hinrichs served as line foreman and/or system engineer until his retirement in December 1975.

He was a member of the St. Paul United Church of Christ and Clinton Masonic Lodge -19 AF&AM. A United States Army veteran of World War II, Albert was a member of the Menard County VFW Post 6871 and Kirby-Watkins American Legion Post 198. He also served on the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department

for many years and former Petersburg City Councilman.

His passing marks an end of an era for Menard Electric Cooperative—an era that saw Menard Electric start with just a few interested individuals in 1937 to an electric cooperative utility with more than 8,200 accounts today. His experience, knowledge and friendship will be missed by everyone in the Cooperative family.

Surviving are his wife, Irene; one son, William; three sisters, Laura DeLong, Clark Park and Doris Jurgens; one brother, Harold Hinrichs; two grandsons and several nieces and nephews.

Albert L. Hinrichs of Petersburg, a retired employee of Menard Electric Cooperative died on Sunday, August 23, 1992, at Memorial Medical Center. He was 81.

While our records indicate that Mr. Hinrichs began

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Monday, August 24, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith and special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury.

After roll call the agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes of the regular board meeting held July 28, 1992, were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for July 1992 in the amount of \$132,000 was approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. After discussion, the board approved the payment of the bills for the month of July.

The board approved the application of 61 new members and 17 applications for service permits.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for July 1992. The report showed the sale of 11,331,000 kilowatt-hours (4-million under budget and nearly 5-million fewer than in 1991). Total margins for the month of July were \$151,000 less than budgeted. Total operating costs for the month of July were \$113,000 under budget. Year-to-date margins are \$593,000 under budget, with 10-million fewer kilowatt-hours being sold this year in comparison to 1991. Smith pointed out that the delinquent accounts for this month were \$33,000 less than for the same period last year. Line loss for July was 6.18 percent and year-to-date the line loss is 9.57 percent. The average farm and residential kilowatt-hour usage for July was 843 kilowatt-hours in comparison to 1,157 in 1991. There were 8,564 energy bills submitted in July 1992 in comparison to 8,381 in July 1991. The Outage Report for July 1992 was reviewed with significant increase in outages and consumer hours of interruption, as numerous storms hit the Cooperative's service area beginning on July 2. The average outage hours per consumer for the year-to-date is 1.86, in comparison to the same period of time last year when the hours were 2.48. The Safety Report indicated one recordable injury with no lost time being associated therewith.

The manager reviewed the REA 1991 Borrowers Statistical Profile with the board. The profile compares Menard Electric Cooperative's operating results for 1991 with the 868 distribution systems throughout the country. It provides a comparison of the Cooperative with others in its peer group, as well as others from the state of Illinois. Smith indicated that no additional capital credits had

been paid since July 28, as funds allocated for capital credit payments had been exhausted for the year. After answering questions from individual board members, a motion was duly made and seconded and the Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the directors were considered and approved for the month of July. Director Morris Bell commented on the activities of the AIEC and encouraged other board members to attend the AIEC annual meeting which would be held August 25, 26, and 27 in Springfield.

Director Carls reported on the recent Soyland board meeting and related activities. He indicated that the new manager of Soyland, Kent Wick, was on the job and participated in the recent board meeting.

The contract for janitorial service for the Cooperative headquarters was approved.

Manager Smith reported on the CFC Integrity Fund.

The board considered an operating rule for consumers and/or members dealing with meter testing. On a motion duly made and seconded, the meter testing policy was approved. Members requesting their meter be tested must pay a test fee of \$20 effective September 1.

Proposed policy changes received the first reading from the board of directors dealing with an amendment to the Safety Manual for employees; the maintenance of a Safety Program through the Illinois Job Training and Safety Committee of the AIEC; and a proposed revision dealing with depositories and signatures for Cooperative funds. These proposed revisions will be considered by the board at the September meeting for final approval.

The board considered the "Direct Broadcast Satellite Program of NRTC." Kevin Keiser, member service adviser, explained the DBS franchising of areas and the cost related thereto. He pointed out that a minimum of \$265,000 would be necessary to secure a minimum franchise area and that the Cooperative would have until October 1 to determine whether or not they wish to participate. The manager answered several questions from the directors and upon conclusion on a vote of 8 to 1 the board elected not to participate in the DBS program.

Manager Smith presented a proposed rider to Schedule "A" for electric water heaters. After discussion Schedule WH Water Heater Rider was adopted.

The next board meeting will be held on September 22, 1992, at 7 p.m. in the Cooperative's office.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

New meter testing policy

On August 24 your board of directors revised the meter testing policy for Menard Electric Cooperative. The following policy went into effect September 1, 1992:

A member requesting a meter test for accuracy will be required to pay a \$20.00 test fee to the Cooperative. If the test shows the meter to be more than two (2) percent inaccurate the test fee will be refunded. The past three (3) energy bills will be adjusted if the meter is registering more than 2 percent fast to compensate for the inaccuracy of the meter. If the test shows the meter to be within two (2) percent accurate the test fee will be retained by the Cooperative.

