

Geothermal

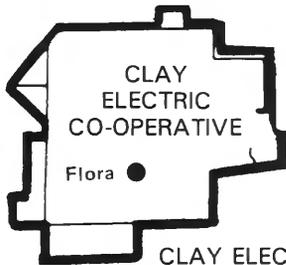
It's closer than you realize.

Not too far away from where you live, maybe just down the street or around the corner, somebody is saving money and you're not. They are taking advantage of something that you could take advantage of, too. If you have a front yard or back yard, you can lower the cost of heating and cooling your home. You can also get free or very inexpensive hot water. The Geothermal Heating and Cooling System uses the constant warmth within the soil to move heat in or out of your home, depending on the season. Somebody near you has one, and they are enjoying the comfort, safety and savings. Fortunately, there is somebody else near you who can help you bring all of geothermal's benefits to YOUR home. It's your member—owned electric cooperative.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report



Minutes of board of trustees meeting held October 18, 1993.

All trustees were present as were the manager and the cooperative attorney.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held September 20, 1993.

Accepted 16 new members for service.

Canceled 14 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 2 members in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage reports for the month of September 1993, and the third quarter report of 1993 presented by the manager.

Heard a report from the cooperative attorney concerning pending litigation.

Heard a report from the

manager about the regular meeting of Soyland board of directors held September 22, 1993.

Approved work orders for the month of August 1993 in the amount of \$33,265.46, and authorized the manager to present the same to REA for reimbursement.

Renewed line of credit with CFC for 1994.

Heard a report from the purchasing committee recommending the purchase of a replacement vehicle and **authorized** the purchase.

Approved service contracts for four members on rate schedule one in the form as presented at the meeting and **authorized** officers to sign the same.

Reviewed REA form no. 268 and **authorized** its execution by the president and manager.

Resolved that Clay Electric participate in the AIEC Continuing Education program.

Were advised about a group workers compensation meeting sponsored by the AIEC.

Discussed the recent water system meeting that was held at the cooperative office.

Accepted disbursement list for the month of September 1993.

Directed the manager to secure bids for fuel for the cooperative vehicles.

Approved membership fees to Clay County Farm Bureau and the Flora Chamber of Commerce.

Discussed the annual NRECA meeting February 6-9, 1994.

Authorized the Cooperative attorney to attend a Legal Seminar November 7, 8, and 9, 1993.

Adjournment.



If you depend on life-support equipment, we need to know

While Clay Electric Cooperative strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of outage time, occasional outages, either planned or uncontrolled, do occur.

We need to know the names and location of cooperative members who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of members on life-support equipment, and it is important that this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life-support systems.

If you or a member of your family depend on life-support equipment, please let our office know.

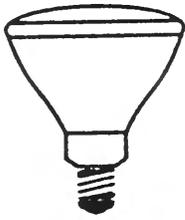
Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 517
Flora, IL 62839
Phone: 618-662-2171

Before you shop for light bulbs

Consider a brighter idea

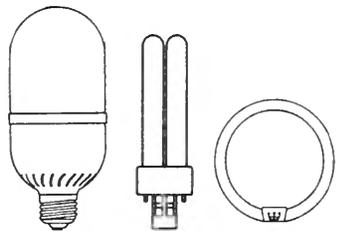
Incandescent bulbs waste 90 percent of their electricity use making heat instead of light. New energy-efficient light bulbs give you more light for your money, save energy, and are good for the environment. Many energy-efficient bulbs are designed to give off a warm, soft light just like incandescents. While they may cost more initially, energy-efficient light bulbs save you money in the long run with lower bills and fewer replacements.

The four main types of energy efficient bulbs

 <p>Energy efficient incandescent Best for: Lamps that are on less than 15 minutes per day or where halogen or compact fluorescent bulbs won't fit. Gives light similar to a standard incandescent. Energy use: 10 percent more efficient than a standard incandescent bulb. Lifespan: 750 hours</p>	 <p>Compact fluorescent Best for: Where usage exceeds one hour a day. Floor lamps, hanging fixtures, and some ceiling sockets are easiest to fit. Gives light similar to an incandescent. Energy use: 400 percent more efficient than a standard incandescent bulb. Lifespan: 9,000-12,000 hours</p>
 <p>High intensity discharge Best for: Outdoors, especially security lighting, and where usage occurs over extended periods. Gives a different color light than an incandescent. Energy use: 400 percent more efficient than a standard incandescent bulb. Lifespan: 10,000-24,000 hours</p>	 <p>Halogen Best for: Recessed or "canned" fixtures, track lights, and outdoor lights. Produces whiter light than standard incandescents. Energy use: Up to 200 percent more efficient than a standard incandescent bulb. Lifespan: 2,000 hours</p>

Make the switch to compact fluorescents

New compact fluorescent bulbs are some of the most efficient and convenient of all energy-efficient lights. Three types are available:



Single Unit: Discarded when the bulb burns out. Available in different models, including decorative globes, outdoor flood lights, and reflector bulbs designed for recessed fixtures.

Packaged Kit: A twin tube or double twin tube bulb, attached to a base. Only the bulb needs replacing when it burns out — the base can be reused.

Circular Type: Some brands have a reusable base, others must be discarded when the bulb burns out.

Save money, help the environment

Replacing one 60-watt incandescent bulb with a comparable 18-watt fluorescent will save the typical household about \$40 in energy costs over the life of the new bulb (10,000 hours). It will also save the energy equivalent of 400 pounds of coal and help reduce air pollution.

The 'paperless' newspaper

Electronics changing readers' options

Just before dawn on August 15, a gunman in California shot and killed two hostages in a police standoff that ended at 5 a.m. About the same time, a teenager on a bicycle was tossing copies of the San Jose Mercury News onto the front porch steps of the newspaper's sleeping subscribers.

Over the next few hours, Mercury News readers skimmed the morning paper over coffee. News of the slain hostages was not in it; the presses had shut down long before the story's tragic conclusion.

By 7:26 a.m., however, subscribers with computers could switch them on and read about the resolution to the standoff.

By subscribing to an electronic information service called America On-Line, anybody with a personal computer hooked to a phone can get the full text — with occasional updates — of the daily Mercury News, right on a home or office computer screen.

The San Jose daily is one of hundreds of newspapers around the country experimenting with electronics as a way to bring the news into subscribers' homes.

The New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune and others are looking into ways to re-use the news that they spend so much time and money collecting every day but now publish only one time in one format.

"We're just looking at new ways to market the information that we have," says Pat Ecke of the New York Times. Ecke publishes a daily eight-page summary of the paper sent via fax machine to cruise ships and overseas resorts where the Times is not sold.

Newspaper executives believe that electronic publishing may be a way for them to woo a

generation of readers lost to the visual excitement of television, video games and computers. Just 52.6 percent of the American public reads a daily newspaper.

Not all versions of the electronic newspaper will have instant news updates like the Mercury News, although up-to-the-minute stock market reports and sneak peaks at tomorrow's classified ads might be popular features.

Rather, on-line editions might offer access to old newspaper clippings so a reader with a taste for French food could look up last month's review of a new bistro or a subscriber puzzled by a complex story could read background reports.

The Mercury News offers cross-referencing for other, non-newspaper services. Someone reading a story about a speech, for instance, can opt to view the entire text of the speech, even though it's not printed in the paper. "Our main goal," explains Bill Mitchell, director of electronic publishing at the Mercury News, "is to make the newspaper itself more valuable to people."

Roger Fidler, director of media

technology at Knight-Ridder, a giant newspaper chain, offers a futuristic scenario. Fidler, who is writing a book about his vision, dreams of a portable electronic newspaper that readers can carry anywhere — to the office or on a subway car.

The key to its success, he says, is portability. A lightweight, tablet-sized computer would reveal a newspaper page laid out with slim columns of type, bold headlines and sharp pictures on its screen. The reader could tap an attached pen on a headline, and the story would fill the screen, making it easy to read. A menu would allow the reader to choose from news, sports and other regular newspaper sections.

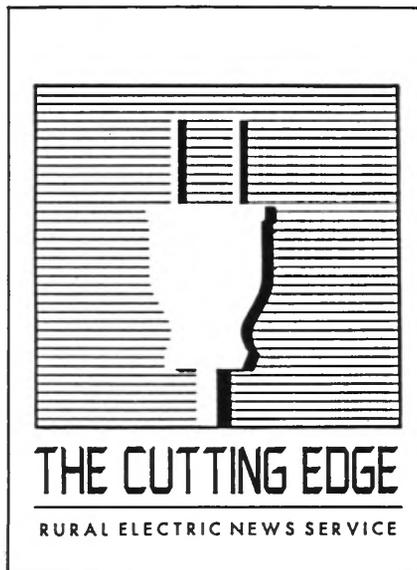
Eventually, Fidler hopes, the technology will be sophisticated enough to make the on-screen newspaper interactive: The tap of a pen on a restaurant ad, for example, would connect the reader's computer with the restaurant's reservation system.

Experts say a model such as the one Fidler envisions would have to cost as little as \$500 to appeal to a mass audience.

Some newspapers are toying with other "Information Age" vehicles to get their words out.

Large newspapers such as the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times have special telephone numbers that readers can call to hear up-to-the-minute sports scores, news reports and even horoscopes and personal ads. The Baltimore Sun offers a telephone job resume service.

Widespread use of paperless news is still a few years away. Fidler hopes it will be popular within five years. But most experts expect to see it after the turn of the century.



Two-way TV turns living room into shopping center

It's not too hard to imagine sinking into the sofa after a too-long work day, too tired to cook dinner or shop for the baby shower gift you need on Saturday. You know the bank closes at 7, and you just don't have the energy to get there.

It would be heaven to pick up the remote control and let the television take over for a while. But you're hungry, and you have to buy that gift. And if you don't transfer some money into your checking account tonight, the mortgage check will bounce.

Enter interactive television, which, when it becomes available in some locations sometime this year, will do the work while you sit on the couch. With a tap on a TV remote control, you could order a pizza (your favorite toppings would be pre-programmed so you don't even have to choose); buy a baby gift (using either a credit card or checking account number); and take care of your banking.

And that's not all. Do you guess the letters on the Wheel of Fortune gameboard faster than Vanna White can flip them over? This two-way TV set-up will let you play along with other home viewers. Do you know more than the color analyst who calls professional football games? You'll be able to spew sports trivia with other fans, right from your living room.

With interactive television, a viewer can click a remote control button in response to choices that appear on a TV screen. If a commercial for a new car appears, you might be asked whether you'd like to get a brochure in the mail. If you click on "yes," the company will add you to its mailing list. Your name and address would be pre-

programmed into your TV set.

Likewise, a spot for a pizza company might come on and ask if you'd like to order your usual pie. Click on yes, and it will arrive at your door in 30 minutes.

Or you could select "banking" from an on-screen menu of options. You would be allowed to pay bills, transfer funds between accounts and conduct other business, right from your living room. If you'd like to order groceries, you'd point and shoot at a shopping "icon" and place your order. Likewise, you could order merchandise from catalogs, choose movies and answer opinion polls, all with your remote control.

"Instead of calling an 800 number," explains Paul Sturiale, public relations manager for the EON Corp., "you'll have an icon that appears on the screen. If you click on this, you'll be able to order this product. You don't have to copy down an 800 number and you don't have to go to

the telephone and dial. All you have to do is point and click."

The Reston, Va.-based EON Corp. plans to offer this technology in several cities in 1994.

The technology will use low-powered radio waves to transmit satellite signals to a box that will be hooked to the viewer's TV set. Anyone who buys the \$500 box will see graphic overlays along with the regular picture when they watch television shows and commercials. The overlays will give the viewer the option of playing along with a show or ordering merchandise. Overlays will appear only on shows and commercials whose producers have paid a fee to the interactive TV provider.

Once the viewer pays for the box, there is no subscription fee. Viewers will pay only if they order merchandise or participate in a for-fee service or game.

Viewers in nine cities — New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco, Washington, Dallas, and Houston — soon will be able to use the two-way technology. Other highly populated areas will eventually get the service.

Sturiale predicts that because of their sparse populations, rural areas will be the last to have access to interactive TV, but that eventually they will. "People in rural areas are going to find this to be an excellent system because it's going to allow them convenience and fun that they haven't had before," he said.

Two-way TV could save rural residents even more time than their city counterparts, Sturiale predicts: "They won't have to take the long trek into town to go to the bank and live their lives around banker's hours."

—Rural Electric News Service





Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report



Minutes of board of trustees meeting held November 15, 1993.

All trustees were present as were the manager and cooperative attorney.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting of the board held October 18, 1993.

Accepted 21 new members for service.

Canceled 15 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 2 members in bad standing.

Approved financial, maintenance and outage reports for the month of October 1993 presented by the manager.

Heard a report from the cooperative attorney concerning pending litigation.

Heard a report from Soyland general manager about debt restructuring agreement made with federal government.

Youth tour contest for 1994

Once again Clay Electric will be sponsoring two students for a trip to Washington, D.C. The tour this year will be June 17-24. Doug Hockman will be contacting the schools in the Clay Electric area, and will have information about the contest. Clay Electric will also sponsor four students to Springfield for Youth Day, which will be held on April 13.

Approved work orders for the month of October 1993 in the amount of \$11,138.97, and authorized the manager to present the same to REA for reimbursement.

Heard a report from trustee Cammon regarding the AIEC meeting held October 21, 1993.

Executed audit work to be performed by Leymone Hardcastle and Company.

Discussed water system meeting held November 13, 1993.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of October 1993.

Directed the manager to secure fuel bids for cooperative

vehicles.

Approved refund of capital credits to deceased members Wm. L. and Hester Hahn pursuant to cooperative policy.

Reviewed loan fund audit conducted by REA.

Discussed the workers compensation program and expressed intent to join such program in letter form to AIEC.

Were advised about cooperative Christmas dinner.

Agreed to participate in the Youth-to-Washington tour for 1994.

Authorized the manager to grant additional leave to an employee if deemed necessary.

Adjournment.

Statement of nondiscrimination

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, or national origin or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is James E. Campbell, Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

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 flu-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; tap water contains more minerals. Use demineralization cartridges or filters if supplied or recommended for use with your humidifier.

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

- Clean your room humidifier well and often during the heating season. Be sure to unplug the humidifier before cleaning. Follow the manufacturer's suggested cleaning methods. If chlorine bleach or other cleaning product or disinfectant is used, make sure to rinse the tank well to void 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.

Coping with a winter outage

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

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

When the power goes off, the first thing to do is disconnect those electric circuits that serve delicate electronic appliances and entertainment equipment. This will protect them from any surges that may occur when the power is restored. When it is restored, wait for 15 to 30 minutes to ensure that the outage is over, then reconnect those circuits.