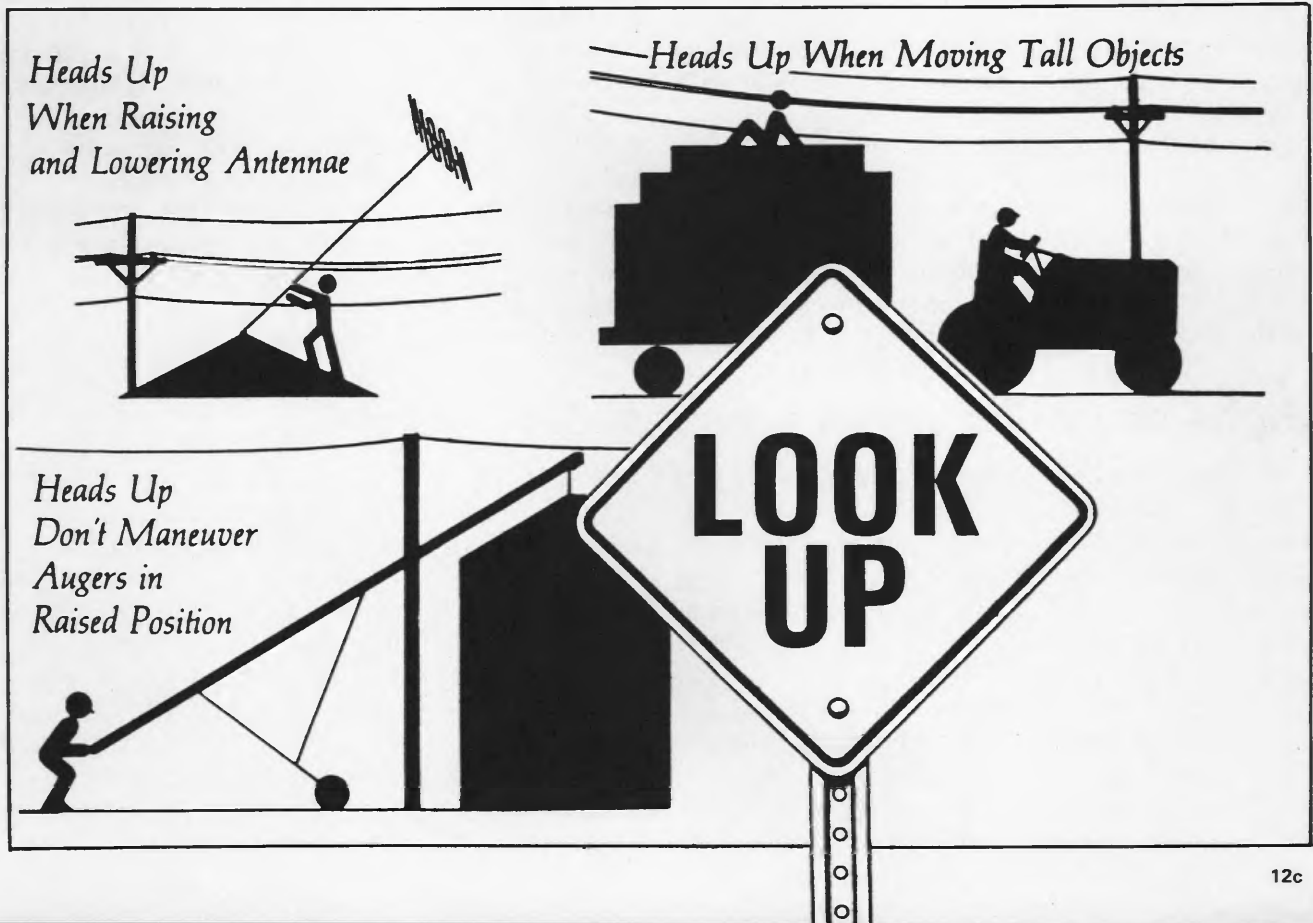
Is your crop dryer ready?

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

- Inspect all wiring and panels for worn insulation, loose connections and worn-out circuit breakers. Also, check to be sure grounding wires are properly connected and not broken.
- Make sure all guards, shields and over-current devices are properly installed and secured.
- Check for worn bearings, pulleys, gear boxes, belts, shafts, etc. Pay particular attention to excess play in motor bearings. Bad bearings can ruin a motor.
- Lubricate all equipment before you start it.

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

- Test it. Run through a complete drying cycle to see that all timers and switches operate properly. Let the motors run for several minutes to heat and distribute the new lubricant. Start the dryer at least twice to be sure the starting capacitors perform properly.
- If you have added new or large motors, it would be a good idea to check with the Engineering Department of Menard Electric Cooperative to make sure the electrical service is adequate to handle the additional load.
- Don't forget to check over any fossil fuel-fired equipment used in conjunction with the dryer.





There was a good turnout for Menard Electric Cooperative's geothermal field day August 6. Members interested in this high-efficiency heating and cooling system should contact the Cooperative.

Geothermal field day was a big hit

Your Cooperative sponsored a geothermal field day a few miles south of Petersburg August 6. Manager Dorland W. Smith said, "The event was an overwhelming success. People by the carloads came out to see the most-efficient heating and cooling system on the market. The intent of the event was to give people a chance to see and feel the system in operation, as well as talk with experts in the field."

Members in attendance were also made aware of the various programs and incentives offered by the Cooperative. One such incentive is a \$333 per ton rebate given to members who install a geothermal system in their home.

The big news of the day was the announcement of the new geothermal rate adopted by Menard

Electric Cooperative. Under the GT rate, kilowatt-hours used by the geothermal system from the September meter reading through the May meter reading will be billed at 5.75 cents per kilowatt-hour. Qualified households must include a geothermal heating and cooling system in an all-electric home. Load management controls must be placed on the electric water heater and back-up heat. Once these requirements are met, a submeter will be placed on the account and subsequent bills will reflect the new rate.

If you were not able to attend this year's field day, but would like to have some of your questions answered, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office at your convenience. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Signs on utility poles create safety hazards

The fall elections are just around the corner and with it, political signs will be popping up everywhere. Unfortunately, some of these signs will be nailed to your Cooperative's poles, creating serious safety hazards for Cooperative employees.

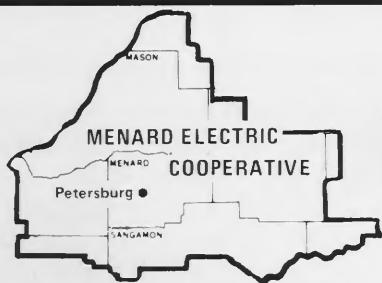
Linemen who have to climb a pole may find their hooks "kicking out" if they contact a nail, tack or staple. Thus the lineman could lose his footing and possibly fall, causing serious injuries.

Nails, tacks and staples can also damage insulated rubber gloves which Cooperative personnel use to protect themselves from electric

shock. Should these gloves become punctured or ripped, the insulating value is lost, thus providing no protection to the individual using them.

Election signs are not the only signs found on Cooperative poles. Some folks think utility poles are a convenient place to nail no trespassing signs, sale signs, yard sale notices, etc.

Please remember that attaching any kind of sign to a Cooperative pole can cause serious injuries and create hazardous situations for employees. Let's all help keep the Cooperative's poles free of nails, tacks and staples.



Menard Electric News

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1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

Caulking and installing weather stripping around doors and windows can provide a 5 to 15 percent savings on your heating and air conditioning bills depending on the condition of your home. Caulking can also be applied to the construction joints to provide a greater reduction of infiltration.

Rebates are still available for members installing a new electric water heater with a 40-gallon or larger storage capacity. If you would like to take advantage of this rebate, simply have a new electric water heater installed and contact

the Cooperative office. Once the installation is verified and the Cooperative's load management control device is installed, the Cooperative will send you a check for \$150. If you are replacing a fossil-fired water heater with an electric unit that meets the above requirements, the Cooperative will send you a rebate of \$175.

With the thermometer now beginning to dip, many members' thoughts turn to their old, inefficient heating system. If you find yourself in this situation and would like information about the most efficient heating and cooling system on the market today, please contact the Cooperative office and ask for information on a geothermal heating and cooling system.

Here Come The Goblins, Ghosts And Ghouls!



Not to mention witches, black cats and jack-o'-lanterns.

As your young ones, and older ones too, celebrate Halloween, we remind you to help them have a good time, sensibly and safely.

- Make sure there are enough adults in charge of the indoor and outdoor activities.
- Hand out healthy treats instead of, or along with, the candy. Don't take candy from strangers!
- Know addresses and phone numbers of parties your teenagers might attend.

A little common sense and care will put the finishing touches on a festive Halloween celebration. And don't forget to leave on the porch light for your goblins' safe return home!

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Director Edward L. Allspach was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

After roll call the agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes of the regular board meeting held August 24, 1992, were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting with one correction.

The Inventory of Work Orders for August 1992 in the amount of \$72,564 was approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. After discussion, the board approved the payment of the bills for the month of August.

The board approved the application of 58 new members and 10 applications for service permits.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for August 1992. The report showed overall margins about \$44,000 over budget. Total kilowatt-hour purchases and sales are approximately 12-million below budget. Year-to-date margins are about \$550,000 under budget. The board reviewed a sales summary provided by manager Smith for the various rate groupings, analyzing the reduced kilowatt-hour sales for 1992. The outage summary for the month of August indicated fewer outages than for the same period in 1991. Year-to-date outage hours are approximately 21 percent less than they were for 1991. The Safety Report indicated no recordable injuries or illnesses for the month of August.

Manager Smith reviewed the 1992 summer load management program. Peaks were less in July and August than the previous year. Load management was not implemented during the month of July. In August irrigation systems were inter-

rupted approximately 30 hours. The reduction in load management was indicative of the reduced kilowatt-hour sales in July and August.

The CFC Key Ration Trend Analysis was reviewed by the board. Manager Smith pointed out that this was similar to the Borrower's Statistical Profile sent out by REA last month and commented on questions that were brought by various board members.

The board approved an Electric Service Agreement for one member. Special Occasion Vouchers for directors were considered and approved for the month. Morris Bell reported on the AIEC activities and the AIEC annual meeting that was held in August. Manager Smith presented a certificate for completing the required director's courses to director Brauer.

Director Carls in making the Soyland report was brief, as the Soyland board meeting was scheduled to be held September 23.

Director Bell and manager Smith reported on the recent NRECA and CFC Region V meeting.

Manager Smith presented for the board's consideration the continuation of the Electric Heat Rebate. After discussion and deliberation, the board approved the Electric Heat Rebate for the heating year 1992-93 in the amount of four cents per kilowatt-hour for kilowatt-hours over 1,000 for residences where electric heat is the prime source of heating.

Staff assistant Hedberg reported on the capital credit refunds. He stated that more than 50 percent of the checks issued for refund had been cashed which is greater than the nationwide average.

The Labor Committee reported to the board and the board approved the recommendations of the Committee in regard to wage compensation for the non-union employees.