And, if the lights go dim and stay that way, disconnect those circuits that serve motor operated appliances. Dim lights mean that the voltage coming into the home is not high

enough to adequately serve motors—a low voltage situation. Operating motors at low voltage may damage them.

For warmth

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

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

For light

1. Know where the flashlight and fresh batteries are.

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

3. Have extra lantern fuel on hand if lanterns are used.

For food

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

butter and crackers.

2. Fill plastic jugs with water.

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

During an extended outage

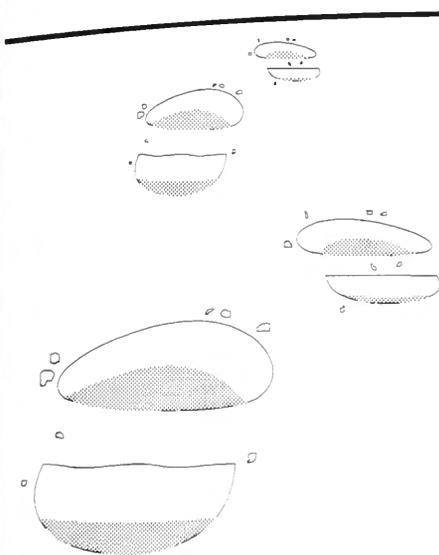
1. Shut off the water supply (and the electricity to the pump, if you have one) and drain the system. Pour antifreeze into the plumbing fixtures in the bathroom and the kitchen.

Have the following general items on hand

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

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

This guy could kill you.



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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

10-pound 'virtual office' goes wherever worker does

In the not-too-distant future, you'll be able to pack up your office and take it with you wherever you go.

It will weigh less than 10 pounds and will consist of a notebook-sized laptop computer with a built-in modem that allows you to send electronic messages and faxes to your colleagues. It will include a portable printer and maybe a cellular telephone.

You won't have a desk to sit at, a time clock to punch or walls where you can hang pictures of your children. You'll be able to work anywhere: at home, in your car, at a client's office, or in an airport lounge.

It's called a "virtual office," and organizational experts say it's the wave of the future.

Sales reps at IBM and a handful of other big companies have already been sent packing; at one national advertising agency in New York, employees come to the office only for meetings. Otherwise, they work where and when they choose.

The virtual office is an extension of the growing trend called "telecommuting," which allows employees to bring their work home with them to do via computer and telephone. They skip the commute; their pre-schoolers stay at home during the day. They report high productivity and increased job satisfaction.

No longer just for traveling salespeople dialing in from their motel rooms to place orders, telecommuting is now in use at many corporations. Notably, companies with fewer than 100 employees comprise 81 percent of the telecommuters.

Today's work force is more mobile than at any other time in history.

"With new technology the

workplace can be anywhere," says Michael Bell, the director of corporate real estate for Dun & Bradstreet. But the virtual office means more than hauling around a briefcase full of hardware. It also means a new way of working and thinking.

Over the next decade, management expert Gil Gordon estimates, more than one-third of the U.S. work force will maintain nontraditional work schedules and millions will spend at least one day a week working out of their homes.

In 1992, there were 7.6 million telecommuters — people who are employed by companies but work full- or part-time outside of the office, according to Link Resources, a New York research firm. The U.S. Department of Transportation says that number could increase to 15 million within the next 10 years. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates 20 million Americans do some work — either full- or part-time, either as telecommuters or as self-employed small business owners or contractors — at home. Link says the number has grown at an annual average rate of 12.7 percent

since 1989.

By the year 2000, organizational experts say, many businesses will have two tiers linking permanent, full-time employees and temporary, part-time workers by computers, modems, video screens and faxes.

"First there was the telegraph and then the telephone and now we've got personal computers, faxes and video teleconferencing," says Edward Cornish, president of the World Future Society in Bethesda, Maryland. "The prospect of living your life and conducting business without ever being in the same room as your colleagues isn't out of question, and I'm sure it's quite attractive to some."

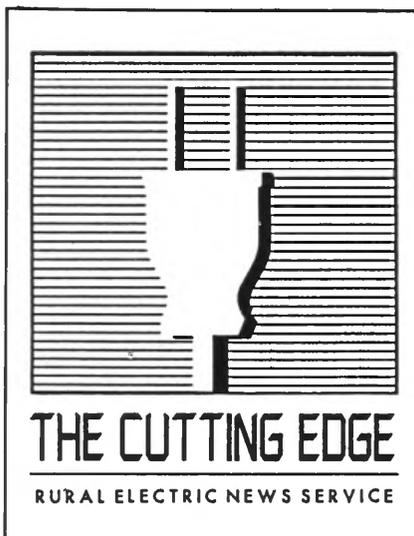
Management gurus such as Tom Peters and Peter Drucker have predicted such a scenario for years, and over the past decade dozens of major corporations, including American Express, AT&T, Time Warner, IBM, Avon, and Hewlett Packard have begun to offer work-at-home options for some of their employees.

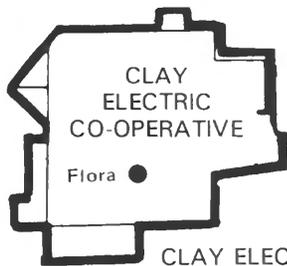
Even the federal government is testing telecommuting: In a pilot program called "Flexiplace," 700 of the nation's 2.8 million federal employees work at home. Others — who work in cities but live in distant communities — are reporting to new satellite offices near their rural homes instead of commuting two or more hours to the main offices.

The premise is that advanced computer technology allows some employees to do their work just as well, or better, from a satellite office, without having to drive to the city.

Distance is no longer a hindrance to corporate decision-

(Continued on page 12d)





Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report



Minutes of board of trustees meeting held December 20, 1993.

All trustees were present as were the manager and the cooperative attorney.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held November 15, 1993.

Accepted 12 new members for service.

Canceled 14 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 2 members in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage reports for the month of November 1993 presented by the manager.

Heard a report from the manager concerning the recent Soyland meeting held December 15, 1993.

Heard a report on two recent meetings of the AIEC November 18, and December 16, 1993, from trustee Cammon.

Heard a report from the cooperative attorney concerning pending litigation.

Approved work orders for the month of October 1993 in the amount of \$56,440.16, and authorized the manager to present the same to REA for reimbursement.

Resolved that Policy Bulletin No. 800-7 be re-adopted in its present form.

Approved write-offs totaling \$642.74.

Heard a presentation by the manager regarding the 1994 financial and capital budget.

Accepted all high bidders on the sale of surplus generators owned by the cooperative.

Appointed trustee Henson as the delegate and trustee Dunigan as alternate to the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group meeting to be held January 19, 1994, at the AIEC office in Springfield.

Resolved that the officers of the cooperative are authorized to execute the Pooling/Trust Agreement with the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group in the form presented to this meeting.

Authorized the manager to pay the premiums for the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group.

Heard a report from the manager, cooperative attorney, and trustee Rudolphi regarding water systems meetings held to date.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of November 1993.

Approved contracts for two members on rate schedule 15.

Declined to purchase advertising in Platbook publication.

Declined to make contribution to state 4-H Association.

Adjournment.

What to do when the power is off?

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbor to see if they have power.
4. Before you call the cooperative, get one of your monthly bills you receive from the cooperative; it has your account number on it. Your account number is your location number we use for our mapping system.

5. Call the cooperative office at 618-662-2171. If it is before or after business hours the answering service will automatically receive the call.

6. The answering service will ask for your account number, your phone number, if you have checked your breakers, and possibly what name the account is in.

7. Please be patient when calling. There are probably others calling at the same time or we are dispatching linemen to the outage. Two lines (same number) are available for reporting outages.

Farm electrical safety checklist

Service pole and service entrance

YES NO

- _____ Do farm family members and all hired farmhands know where and how to disconnect power in the case of an electrical emergency?
- _____ Are disconnects, especially main breakers, regularly turned off and turned back on to ensure free action and good contact? (Manufacturers of circuit breakers claim that they should be opened and reclosed once per month.)
- _____ In case of fire, can the electricity be shut off to that particular building on fire without shutting off electricity to the water pump?

Animal housing

YES NO

- _____ Do animals enter a building or drink at the stock tanks without hesitation?
- _____ Is the water piping (metallic) and service entrances of buildings properly grounded? (NOTE: Check for corrosion of grounding system by animal waste.)
- _____ Is the farmer using an industry-made electric fence which bears the UL label?
- _____ Are heat lamps in farrowing houses hanging by the cord only? In case of drop, are there guards on the fixture?
- _____ Are the lights enclosed in globes and guards (where required)?
- _____ Is the wiring suitable for wet conditions (because of the humidity created by the animals' respiration)?
- _____ Does all wiring appear to be in good condition and free from damage by rodents?

Grain-handling equipment

YES NO

- _____ Are overhead lines out of the way of augers and winged-type farm equipment?
- _____ Do all motors have correctly-sized overcurrent protection?
- _____ If magnetic starters are used, are heater coils of the proper size?

Machine shed

YES NO

- _____ Is the grounding bayonet on drop cords, power tools, etc., intact?
- _____ Is the service entrance properly grounded?
- _____ Are all receptacles in use properly grounded?
- _____ Are drop cords of adequate size for the appliance or machine it is serving?
- _____ Are drop cords put away after use so machinery can't run over them?
- _____ Are power tools such as circular saws, table saws, drills, jig saws, etc., left unplugged when not in use so that a child couldn't accidentally turn them on?
- _____ Is it adequately lighted?
- _____ Are drop cords in good condition with no sign of insulation damage?

General

YES NO

- _____ Do children know whom to call in case of an electrical emergency?
- _____ Do family members know first aid for electrical shock and/or burns?
- _____ Are GFI's installed where required?
- _____ Do appliances function satisfactorily without giving a tingle to user when turned on?
- _____ If lightning protection is installed, are all wires leading to ground?
- _____ Are all electrical fittings on the gas pump of explosion-proof type?
- _____ Before trees are planted, has proper siting been provided to avoid nearby overhead and underground power lines?
- _____ Are trees free and clear of overhead electrical lines?
- _____ Before new buildings are constructed, have the buildings been cleared of nearby overhead and underground power lines?
- _____ Can tractors equipped with end loaders be raised to the most upper position and clear all overhead electrical lines?

Items checked NO indicate a potential electrical safety hazard. Proper action should be taken immediately to ensure safety.

(Continued from page 12a)
making. Most communication can be nearly instant. And with easy-to-use electronic mail, fax machines and computer networks — whose prices drop as technology advances — working from home can be very similar to working in the office, experts say.

“The work force is communicating increasingly electroni-

cally anyway,” says Charles Grantham, president of the Institute for the Study of Distributed Work.

“In the very near future, workers will do what they do wherever they want,” because their electronic tools eliminate “separations of time and space,” Grantham said.

And that could allow people to live in rural areas even though

their jobs are in big cities.

“For the first time since recorded history — even before that — we have a tool that allows us to decentralize,” says John Sanger, president of Tele-Commuter Resources Inc. in Minneapolis.

“Cities could be taking it on the chin, like the rural areas once did,” Sanger says.

Rural Electric News Service

The things we value



Some things that we value can't be measured in terms of money.

A vivid sunset, a starry summer night accompanied by a cricket's song...they don't have a price tag.

Seeing the baby take a first step, romping with your dog in fresh snow...those times aren't for sale.

Value is relative. In your own home, for example, that feeling of love and security won't equal a stack of silver.

But for your home's heating and cooling comfort, for constant comfort throughout the house, for safety and security, electricity's value can be seen in dollars and cents. For the greater enjoyment of those times you value, go with the energy that delivers the most value.

Electricity. A source of comfort.

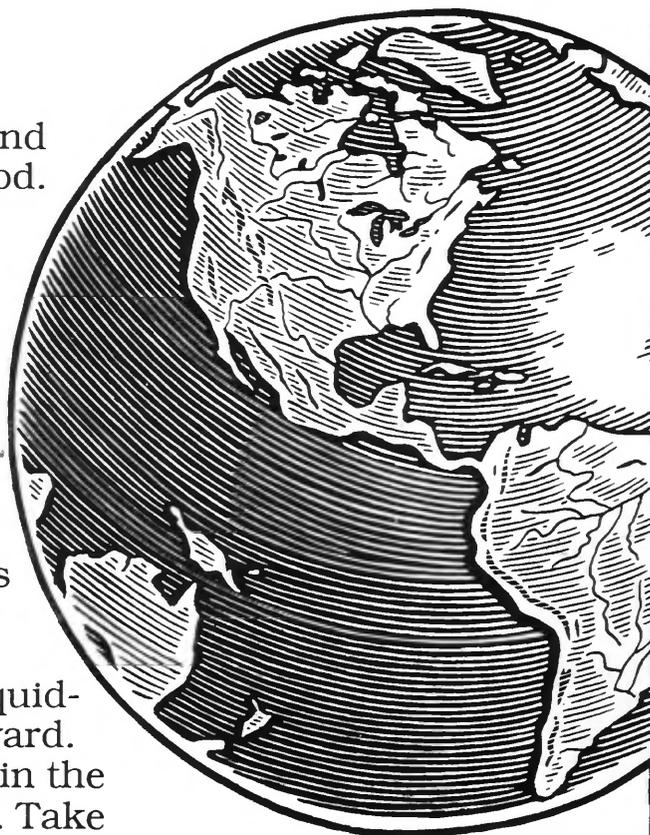


Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

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.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held January 24, 1994.

All trustees were present with the exception of one; also present were the cooperative attorney and the office manager, who was filling in for the general manager.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held December 20, 1993.

Accepted 8 new members for service.

Canceled 8 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 2 members in bad standing.

Reviewed the financial, maintenance and outage reports for the month of December 1993 and tabled action until February

1994 regular board meeting.

Approved work orders for the month of November 1993 in the amount of \$15,180.05 and authorized the manager to present the same to REA for reimbursement.

Approved the 1994 financial and capital budget.

Refunded capital credits to the estates of deceased members Adam and Monica Buerster and John Welty as pursuant to cooperative policy.

Appointed trustee Henson as voting delegate and trustee Poehler as alternate delegate to the 1994 NRECA annual meeting.

Appointed trustee Henson as voting delegate and trustee Poehler as alternate delegate to

the 1994 CFC annual meeting.

Directed the manager to provide for the mailing of a survey for Clay County Water, Inc. in the form presented to the meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for December 1993.

Approved security deposit refunds to 11 members pursuant to cooperative policy.

Approved rate contracts to 2 members, 1 rate schedule 15 and 1 rate schedule 1.

Discussed arrangements for attending NRECA annual meeting.

Heard a report from trustee Cammon on January 1994 AIEC meeting.

Adjournment.

Switch and Save

Last year our Switch and Save program began and some of you saw credits issued on your bill.