The board approved new policies entitled "Safety Program," "Safety Manual," and the policy on "Depositories and Signature Requirements."

The next board meeting will be held on October 27 at 7 p.m. in the Cooperative's office. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Office closings

The Cooperative office will be closed on November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day.

The Cooperative office will also be closed November 26 and 27 in observance of Thanksgiving. We wish all our members a very blessed Thanksgiving!

Electric heat rebates back again

On September 22, 1992, your board of directors voted to continue the Electric Heat Rebate Program for the coming winter season. Under this program, rebates are given to all members who use electricity as their primary source of heat.

The rebate amount will be 4 cents per kilowatt-hour for every kilowatt-hour used over 1,000 during the billing months of December, January and February.

For those members who have recently installed

electric heat as their primary source of heat and would like to receive this years rebate, we ask that you fill in the requested information below and return it to the Cooperative office. A Cooperative employee will then be dispatched to your residence to visually verify the new heating system and add your name to the 1992-93 list of recipients.

Members who have already completed this process do not have to submit the following information.

I have one of the following as a primary source of heat:

- electric baseboard
- ceiling cable
- electric furnace
- air-to-air heat pump
- geothermal system

Name

Address

MEC account number

Daytime telephone number

New employee



Troy Shafer

Troy Shafer began working for your Cooperative on September 8. After a probationary period, Troy will begin learning to build and maintain electric distribution lines through a four-year apprentice lineman's program.

Troy is a graduate of Petersburg PORTA High School and has long-standing roots in the Petersburg area. Before coming to Menard Electric Cooperative, Troy worked for Sangamon Valley Log Homes and G.T.E. Troy

and his wife, Michele, are fellow members of Menard Electric Cooperative living near Petersburg.

Like most aspiring linemen, Troy enjoys the outdoors, so it is no wonder he lists hunting and fishing as his hobbies. Troy is excited about the challenges that await him and is looking forward to working with and meeting the members of the Cooperative. Menard Electric welcomes Troy and Michele to the Cooperative family.

Help prevent autumn accidents

As the chill in the air becomes noticeable with the onset of autumn, our thoughts turn to hunting, cutting firewood, and a variety of other sweater weather activities. Unfortunately, in our effort to enjoy the great outdoors, we sometimes cause interruptions in our electric service and cause life-threatening situations by interfering with high-voltage power lines.

Careless hunters are often responsible for broken insulators on power lines and other hazardous conditions each year. Taking target practice on insulators or shooting at birds sitting on power lines is not very sporting and may be fatal if the line is damaged or broken. Damaged lines can snap and fall to the ground while still energized, creating an electrocution hazard to the

hunter and anyone or anything nearby.

Cutting down and trimming trees are frequently the cause of service interruptions, shocks and electrocution hazards. Overhead power lines are prevalent in both urban and rural areas today. Unfortunately, it is all too common for people to start cutting before taking a moment to visually inspect the site for power lines and other hazards.

Always call Menard Electric Cooperative if you want limbs near power lines trimmed or a tree cut that has even the slightest possibility of contacting power lines as it falls. We will make arrangements to trim branches or cut the entire tree down if there is any risk of line interference.

This autumn lets take a moment to look up and around for power lines.

Going away this winter?????

If you are planning to head to a warmer climate such as Arizona, California or Florida, please make arrangements for payment of your electric bill. You can call, stop by or send a letter to notify us you will be gone and how long you plan to stay.

Payment of your electric bill can be handled in various ways. You can make an advance payment of your anticipated usage. If you know the address of where you will be staying, we can mail your bill

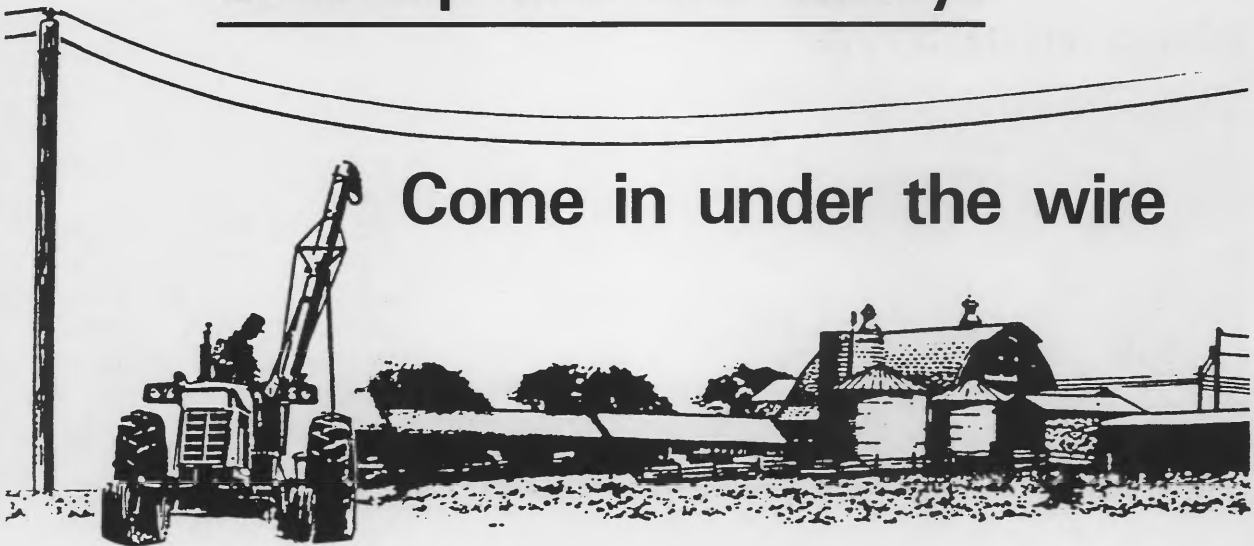
to you. Arrangements can be made with a friend or relative to pay your bill for you.