The same credits will again be given to you this year with more members receiving them because of the increased number of switches we have installed.

Water heater credits are \$6 per month for the months of January, February, July, August and December.

Air conditioner credits are \$2 per ton of central air conditioning per month for the

months of July and August.

Your credits show up on your billing statements two months after each of the controlling months. Example: January credit shows up on March billing statement.

If you have any questions or would like to enroll in the Switch and Save program, call the cooperative office at 618-662-2171. Our Member Services Department will be happy to explain the program or answer any of your questions.

Thank you for your participation.

Remember, Clay Electric Co-operative also offers smoke detectors to members at attractive prices!

**Office closed
Good Friday, April 1**

Lightning Surge Protector

\$140

Lightning surges can cause severe damage to many household appliances. Protect your valuable appliances and electronic equipment from most lightning surges that enter the home through your service entrance.

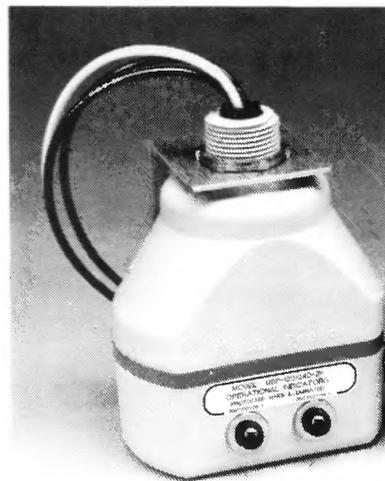
Clay Electric is making this lightning surge protector available to the members for \$140. The device will become the property of the member. Clay Electric personnel will install the device free of charge as a service.

In most cases the device can be installed in the existing meter base, thus requiring no work on the member's electrical system.

This model should be used in conjunction with the smaller, strip-type surge protectors that equipment such as computers and stereo equipment are plugged directly into.

USP Series features

- Model is 120.240 (1 Phase 2 Pole)
- Maximum Surge Current available in 40,000 amp/phase
- THREE YEAR WARRANTY
- LEDs to provide a simple, visual indication of status
- Response Time of < 10 Nanoseconds
- UL 1449 Listed
- Self Restoring, Completely Automatic
- Compatible with National Electrical Code Wiring Practices
- Nine Metal Oxide Varistors Providing True Redundancy



**Universal Surge Protector
for
Service Entrance
and Distribution Panel**

**If you are interested in purchasing a surge protector,
please call the office at 662-2171.**

Electricity usage up during the winter?

As the winter winds down (finally!) and spring shows signs of making a welcome arrival, do you look back on your winter electricity bills and think that they might be higher than they should have been? Many people do. As a matter of fact, many of our members comment on the size of their winter bills.

While we have some idea of why members' bills are higher during the winter — ours are too — we do not know specifically why a particular individual's electricity usage is up. We do not know because we are not the ones who used the power.

It is sometimes difficult to determine where all that power went, because we use electricity

for so many things, so many times a day, that 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, here is a list of some of the easily overlooked uses for electricity during the cold, dark season:

1. Holidays — Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day — cooking and baking.
2. More use of lighting because days are shorter.
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 their in their homes and buildings.

5. Stock tank heaters and fountains are in use.
6. Engine heaters are being used for cars and trucks.
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 off a light or turn an oven off and noticing several hours — or a day or two — later.
10. Christmas tree lights and outdoor decorations are left on during the evening.

On-line computer services are 'global connectivity'

There was a time when children neatly printed requests to Santa Claus, addressed them to the North Pole, and dropped them in the nearest mailbox. That's a method that today's computer-savvy kids dismiss as "snail mail." It's quicker to pound their pleas for presents on a computer keyboard and send them, posthaste, to Santa's electronic mailbox.

Millions of Americans subscribe to consumer-oriented, on-line computer services ranging from small, single-topic "bulletin boards" to commercial giants such as Prodigy, CompuServe, America OnLine and GEnie to the massive Internet, a web of computer networks that links more than two million computers and 20 million individual users in about 60 countries.

Subscriptions to on-line services have been growing at a rate of 20 percent a year, according to the Information & Interactive Services Report.

The boom is fueled by low-cost computers.

About 25 million households have personal computers, and it's estimated that up to 10 million use some form of network — either Internet, a commercial service or a bulletin board system.

Many of them — especially bulletin board users — are looking for new friends.

The popular on-line bulletin boards, or newsgroups, are usually topic specific and run by hobbyists with interests ranging from the Kennedy assassination to religion to chess. There are more than 45,000 local bulletin boards in the US.

Users communicate via electronic mail — on which messages are sent back and forth via

computers like letters — and on "chat lines." Also called citizen's bands or people connections, chat lines are like on-line conference calls in which individual computer users can talk, by computer screen, one-on-one with another user or with a group. Those messages are received instantaneously.

Once on-line, you can read the news, make airline reservations, shop, play games, use databases, pay bills, post your views on bulletin boards or just chat with whomever happens to be there. To get access, you need a computer, a modem, communications software and a subscription. These comprehensive services typically charge \$7 to \$15 a month for two to five hours of basic services. Some bulletin boards are free; others charge up to \$10 an hour. Usually, phone access is through a local number, so you don't pay long distance charges.

And some users have serious business to conduct: Vice President Gore, a computer aficionado, held an interactive, computerized "electronic town meeting." And the Clinton White House has a director of E-mail, who answers the 4,000

pieces of electronic mail sent to the First Computer each month.

In the grim aftermath of California's January earthquake, victims who still had electricity flicked on their computers to commiserate on-line with others caught in the disaster. Out-of-staters, unable to get through to loved ones by telephone, signed on to ask for help from locals.

Prodigy and CompuServe, the nation's largest computer-linked systems, set up earthquake bulletin boards. Prodigy reported its users logged on to its earthquake bulletin board more than 800,000 times the day of the quake.

And thousands of children last December sent E-mail messages to Santa — and got replies.

But not everyone is taken with what they see as the impersonal nature of this form of communication.

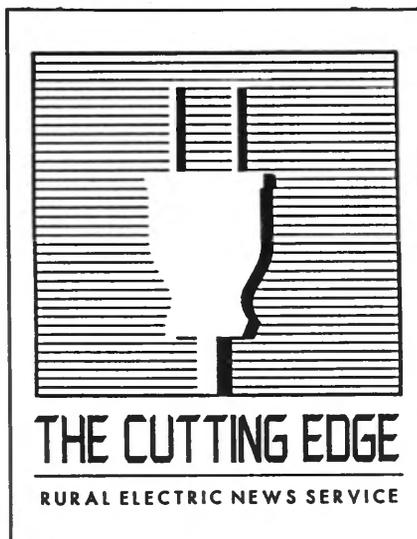
"It's chilling," says author and psychologist Michael Broder. "For a lot of people, it's a fantasy life. No real person can measure up to personalities one sees in computer messages."

Still, its broad applications are removing boundaries that once limited interaction and the exchange of information.

"Being out of touch is no longer an accident of geography," says Paul Saffo of the Institute for the Future in Menlo Park, Calif. "Our age-old desires for romance, affection and connection are now being expressed in a new medium — the computer."

"It's really global connectivity," agrees Howard Funk, executive director of the Reston, Va.-based Internet Society. "It's really remarkable that anyone can talk to anyone they want at any time."

—Rural Electric News Service



Getting the most out of your air conditioner

The Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI) compares the operation of an air conditioning system to an automobile: efficiency depends greatly on the way it is maintained and operated. Cars give better mileage and last longer when they get proper care and attention and are driven moderately. The same thing is true of air conditioning systems. The ARI offers these tips to help you get the most comfort from your air-conditioning system for the least cost:

Clean the filter

Air conditioning systems do more than just cool the air. They lower humidity and also remove dust and dirt by moving the air through filters.

When these filters become clogged with dirt, the system must work harder to do its job. This wastes energy and can make utility bills rise. Depending on the amount of dust in the air, filters can become clogged in just a month or two of operation. Most residential systems have disposable filters. These should be checked every two months (once a month during peak use) and replaced when necessary. Permanent filters should be cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Under no circumstances should you operate your system without filters. To do so could lead to a need for more frequent cleaning of the heat exchangers.

Air leaks are costly

Some people like to "help" their air conditioner by opening doors and windows on warm days. But doing so just lets all the cool, dehumidified air rush outside and lets in the hot, humid air. The more your home seals out heat, humidity, and dust, the more efficiently your system will do its job.

Most people think of thermal

insulation, storm windows and weatherstripping in connection with reducing heating costs. But the benefits of these energy conservation measures apply to cooling as well.

The amount of insulation your



home needs, as well as the number of hours per day and days per year your air conditioning system works, varies greatly from area to area. To determine the correct amount, consult a building materials dealer or insulation contractor where you live.

Weatherstripping, which plugs holes and gaps around doors and windows, not only blocks out drafts in colder weather, but also helps lock in cool air on warm days and nights. Closing these air leaks will help significantly in maintaining your comfort and reducing energy use.

The sunlight which streams in windows in the winter can provide a great deal of heat inside the home. But that same sunlight during summer or in warmer parts of the country can make an air conditioning system work harder than it should. Insulated or thermal windows can help. Draperies and shades pulled over the windows when the sun is hitting them directly (especially in late afternoon) will reduce the cooling load significantly. Some people install

awnings over windows and doors to provide shade.

Trees and shrubs strategically planted can also provide welcome shade and protection from direct sunlight.

More cost-saving tips

We've talked about heat coming into the home from outside. But the operation of appliances can generate heat and humidity inside, as well. When they're operating, washers, dryers, ovens and ranges can put out both heat and moisture. Using these appliances during the warmest times of the day, when your cooling system is working hardest, just adds to the burden. By scheduling washing, drying, baking and cooking for mornings or evenings when it is cooler, you can remove this extra burden from your air conditioning system.

An exhaust fan near an oven or range can help remove not only some of the excess heat but also uncomfortable humidity from cooking. Similarly, make sure your clothes dryer is vented outside.

Leave your thermostat at one setting.

Preventive maintenance is the least expensive kind. Not only that, but also keeping your system in top shape through regular checkups is the best way to ensure it will keep working for you when you need it most.

The best time to have your system checked by a competent service technician is in early spring, before the cooling season starts. In warm climates, mid-winter is the best time.

Many firms offer a service contract which provides routine maintenance, including lubrication of motors, tightening of belts and checking of refrigerant level. There are some maintenance checks you can make yourself. Check your owner's manual.



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held February 21, 1994.

All trustees were present. Also present were the cooperative attorney and the manager.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held January 24, 1994.

Accepted 8 new members for service.

Canceled 5 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 2 members in bad standing.

Reviewed the financial, maintenance and outage reports for the months of December 1993 and January 1994.

Heard a report from trustee Cammon concerning the recent AIEC meeting.

Heard a report from the manager concerning the recent Soyland meeting.

Appointed all members of the board as delegates to the 1994 Annual Meeting of Members of Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc.

Appointed trustee Cammon and manager Campbell as direc-

tors and trustee Byers as alternate director to the Soyland Board of Directors.

Heard a report from the cooperative attorney concerning legislative matters.

Discussed recent NRECA Annual Meeting.

Approved work orders for the month of December 1993 in the amount of \$15,365.13 and authorized the manager to present the same to REA for reimbursement.

Awarded bid to Jahraus Oil Co. to supply fuel for the cooperative vehicles for 1994.

Directed the manager to enforce the Cooperative line extension policy to an individual.

Were **advised** of upcoming NRECA course offered by AIEC.

Heard a report from the manager and the attorney regarding water committee developments.

Accepted the disbursement list for January 1994.

Were **advised** of upcoming legislative conference.

Were **advised** of upcoming meeting with Cooperative Re-

sponse Center.

Refunded capital credits to the estate of deceased member Roy Whitney as pursuant to cooperative policy.

Approved interruptible contract to one member for rate schedule 15.

Rescinded Policy Bulletin 300-3 dealing with depreciation rates in its present form and **adopted** Policy Bulletin 300-3 in the form presented to this meeting in accordance with auditor's recommendation.

Discussed non-union staff salaries and authorized a 2 percent increase.

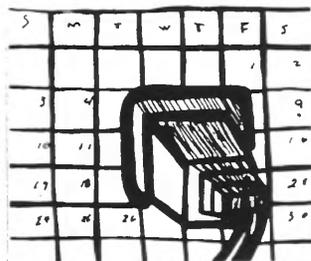
Directed the manager to provide the board with information concerning chief executive officers' salaries in Illinois.

Adjournment.

Office closing

Clay Electric will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.

Celebrate "Electrical Safety Month" In May!



The calendar tells us it's the month to observe and learn about electrical safety rules. And we offer some tips that you and your family can follow any month of the year:

- Don't restrict air flow around a TV set. It can overheat without proper ventilation.
- Don't put materials that can burn, such as clothing, curtains, paper and flammable liquids, near lamps, heating appliances and hot surfaces.
- Plug in portable appliances only when you intend to use them. Otherwise, keep them disconnected and stored away. Keep motors or their protective covers free from lint, dust and dirt so they don't overheat.

There are many more tips to add to the list. Just contact us for additional information on how to make every day and every month time to follow electrical safety rules.

Farm electrical safety checklist

Service pole and service entrance

YES NO

- _____ _____ Do farm family members and all hired farmhands know where and how to disconnect power in the case of an electrical emergency?
- _____ _____ Are disconnects, especially main breakers, regularly turned off and turned back on to ensure free action and good contact? (Manufacturers of circuit breakers claim that they should be opened and reclosed once per month.)
- _____ _____ In case of fire, can the electricity be shut off to that particular building on fire without shutting off electricity to the water pump?

Animal housing

YES NO

- _____ _____ Do animals enter a building or drink at the stock tanks without hesitation?
- _____ _____ Is the water piping (metallic) and service entrances of buildings properly grounded? (NOTE: Check for corrosion of grounding system by animal waste.)
- _____ _____ Is the farmer using an industry-made electric fencer which bears the UL label?
- _____ _____ Are heat lamps in farrowing houses hanging by the cord only? In case of drop, are there guards on the fixture?
- _____ _____ Are the lights enclosed in globes and guards (where required)?
- _____ _____ Is the wiring suitable for wet conditions (because of the humidity created by the animals' respiration)?
- _____ _____ Does all wiring appear to be in good condition and free from damage by rodents?

Grain-handling equipment

YES NO

- _____ _____ Are overhead lines out of the way of augers and winged-type farm equipment?
- _____ _____ Do all motors have correctly-sized overcurrent protection?
- _____ _____ If magnetic starters are used, are heater coils of the proper size?