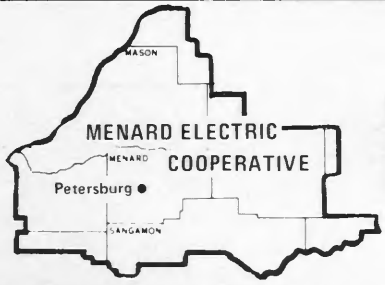
In all cases, we would like to know how to get in touch with you or whomever is taking care of your farm or home while you are gone. If there is an emergency or problem with your service while you are gone, it would be a big help to know who to contact.

Play it safe during harvest

Look up and live safely!

Come in under the wire





Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203

217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

On December 1 Judith Powers of Petersburg will have completed 15 years of service with Menard Electric Cooperative. Judy is the receptionist/cashier for your cooperative.

As a reminder to all hunting enthusiasts, we urge you to be extremely careful when around electrical equipment. Damage to electrical equipment due to gun shots can be dangerous, not only to you, but to other hunters as well.

William and Iris McCoy of Kilbourne celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on September 7. Bill is a retired forestry journeyman retiring in 1987.

John and Mildred Root of Petersburg celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 12. John is a former manager of Menard Electric

Cooperative, retiring in 1986.

Orene and Gerald Lynn of Tallula celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary on November 25. Orene is the data processing operator for your Cooperative.

The following rebates are available through December 31.

- Members installing a new electric water heater with a 40-gallon storage capacity or larger and enrolling in the Cooperative's Load Management Program will receive a rebate of \$150.
- Members installing a new electric water heater (meeting the above qualifications) that is replacing a fossil-fired unit will receive a rebate of \$175.
- Members installing an air-to-air heat pump with a SEER of 10.0 or greater will receive a rebate of \$250 per ton.
- Members installing a geothermal system will receive a rebate of \$333 per ton.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

If you need assistance to pay your electric bill, you may be eligible to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). For details of this program you may wish to contact an agent in your area.

Logan, Mason and Menard county residents should contact:
Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation
325 South Chicago Street
P.O. Box 846
Lincoln, IL 62656
Phone (217)732-2159

Macon County residents should contact:
Decatur Macon Community Opportunities Corporation
1122 East Marietta Street
Decatur, IL 62521
Phone (217)428-2193

Cass and Morgan county residents should contact:
MCS Community Services
345 West State
Jacksonville, IL 62651
Phone (217)243-9404

Sangamon County residents should contact:
Sangamon County Department of Community Services
200 South 9th Street, Room 311
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone (217)535-3120

Tazewell County residents should contact:
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
632 West Jefferson
Morton, IL 61550-1540
Phone (309)694-4391

Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The office will resume normal business hours on Monday, November 30. We will also be closed Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Director Edward L. Allspach was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

After roll call the agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes of the regular board meeting held September 22, 1992, were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for September 1992 in the amount of \$50,054.71 was approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting, totalling \$1,435,234.95. After discussion, the board approved the payment of the bills for the month of September.

The board approved the application of 59 new members and 21 applications for service permits. Special services coordinator Pillsbury presented the quarterly report from the Member Services Department. He indicated there had been a 4 percent increase in the number of security lights in place during the last 12 months and that the department handled numerous bill complaints and had responded to 35 electric heat inquiries. For the year 1992, 48 members have been reimbursed for purchasing a new electric water heater while 13 members had purchased air-to-air heat pumps and five had installed a geothermal system to date. After answering questions from the board, the Special & Member Services Report was approved.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for September 1992. The report showed margins for the month of September greater than budgeted, however, year-to-date margins remain \$523,000 under budget. Smith noted that through the month of September the Cooperative had purchased 16 million fewer kilowatt-hours than for a comparable period in 1991. Total kilowatt-hours sold to Cooperative members through September were nearly 15 million fewer than for the same period of 1991. He pointed out that kilowatt-hour

usage for the months of June through September were significantly fewer than in 1991. Residential kilowatt-hour usage was 21.5 percent fewer than in 1991. The Outage Summary for the month of September reflected fewer outage hours than for the same month of last year. Total outage hours per consumer to date shows an improvement over 1991. The Safety Report indicated no injuries or illnesses for the month of September. Manager Smith reported on the temporary investments with Soyland Power. He reviewed equity as a percent of total assets, operating margins and line loss for September and for the first nine months of 1992. He also reported on the load management programs and reviewed the Cooperative Financing Corporation interest rate comparison for the past four years. He answered questions of various board members, and thereupon the Manager's Report was approved.

The board approved six electric service agreements and the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers. A list of uncollectible accounts was presented and approved for write off.

Attorney Smith presented a review of the steps necessary to create a subsidiary corporation.

Director Bell reported on the AIEC activities and presented the year-end wrap up on legislation effecting rural economic development as well as electric cooperatives. He presented a litigation report prepared by the AIEC of cases before the Commerce Commission.