Machine shed

YES NO

- _____ _____ Is the grounding bayonet on drop cords, power tools, etc., intact?
- _____ _____ Is the service entrance properly grounded?
- _____ _____ Are all receptacles in use properly grounded?
- _____ _____ Are drop cords of adequate size for the appliance or machine it is serving?
- _____ _____ Are drop cords put away after use so machinery can't run over them?
- _____ _____ Are power tools such as circular saws, table saws, drills, jig saws, etc., left unplugged when not in use so that a child couldn't accidentally turn them on?
- _____ _____ Is it adequately lighted?
- _____ _____ Are drop cords in good condition with no sign of insulation damage?

General

YES NO

- _____ _____ Do children know whom to call in case of an electrical emergency?
- _____ _____ Do family members know first aid for electrical shock and/or burns?
- _____ _____ Are GFI's installed where required?
- _____ _____ Do appliances function satisfactorily without giving a tingle to user when turned on?
- _____ _____ If lightning protection is installed, are all wires leading to ground?
- _____ _____ Are all electrical fittings on the gas pump of explosion-proof type?
- _____ _____ Before trees are planted, has proper siting been provided to avoid nearby overhead and underground power lines?
- _____ _____ Are trees free and clear of overhead electrical lines?
- _____ _____ Before new buildings are constructed, have the buildings been cleared of nearby overhead and underground power lines?
- _____ _____ Can tractors equipped with end loaders be raised to the most upper position and clear all overhead electrical lines?

Items checked NO indicate a potential electrical safety hazard. Proper action should be taken immediately to ensure safety.



A home coming

I know it doesn't look like much now. Just a scrubby piece of ground with weeds all over. But someday, the kids' swingset is going over there, and by the time Joel is old enough, this tree branch should support him just fine.

I've thought a long time about this house, and I'm not looking forward to all the work ahead. There are still a lot of hard decisions to make. I'm glad I already made a big one. ***I picked electricity as my home energy source.***

I won't have to deal with a flame going all the time, or fumes in the house. Heating and cooling, it will all be electric. Constant comfort throughout the house. No hot or cold spots. Clean and dependable. My electric cooperative has some ways for me to save money, too. That's a comforting thought.



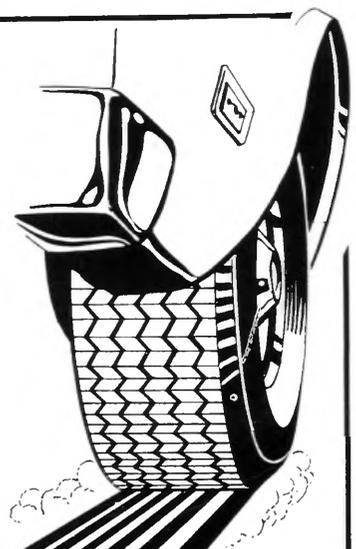
Electricity. A source of comfort.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

STOP!



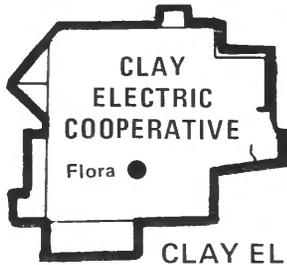
Lots of things to do. Winter was hard on the roof. And there are tree limbs to cut. But before you start, STOP! Stop and look up to make sure there are no electric lines above your work area. When you're moving the grain auger, raising an antenna, cleaning the pool...anytime you are using tall equipment, make sure you will be well clear of power lines. Whether you're outside your home or out in the farm field, get your jobs done the safe way...

Stop, look and live.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held March 24, 1994.

All trustees were present. Also present were the cooperative attorney, the manager, Mike Kirk of Leymone Hardcastle and Co., and Stu Churchill of REA.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held February 21, 1994.

Accepted 5 new members for service.

Canceled 8 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 3 members in bad standing.

Reviewed the financial, maintenance and outage reports for the month of February 1994.

Heard a report from Mike Kirk reviewing the audit recently completed and **accepted** the audit and directed the manager to forward copies to REA and other supplemental lenders.

Heard a report from the manager that the Cooperative had met all necessary CFC requirements as certified to him under CFC Form no. 57 Certificate.

Heard a report from Stu Churchill regarding changes taking place in the structure of REA.

Heard a report from trustee Cammon regarding recent AIEC meeting.

Heard a report from the manager regarding recent Soyland meeting.

Heard a report from the Cooperative attorney regarding legislative matters.

Approved work orders for the month of January 1994 totaling \$30,954.33 and authorized the manager to present the same to REA for reimbursement.

Resolved that the Annual Meeting of the members of Clay

Electric Cooperative, Inc. be held on September 8, 1994, at 7 p.m. at the Flora High School.

Approved a purchase power contract for one member on Rate Schedule 1.

Refunded deposits to 6 members pursuant to Cooperative policy.

Refunded capital credits to the estates of Stella Garrison, Isabel Lewis, and Warren and Betty Wattles.

Heard a report from the manager regarding Clay County Water, Inc. progress.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of February 1994.

Approved a donation to the Shriner's organization.

Tabled consideration of the purchase of a chipper unit.

Adjournment.

Mark your calendar
Clay Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting
Thursday, September 8
Flora High School

September

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

Before you build or plant, look up and down

With the feel of spring in the air, many of us begin to plan for planting trees or other construction projects. Please, for your sake and ours, stop and take time to look up and down.

When you are trying to determine the best place to plant shade trees or construct a building, you need to ascertain the location of the power lines. The overhead lines are easily seen but more and more utility lines are being placed underground. Although the underground line is usually marked with sign, when in doubt call us.

All too often your cooperative comes upon situations that can cause serious problems or even worse, horrible injuries or death. A building constructed under or adjacent to power lines is a deadly accident waiting to happen.

A tree planted near a power line will have to be trimmed or cut to be kept clear of the high-voltage lines. Children will probably climb that tree someday and easily be within reaching distance of these same power lines.

Also, consider new building you plan and avoid power lines. The National Electric Code has some very definite guidelines for

safe clearance. If a building must be built in the area of power lines, at least maintain the recommended clearances. Personnel from our engineering department will be glad to meet with you to discuss these code requirements.

The use of the building should also be considered. Grain storage requires augers or elevators that are higher than the lines and are frequently moved. Contact with power lines while moving augers or elevators is the most common cause of electrocution on the farm.

Another common cause of expensive electrical outages are "dig-ins." Whenever digging is required near the area of underground electrical conductor, please call the cooperative. We will locate our wire and mark it so it can be avoided.

Remember, when you have a contractor hired to dig water lines, foundations or septic lines, be sure you or the contractor contact our office. There is no charge for this location but we do need ample time, at least 24-48 hours, to arrange the work. Accidentally striking an underground utility line can be extremely hazardous — and expensive. If you are lucky



enough to walk away from such an accident, there will still be an expensive repair bill.

Don't take chances — look up and down as you plan your tree planting, buildings, or the movement of your machinery. A little extra time in planning can very easily prevent a disabling injury or death to a member of your family. The proper location of trees will provide many years of enjoyable shade without an electrical hazard or the necessity of trimming or cutting.

Time spent planning is time well spent.

Faucet aerator easy to install and saves money

A simple, low-cost gadget that can cut power costs is the faucet aerator.

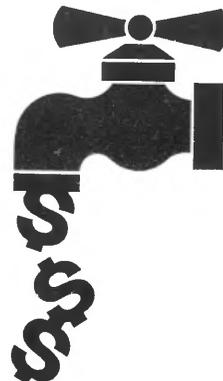
It is as easy to install on a kitchen or bathroom faucet as a replacement showerhead. The principle is a simple one. By mixing the water flow with air (aerating), this little device can conserve surprising amounts of the energy used to heat hot water.

At a cost of from \$3 to \$8, these devices can pay for themselves in as little as 30

to 60 days.

To install an aerator, you need only a few minutes and a wrench.

How about the water flow? Aerators produce a fine, even spray. It may be a little less forceful, but as the gadgets themselves improve, the flow of water they produce now over earlier models is much more pleasing.



Technology visionaries propose communications 'skyway'

You've heard of the information superhighway. Now, computer visionary Bill Gates and telephone titan Craig McCaw have teamed up to create an information super "skyway."

They've each invested in Teledesic, a company that plans to spend \$9 billion to launch 840 refrigerator-sized satellites into space to create a global network that could link rural areas that might otherwise be left out of the digital revolution created by the fiber optics-based information highway.

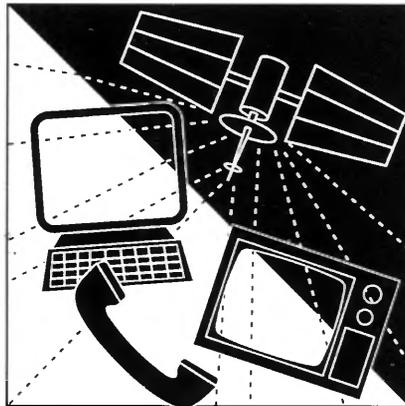
Planned for 2001, the system would form a digital, wireless network to transmit phone calls, interactive TV, computer data, and video anywhere on Earth. It sounds like the land-based information superhighway — but without wires.

Its targets are remote customers, such as hospitals, schools and businesses requiring sophisticated data communications, said a company spokesman.

The system would use small satellite dish antennas to receive and send signals and would tie into the closest phone network available, he said.

"We hope to play a small but significant role in bridging the gap between the information haves and have-nots," Russell Daggatt, Teledesic's president, said in a statement.

Among its services would be instant fax capability from hospitals, teleconferencing between businesses, and interactive learning between city-based teachers and remote



classrooms.

Clients would use personal computers and a small converter box to connect to the satellite system.

The satellites would float 435 miles above Earth, low enough to make communications clearer and quicker than other satellites stationed 23,000 miles up.

Each satellite would contain a switch that could receive and transmit phone calls, video and other data.

On land, there would be relay stations to connect the satellites

to regular phone or cable TV lines.

Although Teledesic says its service will be affordable, a wireless phone call on a smaller-scale network proposed by Motorola is expected to cost \$3 a minute. Transmitting something much more complicated, like a TV show, should cost much more. That could make the system too expensive to compete against land lines.

Several satellite telecommunications systems are under development including the Motorola project and a Hughes Aircraft small-dish system for video and entertainment services.

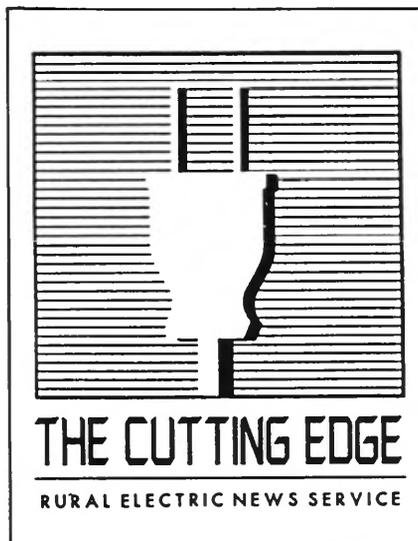
Hughes launched a direct-broadcast satellite in December, and television service for its first customers began in April. Those customers use 18-inch satellite dishes to pick up satellite signals for TV channels. Programming can be purchased through many rural electric and telephone cooperatives that are members of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative.

Teledesic would not offer television programming or telephone service. It would sell use of its network to other companies that would service consumers.

Some experts are skeptical about Teledesic's chances for success.

There has never been a satellite project proposed that is this extensive," not even by the U.S. government, said Mike French, managing editor of Satellite Week, a Washington, D.C.-based trade publication.

—Rural Electric News Service



From here to there



The average Illinois electric cooperative has more than 1,000 miles of power line — a distance farther than from here to Mount Rushmore. That's a lot of miles to take care of, replacing old line, clearing tree branches, putting up what nature tears down. And that's why our employees both outside and in the office are dedicated to planning a system that reliably meets the ever-increasing demands of our members. Come to think of it, your electric system is a pretty solid monument, itself...to cooperation.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS



Youth Tour winners announced

Clay Electric Co-operative sponsors a contest each year and picks four semifinalists from area high schools to go to Springfield for "Youth Day." While in Springfield they get to meet with their local legislators, tour historic sites and meet other students who participated in other cooperatives' contests. From these four, two were picked for the "Youth to Washington" tour. They will spend a week on tour of our nation's capital. There they will visit historic sites, places of interest, meet their legislators and build lasting friendships with other high school students from other states on the tour. Standing left to right are semifinalists Emily Rauch, Clay City High School, and Carmen Anderson, Flora High School. Seated left to right are winners of the Washington tour Christy Odell, North Clay High School, and Kendra Itskin, Flora High School.

Please mark your calendar
and note change of location

**Clay Electric Co-operative Annual Meeting
is Thursday, September 8, 1994,
at the Flora High School, 600 South Locust.**

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held April 18, 1994.

All trustees were present. Also present were the cooperative attorney and the general manager.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held March 21, 1994.

Accepted 11 new members for service.

Canceled 8 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 10 members in bad standing.

Reviewed the financial,

maintenance and outage reports for the month of March 1994 and a report for the first quarter of 1994.

Heard a report from the cooperative attorney regarding legislative matters.

Approved work orders for the month of February 1994 in the amount \$17,724.57 and authorized the manager to present the same to REA.

Refunded capital credits to the estates of deceased members Ray Blackwell and E. Carl Fitzgerald.

Approved a contract with

Ledbetter & Toth for the preparation of a two-year construction work plan.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of March 1994.

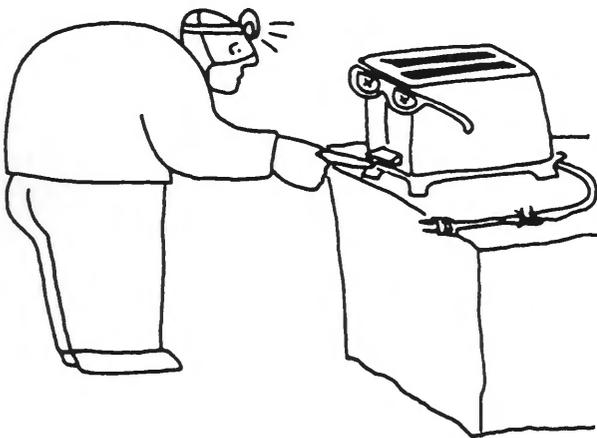
Awarded the bid of the cooperative's property and general liability insurance policy to Federated Insurance Co.

Approved a salary increase for an employee.

Approved a donation to the March of Dimes.

Adjournment.

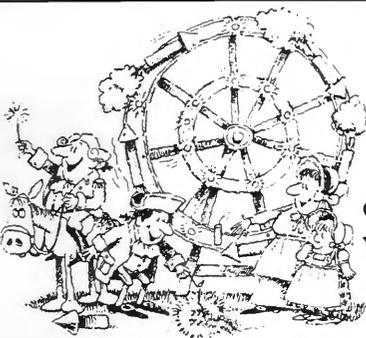
DON'T TAKE YOUR HOME WIRING FOR GRANTED.



Wiring in your home can wear out, so it's important to check your system regularly.

- Make sure plugs and prongs aren't loose or worn.
- Never attempt to make home wiring improvements yourself — hire a qualified electrician.
- Turn off any appliance that sputters or gives the slightest shock, and have it repaired.
- Check electrical cords for frays or nicks, and have them repaired or replaced.

Contact Clay Electric for more tips on heading off trouble before it starts. It's the smart thing to do.



Office closing

Clay Electric Co-operative will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.



Electric cooperatives volunteer to cut pollution

In Grand Forks, N.D., local chefs watched as a high-powered, energy-efficient electric oven cooked a steak in just a few seconds. The demonstration was sponsored by Minnkota Power Cooperative.

In Illinois, electric cooperatives heavily promote the installation and use of energy-efficient geothermal heat pumps.

Electric cooperatives in North Carolina have helped build six manufactured homes that have energy-efficient heating, cooling and water heater equipment.

Throughout the West, rural electric cooperatives are bringing solar power to their most rural consumers, whose homes are out of reach of traditional overhead lines.

Like their rural consumers, rural electric cooperatives are taking steps to protect the environment as they generate and distribute electricity.

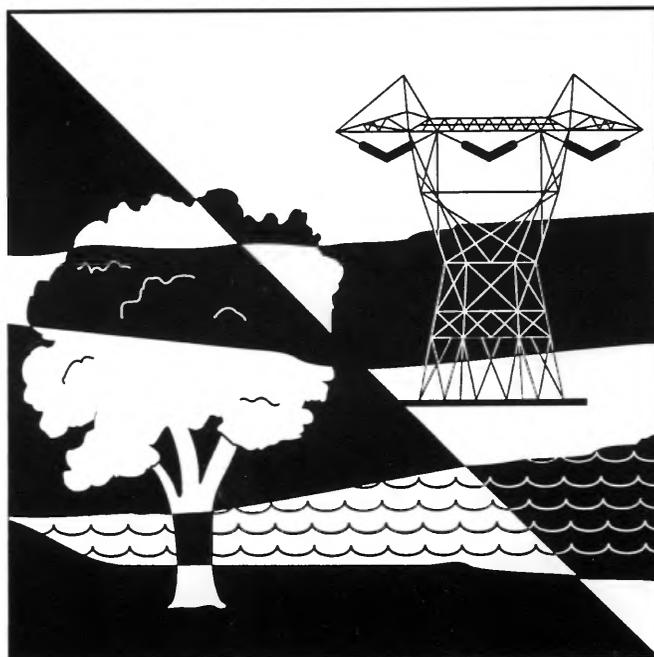
As part of that effort, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy that says the cooperatives will voluntarily cut emissions of the carbon gases that have been blamed for the Earth's warming.

NRECA, which represents 1,000 consumer-owned rural electric cooperatives in Washington, D.C., joined four other utility groups in signing the agreement on Earth Day. The others are the Edison Electric Institute, the American Public Power Association, the Large Public Power Council and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Under the Global Climate Challenge Agreement, the utilities will voluntarily undertake a series of pollution-reduction strategies in an effort to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 levels by the year 2000.

The strategies include:

- Developing new, highly efficient electric technologies for commercial use. The FlashBake Oven demonstrated by the North Dakota co-op, for instance, uses 85 percent less energy than a conventional gas oven.
- Investing in tree-planting programs. Trees consume carbon dioxide, the major greenhouse gas, and help cut air conditioning use by shading buildings from the hot summer sun.
- Promoting pollution-free electric vehicles.
- Helping foreign utilities and governments reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases.



- Marketing geothermal heat pumps, which, through buried tubing, transfers Earth's heat into cold homes in the winter and pushes hot air back outside in summertime.

In other efforts, rural electric cooperatives have worked for several years to promote efficient electric technologies — such as new, cordless electric lawn mowers — to their consumers.

“One of the most effective ways to reduce emissions is to encourage the use of modern ‘electrotechnologies,’” says Robert Bryant, general manager of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative in Amarillo, Tex., and chairman of NRECA's Global Climate Task Force.

Those technologies use less energy and create less pollution than the traditional gas- or oil-fired alternative, even when the emissions from the power plants that fuel them are considered.

“Electric cooperatives are reflecting the same concerns as their consumers,” says John Neal, NRECA's administrator of energy research and development. “That is, they're doing their part for the environment.”

Neal said voluntary efforts could make it less necessary for the federal government to require utilities to participate in emissions-reduction programs.

The Global Climate Challenge is a response to President Clinton's Climate Change Action Plan, which aims to lower emissions to their 1990 levels.

—Rural Electric News Service.

Light sleeper

What leads to a good night's sleep? A big pillow, warm milk, a long book...

Most important is the feeling of security. Today's homeowner can find comfort in a dusk-to-dawn electric security light. Ask your electric cooperative about installing one. It costs just pennies a day. And, a strong light shining over your property during the dark hours has been known to lead to hours of carefree, pleasant dreams. A big pillow doesn't hurt, either.

Electricity. A source of comfort.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held May 16, 1994.

All trustees were present. Also present were the cooperative attorney and the general manager.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held April 18, 1994.

Accepted 16 new members for service.

Canceled 15 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled four members in bad standing.

Reviewed the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of April 1994.

Heard a report from trustee

Cammon regarding recent AIEC meeting of the board.

Heard a report from the manager regarding recent Soyland meeting of the board.

Heard a report from the Cooperative attorney regarding legislative matters.

Approved work orders for the month of March 1994 in the amount \$5,976.16 and authorized the manager to present the same to REA.

Heard a report from the purchasing committee on the purchase of a chipper and authorized the manager to purchase the unit agreed upon by the committee.

Reviewed forms and docu-

ments necessary for the Cooperative to join CRC.

Refunded Capital Credits to the estate of deceased member Loren Dow.

Reviewed a request from IBEW concerning contract.

Approved 4-H donation for plaques.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of April 1994.

Tabled discussion of an amendment to Policy Bulletin 200-1.

Directed the manager to secure meal bids and hire entertainment for the September 8, 1994, Annual Meeting of Members.

Adjournment.

A meeting with Congressman Glenn Poshard was one of many highlights as two students representing Clay Electric Co-operative spent a week in Washington, D.C., June 17-24. The students, who met Poshard on Capitol Hill during the 1994 Youth to Washington Tour, were among 63 outstanding rural youth leaders from downstate Illinois who participated in the tour of the nation's capital. The annual trip is sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois. From left are Rep. Poshard, Christy O'Dell of Louisville and Kendra Itskin of Flora.



Bylaws regarding nominations

Section 3. Nominations.

(a) For the purposes of nomination of candidates for the office of trustee, and to determine the number of trustees elected to represent each district, the following districts and number of trustees representing each district are established as follows:

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF TRUSTEES</u>
District I to include Bible Grove Township, Clay County; Lucas Township, Effingham County; and South Muddy Township, Jasper County	1
District II to include Blair Township, Clay County and Union Township, Effingham County	1
District III to include Larkinsburg Township, Clay County; Mason Township, Effingham County; and LaClede Township, Fayette County	1
District IV to include Pixley Township, Clay County; and Noble Township and Denver Township, Richland County	1
District V to include Hoosier Township and Louisville Township, Clay County	1
District VI to include Oskaloosa Township and Songer Township, Clay County; and Meacham Township and Omega Township, Marion County	1
District VII to include Clay City Township and Stanford Township, Clay	

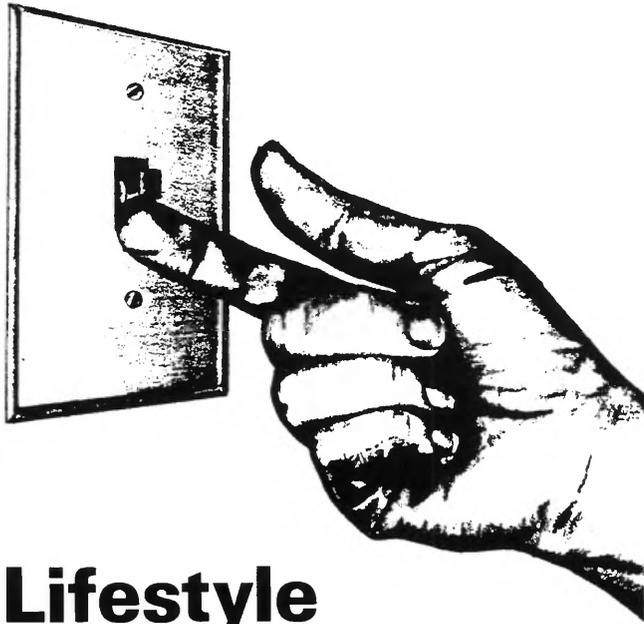
County; and Keith Township, Wayne County 1

District VIII to include Harter Township, Clay County; and Keith Township and Indian Prairie Township, Wayne County 1

District IX to include Zenia Township, Clay County; Iuka Township and Romine Township, Marion County; and Garden Hill Township and Orchard Township, Wayne County 1
(As amended July 14, 1978)

(b) It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint not less than sixty (60) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected from the district represented by the trustee to be elected, and shall be selected from different sections of the district so as to insure equitable representation; provided, however, that no nominee for the office of trustee shall be qualified to hold office unless he be a bonafide resident of the district from which he is nominated. No officer or member of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Co-operative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting a list of nominations for trustees, but any fifteen (15) or more members, from said district

acting together, may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of trustees to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. The ballot to be used at the election shall list the names of the candidates nominated by the committee and the names of the candidates nominated by petition, if any. Nothing contained here shall, however, prevent additional nominations by districts to be made from the floor at the meeting of the members, such nominations being accepted only from bonafide resident members of the districts represented by said nominee. The members may, at any meeting at which a trustee or trustees shall be removed, as herein before provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of trustees. **(As amended July 14, 1978)**



Lifestyle makes a difference

You may not have given it much thought, but you have complete control over how you use your electricity. You choose the ingredients that are necessary for you to maintain your standard of living.

The way you live and the way you use your electrical appliances have a greater impact on your consumption of electricity than the number of appliances you have.

We in Illinois enjoy relatively good lifestyles, and we tend to use more energy than the national average. This applies to all forms of energy, not just electricity.

Let's take a look at some of these "lifestyle considerations" that can make your electric bill appear to be higher than "normal."

Family size

Let's face it, there is a direct relationship between the number of people living at home and the amount of energy that is used. That's especially true if you have teenagers at home. In addition, if friends and relatives are visiting, you can expect to use more energy for cooking, baking, laundry and hot water.

Space heating and cooling

From a comfort standpoint, most of us prefer to be relatively cool in summer and warm in winter. Others prefer temperature extremes. In Illinois, humidity plays an important part in our year-round comfort, too. If we operate dehumidifiers

in summer (and to lesser degree, humidifiers, in winter), this contributes to our household energy consumption because they tend to run continuously. Portable space heaters, air conditioners, and fans in such places as the garage and basement also contribute to our energy consumption.

By taking a look at our "comfort" lifestyle in terms of maintaining relative humidity and temperature, we can use energy wisely in many ways. These range from adding insulation, weatherstripping and caulking to simply turning down the heat and turning off the air conditioning in a room not being used.

Water heating

About 15 percent of the energy used in the average American home is for water heating. Hot water plays a very important role in everyone's lifestyle — but many lifestyles require substantial quantities of hot water, and that results in higher energy use.

Ask yourself some of the following questions:

"When I take a bath, do I use hot water sparingly, or is the tub completely full of water?"

"Do I take short showers, or do I stay in the shower until the hot water gets cold?"

"Do I repair leaky faucets, or simply let them drip and waste hot water?"

"Do I operate automatic washers and dishwashers with a full load, or just whenever it's convenient? (Like with a pair of jeans or just a few dishes)?"

Appliance use

We have a host of time- and labor-saving appliances available to help us do our work whenever we need their service. Your appliances work for you around the clock, whenever you choose to use them. Wise use of appliances can have a positive effect on your energy consumption.

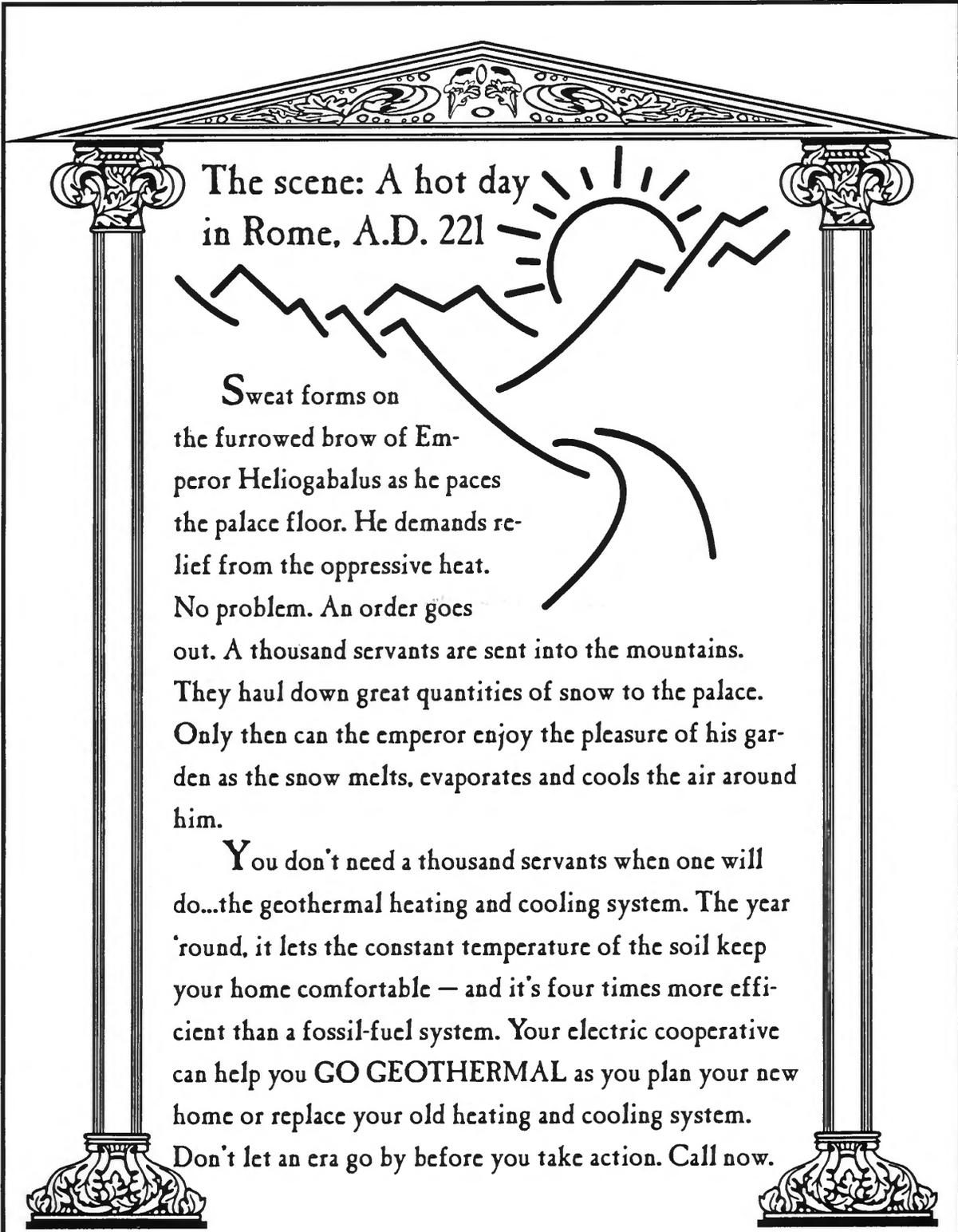
For example, ask yourself questions like these:

"Do I turn off lights when a room is not in use, or do I leave them on?" "Does my television set entertain the entire family, or does it entertain an empty room?"