The board authorized the Cooperative's participation in the "Continuing Education Assessment" program sponsored by the AIEC for the year 1993. In addition approval was given for the payment of dues to the National Food and Energy Council.

Director Carls reported on Soyland activities.

The board approved the underground line extension into the Pinecrest subdivision.

The status of litigation of Menard Electric vs Riverton and Cox along with Menard Electric vs CIPS was presented. The board authorized Illinois Rural Electric Co. and Illinois Water Survey to have certain member listings. A report was given of a meeting of representatives of the Cooperative and the City Council of Petersburg with reference to the closing of a street.

The next board meeting will be held on November 24, 1992, at 7 p.m. in the Cooperative's office.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.



Dave Behrens, an employee of Smith Electric, installs a meter base.



A typical meter for the geothermal system.

Geothermal rate inaugurated

A couple of months ago, your board of directors adopted a new geothermal rate, which is in effect from the September meter reading through the May meter reading. Qualified members must have a geothermal system as their primary heating and cooling system and must have an all-electric home.

Under the rate, members will be charged 5.75 cents per kilowatt-hour during the above mentioned months for all kilowatt-hours used by the geothermal system in their home. In order to accurately account for the kilowatt-hours used, a submeter must be installed on the geothermal

system. This meter will be read by the Cooperative contractual meter readers on a monthly basis.

The geothermal system heats and cools more efficiently and at a lower operating cost than any other system on the market today. Now, with the Cooperative's new rate, the annual savings a member can achieve makes it even more attractive. If you would like more information about how a geothermal system can save you money, contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office. We can provide you with printed information and conduct a cost analysis study to give you all the information you need.

New employee



Corey M. Stone

On October 5, Corey M. Stone began working for your Cooperative. After a probationary period Corey will be entered into a four-year apprentice lineman's program, in which he will learn the "how to's" and "where to's" about building electric distribution lines.

Corey grew up in Manito and is a graduate of Forman High School. He is a fellow member of Menard Electric Cooperative and currently lives outside Mason City with his wife, Jodi, and their

daughter, Haylie. Prior to his employment with Menard Electric, Corey worked for Hawes Implement in New Holland.

During his spare time Corey stays busy raising purebred sheep and playing softball. He also enjoys hunting and following his favorite football and baseball teams. Corey is looking forward to working for and meeting the members of Menard Electric Cooperative. We welcome Corey, Jodi and Haylie to our extended family.

Cooperative's first pole replaced



Above: This was the scene on February 26, 1937, when the first pole was set on Menard Electric Cooperative's first section of line.

Left: The MEC crew is ready to replace the first pole on the cooperative system: Terry Cutright (in bucket) and standing from left, Troy Shafer, Jeff Schenkel, Jim Haddick.

One chapter ends, but the story is far from over

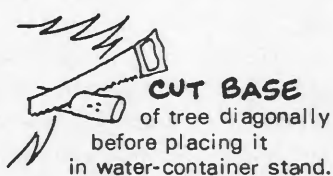
On February 26, 1937, a number of farmers and officials from state and federal agencies gathered to celebrate the installation of Menard Electric Cooperative's first pole. Later, lines were attached to the pole and electricity lit up the country side. Over the years this pole has stood fast, symbolizing the strength and determination of those who wanted to bring electricity to the rural areas of central Illinois.

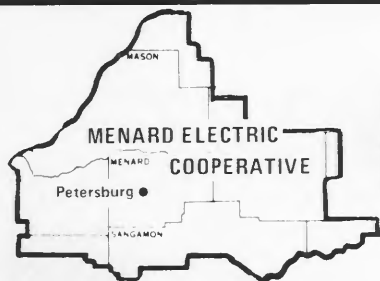
As these pioneers had intended, Menard Electric Cooperative's goal is to provide the best possible service to its members. In keeping with that

goal, your Cooperative recently rebuilt the line running south from the 12 mile house on Route 124 one mile west of Sherman. Unfortunately, in doing so, some of the poles had to be replaced, including the Cooperative's first pole.

Although the chapter on this ceremonial pole has ended, the story is far from being over. We continue to build lines to serve new homes, farms and businesses. And as always the system is being upgraded to better serve the members of Menard Electric Cooperative where the "investor-owned" utilities would not serve.