"Do I leave the oven on 'warm' for an extended period of time, or do I cook many dishes at once and then turn the oven off?"

These are prime considerations that affect the amount of electricity you use to maintain your lifestyle. All Americans are part of the residential sector, and spirited energy management consciousness is likely to start at home.

The effects of a home and farm energy management program can pay big dividends!



The scene: A hot day
in Rome, A.D. 221

Sweat forms on the furrowed brow of Emperor Heliogabalus as he paces the palace floor. He demands relief from the oppressive heat. No problem. An order goes out. A thousand servants are sent into the mountains. They haul down great quantities of snow to the palace. Only then can the emperor enjoy the pleasure of his garden as the snow melts, evaporates and cools the air around him.

You don't need a thousand servants when one will do...the geothermal heating and cooling system. The year 'round, it lets the constant temperature of the soil keep your home comfortable — and it's four times more efficient than a fossil-fuel system. Your electric cooperative can help you GO GEOTHERMAL as you plan your new home or replace your old heating and cooling system. Don't let an era go by before you take action. Call now.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held June 20, 1994.

All trustees were present. Also present were the cooperative attorney and the general manager.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held May 16, 1994.

Accepted 22 new members for service.

Canceled 19 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled one member in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of May 1994.

Approved billing changes to actual costs for wholesale power.

Heard a report from trustee Cammon regarding recent AIEC meetings.

Approved yearly dues to AIEC.

Heard a report from the manager regarding recent Soyland meetings.

Heard a report from the Cooperative attorney regarding legislative matters.

Approved work orders for the month of April 1994 totaling \$14,276.63 and authorized the manager to present the same to REA.

Approved deposit refunds to 13 members pursuant to Cooperative policy.

Approved refund of capital credits to the estate of deceased members William and Beatrice Stanford.

Approved donation to CFC.

Reviewed and discussed documents necessary for the Cooperative to join CRC.

Appointed members to the nominating committee in District's II, VI and VIII.

Accepted bid from Mike's Custom Catering for the meal to be served at the annual meeting.

Appointed Franklin Byers as director designee and chairman of voting delegates to Illinois

Power Cooperative; Richard Rudolphi as voting representative to NRECA; Howard Poehler as alternate voting representative; Edwin Henson as voting delegate to AIEC; Clifford Cammon as alternate voting delegate; Clifford Cammon as director to AIEC for a two-year term; Edwin Henson as alternate director; Lewis Pettit as voting delegate to Region V-NRECA; and Clifford Cammon as alternate voting delegate.

Directed the manager to arrange a meeting with IBEW.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of May 1994.

Approved one rate contract pursuant to Interruptible Rate Schedule 15 for Jerry D. Graham.

Approved write-offs and directed the Cooperative attorney to arrange for collection of an unpaid bill.

Tabled an amendment to Policy Bulletin 200-1

Adjournment.



**Clay Electric will
be closed
Monday, September 5,
for Labor Day**



Annual Meeting: 7 p.m., Thursday, September 8, Flora High School

Electricity purchases by agriculture

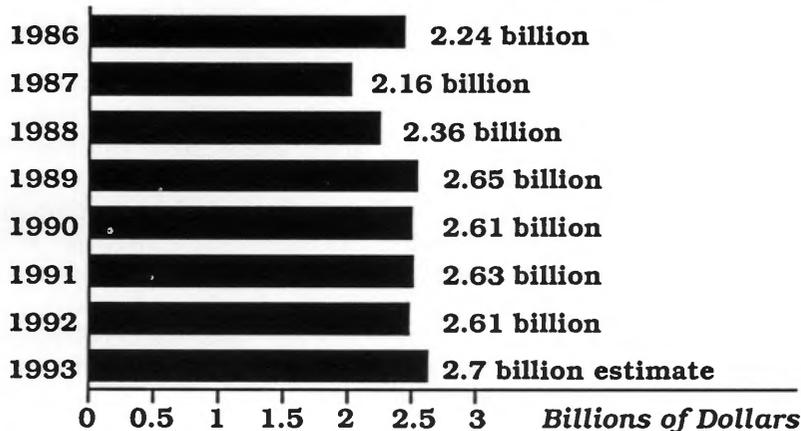
If recent trends are any indication, U.S. farmers will continue to purchase more than 2.6 billion dollars worth of electricity each year to maintain our nation's agricultural output. These figures come from the

USDA Economic Research Service, which surveys hundreds of farmers each year and asks them to list electricity expenditures for farm use, excluding the home. The results of these surveys, combined with input from the

Census of Agriculture, provide an excellent measurement of electricity purchases by the U.S. farm sector. The figures shown below are revised estimates from USDA, reflecting an increase in earlier reported figures.

To many, this trend of increasing expenditures may seem to contradict reports of declining farm numbers. But electricity expenditures are linked to total farm sector output, not to total number of full-time operators. Even with fewer farmers, the increase in the size of individual farms, level of mechanization, and commodity output is as large or larger than ever. Therefore, agriculture's total purchase of electricity will continue to grow as long as there are more bushels of grain to be dried, gallons of milk to be produced, acres of land to be irrigated, and pounds of beef, pork and poultry to be grown.

Electricity Expenditures for U.S. Farm Production



Electricity is safest fuel for homes

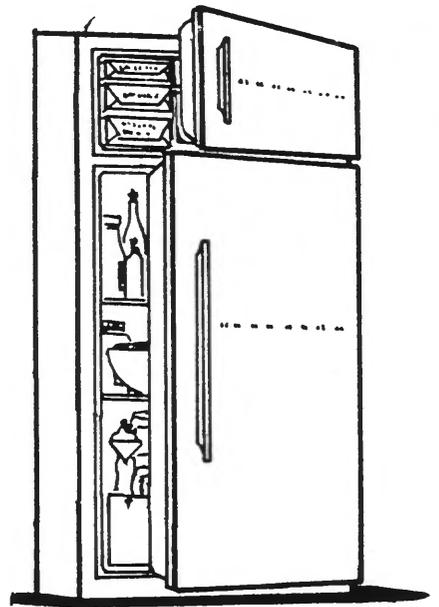
According to a recent study conducted by Energy Research Group (ERG), electricity is the safest fuel for residential energy use. In its study, ERG compared the risks of using gas, wood, coal, oil, kerosene and electricity for

residential energy needs.

The research revealed that risk of fatality from wood- and coal-fired systems is 15 times greater than from electricity, and gas-fired systems are nearly two and a half times more dangerous

than electric systems. The findings were based on detailed calculations of the annual fatality and injury risks for three major residential energy end-uses: space heating, water heating and cooking.

Control your refrigerator's appetite



Did you know that refrigerators are the fourth largest energy consumers of all home appliances, exceeded only by air conditioners, electric heating systems, and water heaters? Depending on size, age and features, a household refrigerator can use between \$200 and \$400 worth of electricity each year. All of the refrigerators in America collectively consume the same amount of energy as 25 large power plants produce.

Ideally, you'll save the most energy by purchasing a new, more energy-efficient refrigerator to replace your current energy eater. But that can be costly.

If your refrigerator is operating properly and isn't too old, adopting low-cost alternatives to increase its efficiency may be more suitable to your personal finances. The following maintenance suggestions are just a few of the ways you can trim your refrigerator's energy appetite.

- **Clean condenser coils:** All that dirt and dust that collects on your refrigerator's condenser coils (usually located on the back of the refrigerator) makes it labor harder to keep the contents cold. Cleaning the coils at least once a year could improve your refrigerator's efficiency by up to 30 percent. To clean the coils,

first unplug the refrigerator as a safety precaution. Then, simply brush off or vacuum the coils. When moving the refrigerator back into place, remember to leave enough space behind and around it so that air can freely circulate around the condenser coils.

- **Check door seals:** The door seals or gaskets on your refrigerator and freezer can deteriorate over time and thus decrease the performance of your refrigerator. A simple way to test the seals is to close the door over a dollar bill. If the bill slides out easily, the seals are probably defective and may need to be replaced. Call your repairman or the dealer you purchased the refrigerator from for replacement, but remember new seals aren't cheap.

- **Check the temperature:** Ideally, your refrigerator should be maintaining a temperature of about 38 degrees F to 40 degrees F; the freezer should be between 0 degrees F and 10 degrees F. To check the temperature of your refrigerator, place a refrigerator thermometer (available at most hardware and kitchen supply stores) in the center of the unit (do not have it touch any food) and leave it for about 15 minutes. If necessary, adjust the temperature by turning the thermostat dial. Changing the

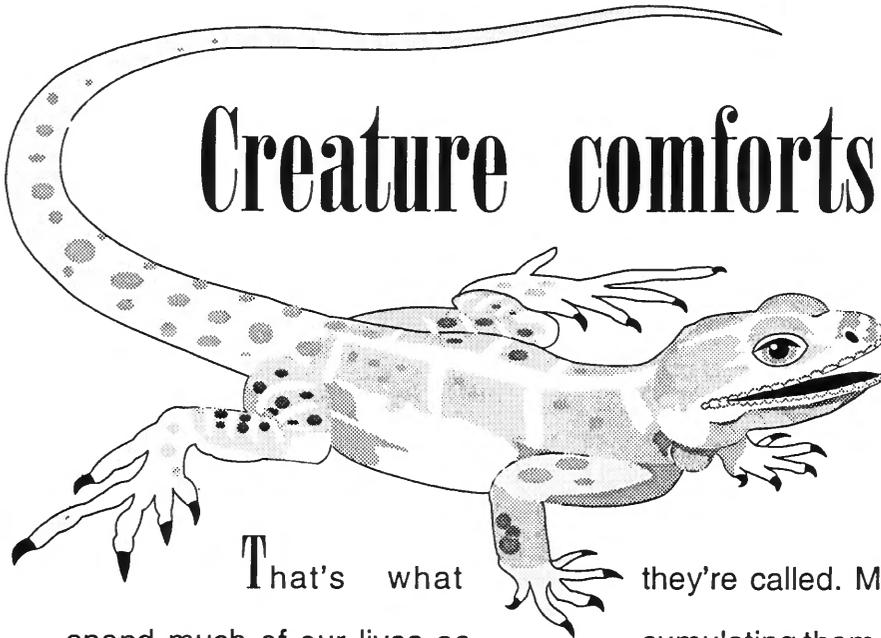
dial by one number can make a 10 degree F difference in temperature.

- **Defrost the freezer:** If you own a manual defrost refrigerator/freezer, you should defrost it regularly. The ice build-up makes the compressor work harder to maintain cold temperatures and thus draws more energy. Do not let ice build up thicker than one-quarter inch. Remember to unplug the refrigerator before you start defrosting.

- **Check the power-saver switch:** Many new model refrigerators have the capability to prevent moisture from condensing on the outside of the refrigerator during humid weather. They do this by supplying heat to areas around the freezer door where moisture is most likely to collect. This option is usually activated by a switch inside the refrigerator. With the switch off, your refrigerator will not have to draw the extra power needed to supply this heat.

- **Check the condensation drain:** Condensation drains are usually found on no-frost or self-defrosting refrigerators. A clogged drain causes ice to build up on the coils and make your refrigerator work harder. Check the drain regularly and free it of any obstructions.

Creature comforts

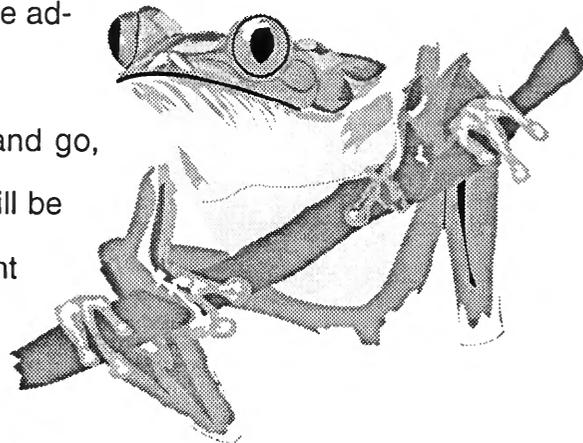


That's what they're called. Most of us spend much of our lives accumulating them. A lounge chair, a great stereo, a soft shag carpet beneath your feet.

What about atmosphere? The actual "feel" of your home. Steady warmth in the winter and constant cooling in the summer. No hot or cold spots as you go from room to room.

Wisely, families are turning to electric heating and cooling when they build their new homes. It means efficient comfort all four seasons, and it's clean and safe. Your electric cooperative has special rates that make these advantages low-cost for you.

Lounge chairs will come and go, but your home energy source will be around a long time. Choose right BEFORE you build.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Electricity. A source of comfort.



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

1994 Year of the Cooperative

The logo represents the 150 year history of the modern cooperative concept. It all began in Rochdale, England, in 1844 when a group of 28 impoverished weavers founded a mutual-aid association they called the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers. Rochdale is located in Lancashire County about 10 miles northeast of Manchester. Even today, the main industries are for the manufacture of flannels and calicoes.

As its initial project, the Society organized a grocery store which rapidly prospered. This was followed in short order by a flour mill, a shoe factory, and a textile plant. The Pioneers' success was quickly emulated throughout the country. By 1863 more than 400 British cooperative associations were in operation, all modeled after the Rochdale Society. The idea and the concept were copied for similar movements throughout the world.

The principles that were developed by the Pioneers have served, with modifications in emphasis, as the basic code of the consumer cooperative movement since that time. Briefly, the Rochdale principles are:

1. Democratic control with each member entitled to only one vote, regardless of the number of his total shares.

2. Membership open to all, ir-

respective of race, creed, class, occupation or political affiliation.

3. Payment of limited interest on invested capital.

4. Distribution of net profits to cooperative members in proportion to the amount of their patronage.

These and a number of supplemental principles established by the Society are still an integral part of the operations of successful cooperatives today: part of the earnings are utilized to expand operations; reserve funds are regularly accumulated for the purpose of covering depreciation and meeting possible emergencies; educational activities, designed to inform the membership, are systematically sponsored and conducted; labor should be fairly treated; and cooperatives should work together.

In the U.S. a number of consumer cooperative ventures were undertaken during the 19th century, but not always successfully. The most notable failures were the national Grange, an organization of farmers, founded in 1867; the Sovereigns of Industry, a secret order of workmen in 1874; and the Knights of Labor, a labor organization.

The modern consumer cooperative movement was introduced in the U.S. early in the 20th century, mainly by Finnish and Bohemian immigrants. They established flourishing societies in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and other parts of the nation. With these groups as a nucleus, the

American movement expanded rapidly in the period between the two World Wars.

Since 1920 the Rochdale methods of cooperation have been successfully applied in consumer co-ops such as grocery stores, buying clubs, bakeries, cafeterias, eating clubs, family and student housing, insurance, funeral service, rural electrification, news gathering, banking and credit unions, rural communications, dry cleaning, day nurseries, medical services, bookstores, lumberyards, automobile service stations and the fishing industry.

The cooperative movement in the U.S. has been strongest in rural areas. Farmers have formed cooperatives for many purposes, including marketing of produce, purchasing of production and home supplies, and provision of credit.

Many of the commodities distributed through these co-ops are tested for quality and value before being placed on sale and bear the "CO-OP" label — a circular device inscribed with two pine trees. Look for it at the supermarket.

The cooperative concept established by those 28 impoverished weavers of Rochdale has been proven for 150 years and it is doubtful that any other arrangement could supplant the idea that, by working together, people can provide themselves with a service that others can't, or won't, provide.

1994 — the year of the cooperative.



Minutes of board of trustees meeting held July 18, 1994.

All trustees were present. Also present were the cooperative attorney and the general manager. Also present was Kay D. Randall.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held June 20, 1994.

Accepted 16 new members for service.

Canceled 13 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled three member in bad standing.

Approved the financial,

maintenance and outage report for the month of June 1994 and for the second quarter of 1994.

Heard a report from the manager and trustee Cammon regarding recent Soyland meetings.

Heard a report from the cooperative attorney regarding legislative matters.

Approved work orders for the month of May 1994 totaling \$17,219.18 and authorized the manager to present the same to REA.

Approved deposit refunds pursuant to Cooperative policy.

Heard a report from the man-

ager and trustees Dunigan and Rudolphi regarding IBEW negotiations.

Extended an invitation to Bob Patton of the AIEC to discuss strategic planning at the next board meeting.

Resolved that Policy Bulletin 200-1 (Residences Metered Separately) be amended by the addition of a new paragraph.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of June 1994.

Discussed plans for the Annual Meeting of Members September 8, 1994.

Adjournment.

Safety on the farm

In 1992, 1,200 people died in farm-related accidents in the United States. This represents more than 14 percent of the on-the-job fatalities in that year.

Safety and health education can play an important role in reducing fatalities and injuries on the farm.

Keep the following safety hints in mind:

Act quickly in event of a spill

Pesticide spills are always a danger. But farm and ranch spills are particularly hazardous for young children and livestock that can be poisoned.

If a spill occurs, act quickly! Secure the area and warn all workers, family members and emergency personnel about the danger. During the clean-up, always wear personal protective gear. Make sure that the spill doesn't contaminate water sources such as wells, livestock waterers, ponds or streams.

A lethal mix on rural highways

Accidents involving machinery and vehicles continue to injure and kill many people, especially on rural highways.

Be sure that warning lights are installed and functioning on farm equipment. And, remember to place a clearly visible slow-moving vehicle, or S-M-V, emblem on all farm tractors and implements.

Always drive defensively and anticipate slow-moving machinery over the next hill or around the next curve.

Don't mix work clothes with family laundry

When you're applying pesticides or working with other chemicals on your farm, your clothing could become contaminated with a hazardous residue which is difficult to wash out.

Don't mix contaminated work clothes with the family laundry.

Always use heavy-duty detergents and at least two hot water cycles to remove concentrated pesticides. Air dry your laundry since a clothes dryer also may become contaminated.

A complete walk-around is always recommended

Pilots and truckers make it a routine, and you should, too!

Check your tractor and machinery each day before beginning your farming chores.

- Make sure all tires are structurally sound and have the correct air pressure.

- Turn on all warning and marker lights and make sure they are clearly visible.

- Check the slow-moving vehicle emblem and make sure it is securely fastened, clean and visible.

- Inspect your first aid kit, tool box and everything you would need in an emergency.

Tell your children about dangers

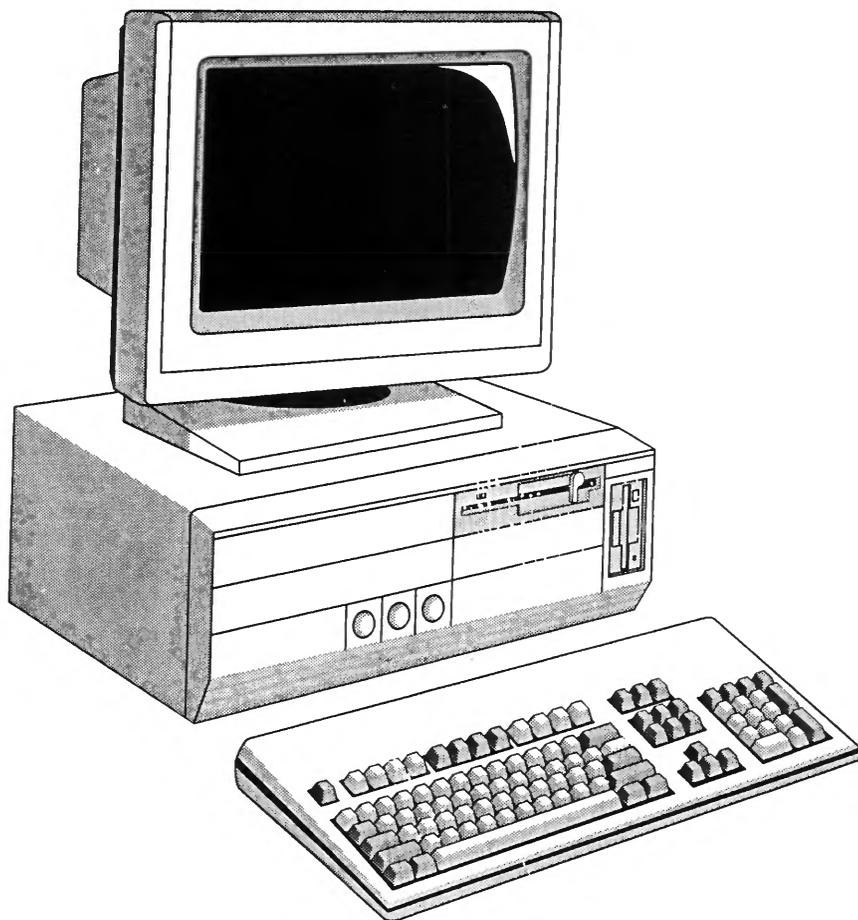
Communication is important on family farms. Your children may ask questions about chores, equipment and chemicals important to farming.

Address their concerns and give these warnings:

- Never carry extra riders on tractors and machinery.

- Keep out of farm chemical storage and use areas.

- Treat farm animals with caution and respect.



Power outages can frustrate personal computer users

If you own a personal computer, you have probably experienced the frustration of having your power supply suddenly flicker or go off completely with a resulting loss of data.

Rapid changes in the amount of electricity going into your computer can result in damaged circuitry, loss of important data and plenty of aggravation.

What can you do to protect your computer equipment from power fluctuations and outages?

There is equipment available for home (or office) use that is designed to eliminate or filter out surges of electricity or provide a back-up supply of power should your power go off.

Protector or suppressor de-

vices provide protection from brief but intense voltage increases (often called spikes or surges). It's this type of equipment that may save your computer's life should a lightning bolt hit nearby and enter your home's wiring system.

According to a computer sales/service/applications company, a surge protector's "response time" to incoming power surges is a critical factor to consider when choosing a unit. The faster the response time, the better the unit is at preventing the power surge from entering your computer and causing damage. Also consider the amount of power the unit can dissipate when a surge occurs. Cheaper

units that can't handle higher surge levels may not provide the protection you need. Some quality units can handle as much as 2,000 amps for one millisecond. Surge protectors can vary in price from \$40 to over \$120.

But it's the loss of data, not equipment damage, that most often causes concern among computer operators.

If you can't shut down your home computer during periods when power interruptions are likely (such as during intense lightning storms), then an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) system may be for you. A UPS system operates with a battery backup that supplies instant power to your computer should the outside voltage suddenly drop. Because the backup system takes over quickly, your computer doesn't notice. The batteries normally supply enough power to continue operating 15 to 20 minutes, but each system's reserve time will vary. Battery backup systems can cost \$400 to \$2,000.

Some additional thoughts. If the expense of a battery backup system is too much for your budget, consider copying your data frequently. Then, if the power does go off you lose only that portion of your data which has not been copied. If the data you're putting into your home computer is extremely important, make copies of it on a separate disk and place it in a proper storage facility.

If you're thinking about purchasing a surge protector or battery backup system for your home computer, make sure the equipment you choose meets the precise needs of your computer.

If power surges and outages concern you, surge protectors and battery backup systems may be just the thing your computer needs for important protection.

Geothermal

It's closer than you realize.

Not too far away from where you live, maybe just down the street or around the corner, somebody is saving money and you're not. They are taking advantage of something that you could take advantage of, too. If you have a front yard or back yard, you can lower the cost of heating and cooling your home. You can also get free or very inexpensive hot water. The Geothermal Heating and Cooling System uses the constant warmth within the soil to move heat in or out of your home, depending on the season. Somebody near you has one, and they are enjoying the comfort, safety and savings. Fortunately, there is somebody else near you who can help you bring all of geothermal's benefits to YOUR home. You'll find their name just down the road.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

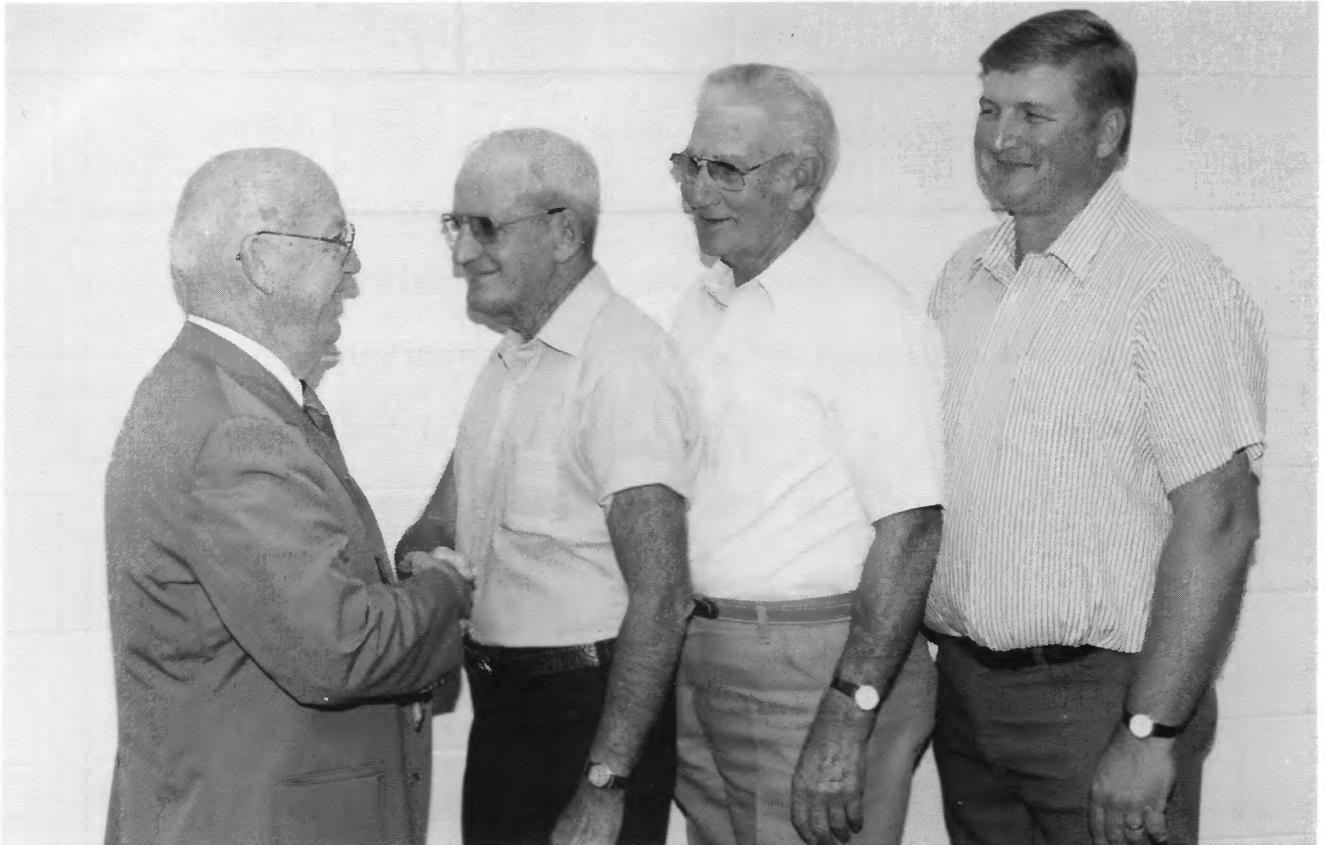


Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS



Three members have been reelected to three-year terms on the board of Clay Electric Co-operative. Jim Campbell, left, manager, congratulates, from left, James R. Burkett of Louisville, Lewis Pettit of Flora and Frank Czyzewski of Louisville.

Three reelected at annual meeting

Three area community leaders have been reelected to three years on the board of directors of Clay Electric Co-operative. The election was held during the 50th annual meeting of members of the co-operative September 8 at Flora High School. They are: Frank Czyzewski and James R. Burkett of Louisville and Lewis Pettit of Flora.

Edwin T. Henson, president of

the Clay Electric board of directors, advised members in his annual report that the cooperative continues to stress maintenance of its electric system in order to reduce outages and urged members to practice safety any time they are around electric lines. He said that members should follow the "rule of 10" any time they are near electric lines.