Christmas tree safety tips





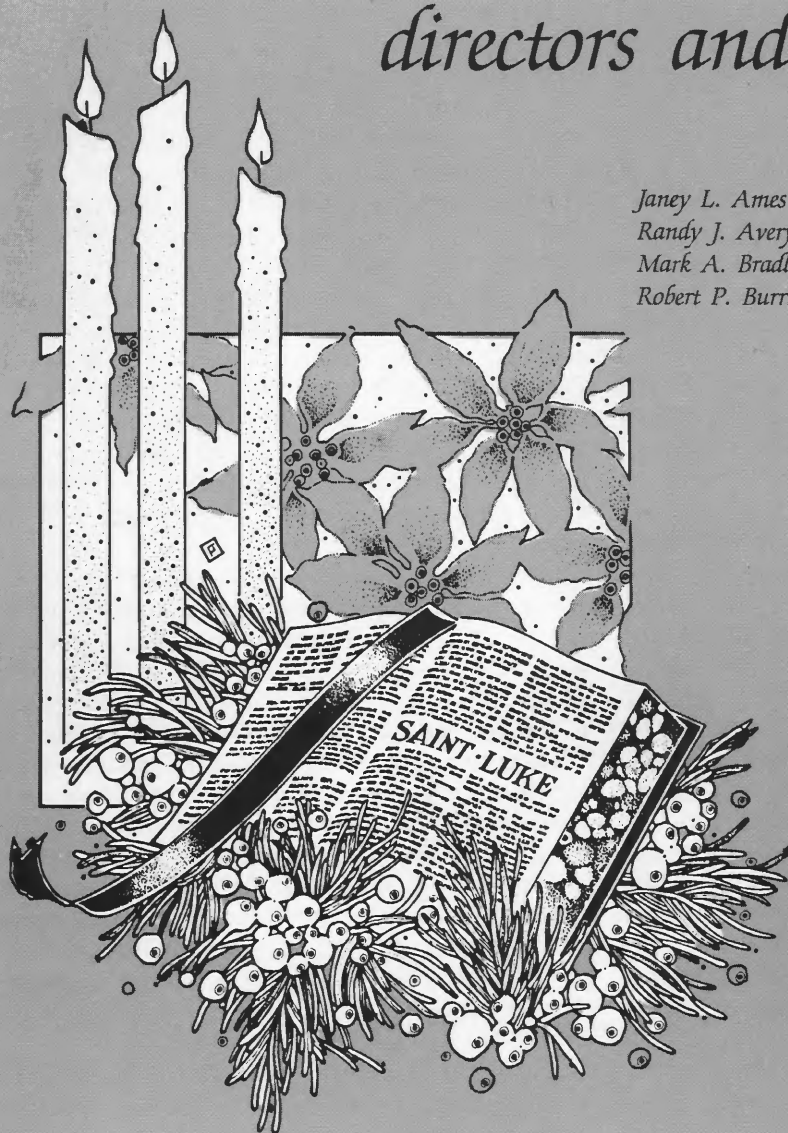
MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Menard Electric News

Seasons Greetings from your directors and employees



Employees

Janey L. Ames
 Randy J. Avery
 Mark A. Bradley
 Robert P. Burris
 David H. Crosnoe
 Terry L. Cutright
 Walter R. "Casey" Duncanson
 Terry W. Entwistle
 M. Suzanne Freeland
 James T. Haddick
 Ronny R. Harden
 Gerald E. Hedberg
 Dwaine E. Heyen
 Chris P. Hinton
 Alan D. Horn
 Wayne E. Jones
 Kevin D. Keiser
 Lawrence D. Kyes
 M. Orene Lynn
 Phyllis A. McCoy
 Darlene M. McGee
 Evelyn P. McLaughlin
 Brock D. Meyer
 J. Dan Morgan
 Douglas S. Pettit
 Earl L. Pillsbury
 Larry D. Power
 Judy A. Powers
 Don R. Riser
 Edward L. Rogers
 Rhonda K. Satorius
 Jeffrey D. Schenkel
 Troy S. Shafer
 John O. Shelton
 Dorland W. Smith
 Glenn D. Squires
 Corey M. Stone
 Marcel Verreault
 John H. Whitehurst

Directors

Warren D. Goetsch, President
 Carroll F. Cline, Vice President
 Meredith L. Worner, Secretary
 Robert I. Brauer, Treasurer
 Edward L. Allspach
 Morris L. Bell
 Michael E. Carl's
 James G. Graff
 Gary L. Martin

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 1992, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Director Robert I. Brauer was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith. Also attending to present the staff budgets were general foreman Terry W. Entwistle; system engineer David H. Crosnoe; and office manager Wayne E. Jones.

After roll call the agenda for the meeting was approved with the addition of Item 2(a) reading of letter from REA. President Goetsch read the letter from Administrator Huff, informing the Cooperative that their loan in the amount of \$3.5 million was approved contingent on the approval of the \$1.5 million supplemental loan from the Cooperative Finance Corporation.

The minutes of the October 27, 1992, board meeting were approved as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The Inventory of Work Orders for October 1992 in the amount of \$52,930.80 was approved. The board considered the approval of bills as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting totaling \$1,316,981.03. After discussion, the board approved the payment of the bills for the month of October. The board approved the application of 55 new members and 16 applications for service permits.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for October, 1992. The report showed expenses less power costs to be within \$1,000 of the amount budgeted for the month. Year-to-date margins including power costs are approximately \$600,000 below budget. Smith noted that kilowatt-hours purchased late in October, and billed with the members November energy bill, are approximately 1.8 million over budget or approximately \$200,000 additional revenue. The Outage Summary for the month of October reflected approximately the same number of outages for the same month last year, however, with fewer outage hours. The average outage hours per member are approximately one hour less than in 1991. Manager Smith reported under the Safety Report that the Cooperative had just been notified of their being Safety Accredited, which recognizes a good safety program and safe work habits by the Cooperative employees. He also noted that there were two recordable injury incidents during

the month of October.

The board approved the director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month of October.

After a short lunch break, the board reconvened and director Bell reported on the AIEC activities and discussed the plans for AIEC to investigate a workmen's compensation pool rather than using a normal insurance carrier.

Director Carls reported on Soyland activities, which included the adoption of the 1993 budget and the board's meeting with the REA personnel to learn more about Soyland's financial position.

Manager Smith presented for the board's consideration and approval a December 1992 Power Requirement Study as prepared by the Triple E Department of the AIEC for Soyland and Menard Electric. Smith reviewed the basis for the econometric modeling that was done to predict the Cooperative's power requirements through the year 2006. After discussion the board approved the manager's recommendation to approve the Power Requirement Study and adopted a resolution to be sent to REA for their consideration.

The staff members presented the board with the preliminary requirements for the 1993 budget. Each staff member commented on the progress of their work through 1992 and the plans for 1993 in their reports. Several requests were made of the board to determine directions that the staff should take and appropriate recommendations were made.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury reviewed the bids for insurance for 1993. Bids were requested from four insurance companies, with two submitting proposals. Bids were considered and the board recommended the Cooperative continue to be insured by Federated Insurance Company.

Manager Smith requested permission to do a study for the requirements of the financial accounting standards board Rule 106 and the board authorized the same.

Director Allspach, chairman of the Labor Committee, reviewed with the board the recent committee meeting. The board recommended that the staff further review the major medical insurance for the Cooperative and report back to the board at the December meeting.

Under other business the board discussed and were updated by attorney Smith and special services coordinator Pillsbury on the progress of the request to the City of Petersburg to vacate 5th Street between Douglas and Jackson Streets. The board recommended that the next meeting be held on Tuesday, December 22, to begin at 5:30 p.m. central standard time.

The board went into executive session and after coming out of the executive session the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Co-op Comments

On December 22 Dave and Sherita Crosnoe of rural Petersburg celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Dave is your system engineer.

On this past September 11 Gary and Pam Martin celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. Gary is a director for your Cooperative, serving members in the Ashland, Alexander

and Philadelphia areas.

As a reminder, members using electric heat as their primary source of heat during the billing months of December, January and February are eligible to receive a four cent per kilowatt-hour rebate for the kilowatt-hours used over 1,000 in each month. If you have recently installed electric heat in your home, or are unaware as to whether or not you are enrolled in the program, please contact the Cooperative office.

Water heater rebate program back in '93

The Cooperative is continuing the electric water heater rebate program for 1993. The 1993 program requirements will remain the same with a minimum storage capacity of 40 gallons. All eligible water heating must also be enrolled in the Cooperative's load management program. Once the above requirements are met the member will receive a one time rebate from the Cooperative. If the installation is in a newly built structure or if it replaces a fossil fired water heater the rebate will

be \$175. Members replacing an old electric unit with a new electric water heater will receive \$150.

If you have installed a new electric water heater and would like to receive your rebate, please complete the information below and return it to the Cooperative office. Please note that installations prior to January 1, 1993, will be subject to the 1992 program. Water heaters installed after January 1, 1993, fall under the above mentioned guidelines.

Name: _____

Account No. _____

Daytime Telephone No. _____

Meter reading dates

JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Many members try to assist our meter readers by making their meters more accessible during the meter reading dates each month. Above are the meter reading dates for January, February and March. With your efforts and assistance 1993 will be a problem free meter reading year.

Glenn Squires retires after 41 years of service

After serving the members of Menard Electric Cooperative for more than 41 years, Glenn Squires has decided to trade in his hot stick for a fishing pole. On January 5, 1993, Glenn Squires will retire from your Cooperative.

Glenn began working for the Cooperative on July 15, 1951, as a member of the tree-trimming crew. Over the years Glenn continuously proved his worth and moved up the ladder to his current position as an area serviceman. Glenn was the serviceman for the Petersburg, Athens, Pleasant Plains, Cantrall, Tallula, Oakford, Greenview and New Berlin areas. Glenn has seen the Cooperative grow and change with noticeable improvement in equipment and protection used on the Cooperative's



Squires

distribution system. He remarks that even though the Cooperative has changed, the members remain the same, as he fondly remembers all those who helped

pull him from snow-filled ditches or gave him that warm cup of coffee on those cold, stormy nights.

During his retirement Glenn plans to spend much of his time travelling the country and seeing all those places he has dreamed of seeing. Glenn also enjoys hunting and fishing and is anxiously awaiting the opportunity to relax and enjoy the great outdoors. With Glenn's retirement the Cooperative will have lost the experience of a man who has provided over 41 years of compassionate and dedicated service to the members of the Cooperative. He will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Cooperative, we thank him for his years of service and we wish Glenn and Shirley many happy years of retirement.

More electricity during winter months

"Why is my electric bill higher during the winter? I don't have electric heat in my house and I am certainly not using my air conditioner." These are among the comments we often receive this time of year. Although we have some ideas as to why your usage may be higher than usual it is somewhat difficult to pinpoint the reason to one specific item. However, the following are a few things that may contribute to an increase in kilowatt-hour consumption during the winter months. It is our hope that after you have reviewed this list you will have a better understanding of why your electric bill seems to be somewhat higher than you anticipated.

1. Holidays — Thanksgiving, Christmas and News Years create an increase in cooking and baking.

2. Increased usage of lights due to fewer day-

light hours.

3. Most heating systems require the use of electric power and run almost continuously in extremely cold weather. In the case of a propane forced air furnace, the culprit could be an electric fan circulating the air through the home.

4. Many use electric space heaters in their home and buildings.

5. Stock tank heaters and fountains.

6. Engine heaters may be used for cars, tractors and trucks.

7. Electric blankets and heating pads.

8. Clothes dryers are used more and those in unheated rooms use more energy.

9. Forgetting to shut a light or oven off and discovering it hours later.

10. Christmas tree and outdoor lights left on during the evening.

Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed December 24 and December 25 in observance of Christmas. The Cooperative office will also be closed January 1 in celebration of the New Year.