"This means that we should

always keep at least 10 feet away from electric lines," Henson said. "Don't build or construct anything within 10 feet of a line and maintain 10 feet of clearance with elevators and other equipment and be sure you have 10 feet of clearance when crossing under electric lines."

Henson said the cooperative has concentrated its maintenance during the past year in the Xenia

and Flora substation areas. Maintenance included changing out bad poles, trimming brush and trees, testing equipment at the substation, along lines and at member's meter locations. Substation and line voltage regulators were also serviced, Henson said.

"The intent of such a maintenance program is to reduce the number of outages to the membership and provide a better continuity of service," Henson said. "However, we have to remember that Mother Nature can still deal us an unexpected lightening storm, wind storm, ice storm or dead trees can blow across our lines and animals can still get into

the equipment causing an interruption of service. He urged members to contact the cooperative office any time they see sparks on a transformer or lines they may suspect could cause a power outage. He emphasized that the cooperative is striving to provide the most reliable service possible to its rural membership.

Loren W. Dunigan of Clay City, secretary-treasurer of the cooperative, reported that the cooperative's total assets increased last year to just over \$8.5 million dollars. Revenue in 1993 was more than \$4.2 million and total margins for the year were \$131,794 which was allocated

back to the members as capital credits. 48

Following the annual meeting of members, the board met to reorganize for the coming year. Henson was reelected president and Howard Poehler of Louisville was reelected vice president. Dunigan was reelected secretary-treasurer.

Clay Electric Co-operative is a not-for-profit electric utility serving 2,934 meters over 926 miles of energized lines throughout rural Clay County and portions of Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Marion, Richland and Wayne counties. It has 16 local area employees.

Prizes awarded at 1994 annual meeting

Bread-maker — Erwin Boone
Hedge-trimmer — Loyal Burroughs
Outdoor lighting — Lawrence Mitchell
Water filter system — Gary Smith
Shop Vac — Joan Shafer
Jig saw — Mike Hockman
Drill — Erbin Steele
Radio/cassette player — Loren Pilcher
Coffee maker — Myron Hanks
Clock radio — Alfred Lybarger

Trouble light — Rick Payne
Smoke detector — Lavern Hemrich
Trouble light — Diana McGee
Extension cord — Dale Itskin
Extension cord — Jim Walker
Surge protector — Burdette Blair
Extension cord — Barbara Pickens
Extension cord — Kent Warren
Cooler — Donated by WaterFurnace — Bill Garrett

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held August 15, 1994.

All trustees with the exception of trustee Dunigan were present. Also present were the cooperative attorney, the general manager and Bob Patton from the AIEC.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held July 18, 1994.

Accepted 20 new members for service.

Canceled 10 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled seven members in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of July 1994.

Heard a report from Bob Patton regarding strategic planning.

Heard a report from the cooperative attorney regarding legislative matters.

Heard a report from Clay Electric employees and staff regarding a neighborhood meter reading program and authorized the staff to proceed with the pro-

gram as quickly as possible.

Heard a report from the manager regarding IBEW negotiations.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of July 1994.

Discussed plans for the September 8, 1994, annual meeting of members.

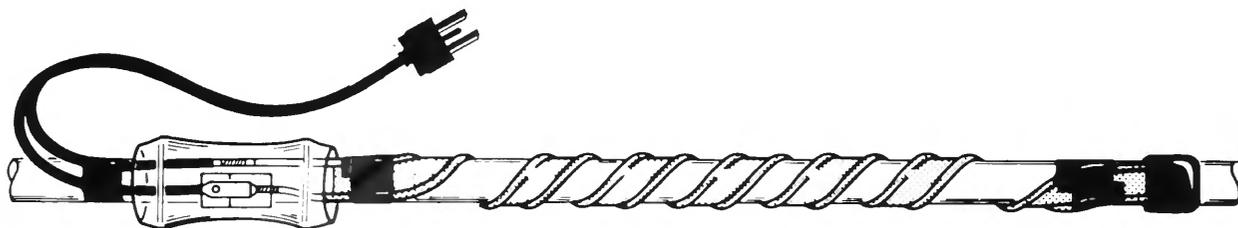
Approved Nominating Committee Reports as presented.

Heard a report from trustee Cammon regarding recent AIEC meeting.

Adjournment.

Office closings

Our office will be closed on Friday, November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day and Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25, in observance of Thanksgiving.



Heat tapes must be used properly

Electric heat tapes are commonly used in winter to keep water pipes from freezing. But any time of the year is appropriate to check your electric heat tapes and replace them if necessary. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says consumers (including residents of mobile homes) should replace uncertified heat tapes that are more than three years old with certified ones that meet recognized voluntary standards.

An electric heat tape resembles an electric cord. It may be round or flat. Some varieties have an overall covering of light metal braid. There is an electrical plug on one end and sometimes a pod or box with a thermostat switch to control the power to the heating conductors in the tape.

Heat tapes are usually installed in crawl spaces or attics. Often, they are used on mobile homes to heat water supply pipes that come from underground up to a mobile home.

But, for all their potential uses, CPSC warns that heat tapes can be dangerous. According to CPSC, electric heat tapes are involved in about 2,000 fires each year, resulting in about 10 deaths and 100 injuries. CPSC urges you to help reduce this risk of fire and death by using only certified heat tapes on your pipes. One way you can tell the

difference is that all new certified heat tapes will have three-prong plugs; the older uncertified ones have two-prong plugs. Currently, there are three organizations that are certifying heat tapes to meet recognized national voluntary standards: Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and Factory Mutual Research Corporation (FMRC).

Purchasing heat tapes that meet voluntary standards offers you and your family a degree of protection, but heat tapes also must be installed and used properly and inspected annually to provide the most protection against freezing pipes, as well as the highest level of safety for you and your family.

CPSC offers these safety tips for electric heat tapes:

- Inspect heat tapes each year and replace them if you notice signs of deterioration. Look for discolored surfaces (especially at the plug), charring, cuts or breaks in the insulation, or bare wires.

- When installing heat tapes, carefully observe installation instructions. Different heat tapes have different installation requirements.

- Always plug the three-prong plug into a three-prong outlet to make sure the heat tape is grounded.

- Use a ground fault circuit

interrupter (GFCI) wherever heat tapes are plugged in.

- Make sure the heat tape that you use is intended for use on water pipes (other tapes heat roof, gutters, or garden soil).

- Do not wrap heat tape over itself unless specifically permitted in the manufacturer's instructions.

- Do not cover the heat tape with insulation unless advised by the manufacturer. Use non-flammable insulation such as fiberglass. Do not use foam or vinyl insulation. It could catch fire if the heat tape fails.

- Apply heat tape directly on the pipe to be protected, never on top of the insulation covering the pipe.

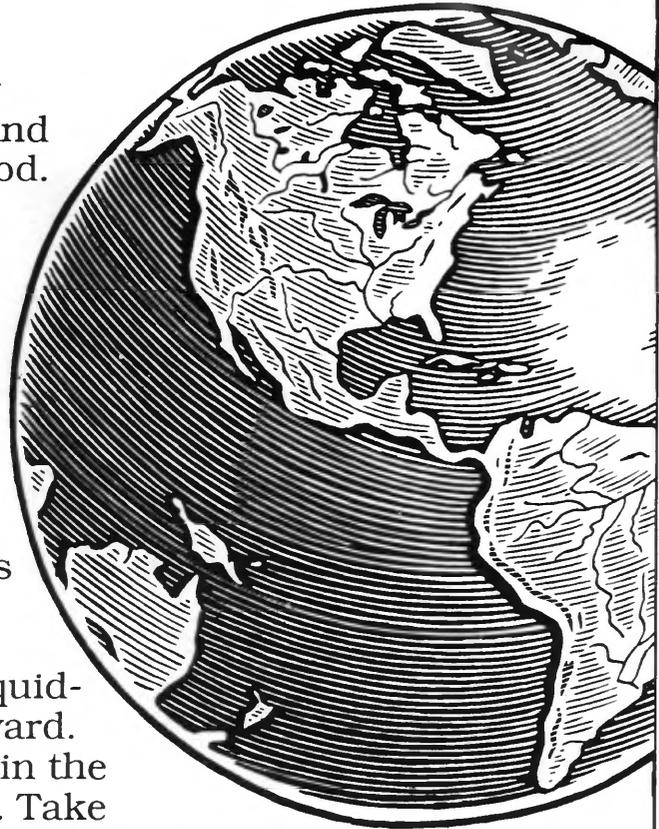
- Keep the end cap sealed and off the ground to prevent water from getting in. Moisture can lead to a fire.

- If heat tape has a thermostat, check instructions to see if the thermostat should be placed against the pipe and covered with insulation or if it should be left hanging and uncovered.

Heat tapes perform a useful function, but like any electrical product, they need to be treated with care and respect. Don't create a fire hazard while trying to keep your pipes from freezing. Replace uncertified heat tapes that are more than three years old. Buy heat tapes that meet voluntary standards. Install and use heat tapes properly.

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.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois

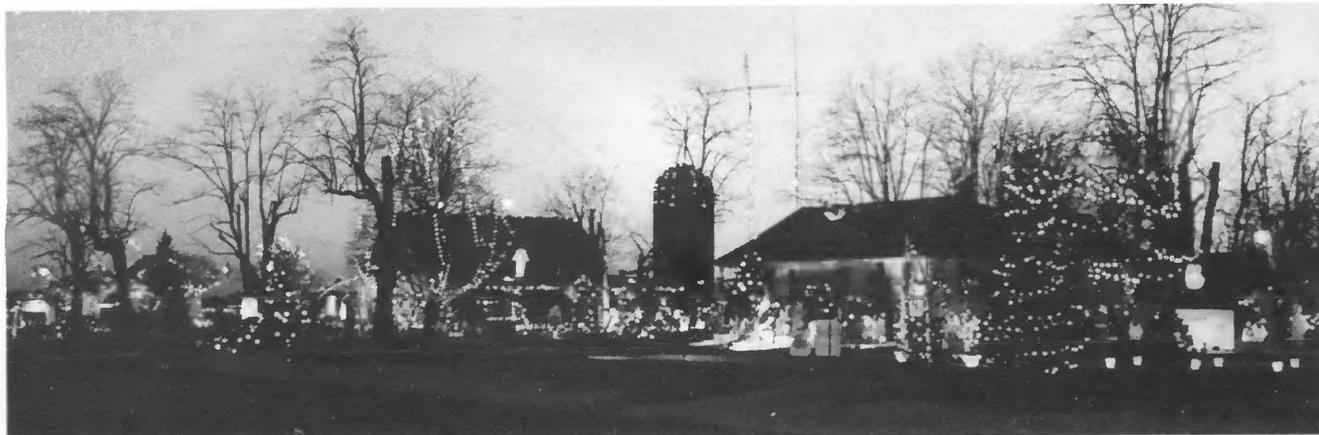


CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Clay Electric News



The Mullins farm has been lighted at Christmas time for years, and getting better all the time. A gift shop is a recent addition.

Mullins Christmas display delights thousands

If you haven't been to the Mullins Farm lately, you just haven't been. The farm, well-known for many years for its incredible display of Christmas lights, has gotten bigger and better with time. It's located near Ingraham, and is served by Clay Electric.

On a good night, you can locate the place by the glow on the horizon, and there are plenty of signs to direct you, too. The venture, started by Paul and Noma Mullins when their kids were little, has grown into a mini-industry, and is now part of a not-for-profit organization called the Ingraham Tourism Council.

It wasn't always like that. The Mullinses started stringing a few lights in the shrubs about the time they remodeled their home, in 1958. As time went by, they added lights and displays. And added,

and added.

They're at the stage now where they toss out plenty of spent bulbs. "We throw out about a bushel and



The Mullins farm has been lighted at Christmas time for years, and it's getting better all the time. There are some 140,000-150,000 lights in the display.

a half a year," Paul says, "and we have nearly five acres of displays."

Paul, Noma, son Vaughn and daughter Rita Cooper all work with the displays, and it has become necessary to hire help. "I've kind of lost track," Paul says, "but I know we have between 140,000-150,000 bulbs, and we spend four days just replacing bulbs and getting strings of lights ready, before we even go outside."

As the display started growing, people took to dropping in, and the family set out a guest book to get a feel for how many people were enjoying the display, and where they were coming from. "We put out our first book in 1972," Paul says, "and we had 3,200 signatures in the first year. As nearly as we can tell now, there are about 60,000, counting drive-bys. We use about three big guest books a year now.

Change in Switch and Save Program customers



Paul with Christmas items.



Vaughn shows some of the junk sculpture for sale.

We've had people from 46 states and 29 foreign countries."

The place, which was once a fairly complex display of lights, has evolved over the years. A petting zoo was added a couple of years ago, and there's now a gift shop that employs several area residents and sells area crafts and food items.

The former machine shed, a 46 foot by 72 foot structure, now houses the shops. There are places to buy Christmas sweat shirts, signs for your yard, hot dogs, chocolate, sorghum, and fudge. There are also "junk sculpture" items.

The lights are turned on at dusk on the day after Thanksgiving, and are left on until 10 p.m. every evening until New Year's Day, Paul says.

"While there is a lot of satisfaction in having people enjoy the lights," Paul says, "there's even more satisfaction in being able to provide a place for area people to sell their craft items. The idea is to boost Ingraham a little. And to have a little fun in the process."

The Switch and Save Program was originally designed and developed to enable your Cooperative to have some measure of control over its demand costs, resulting in savings to the cooperative for wholesale power cost. The savings to the cooperative are shared with the members who allow a radio-controlled switch to be installed on their water heaters and air conditioners. The power cost is the largest expense item to the cooperative and its members. This item amounts to two-thirds (2/3) of the total expense of the cooperative. Power cost is composed of two things, demand or fixed cost and energy costs. The demand or fixed cost is approximately two-thirds (2/3) of the total power cost.

Originally, the wholesale demand cost was based on the cooperative's demand during the five months of December, January, February, July and August. Members who had a controllable switch installed then received Switch and Save credits for the billing months of February, March, April, September and October.

Now, however, the demand

cost is based on the months of June, July, August and September or four months instead of five. To coordinate the credits to the billing and the control months, a new credit rate was developed which is equal to or greater than the original program on an annual basis.

A comparison of the old credit rate and the new credit rate (effective December 1, 1994) is shown below:

Again, the control months are June, July, August and September to correspond with the wholesale power rate covering demand and fixed cost allocations by our power supplier. Credits will appear on the billing months of July, August, September and October.

The normal residential and commercial rates, as well as special grain drying rates and interruptible power rates, remain the same.

Anyone not taking advantage of the Switch and Save Program who wishes to participate, should contact the office of your cooperative for further information and sign up procedure.

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Water Heater Credits	\$6 per month for 5 months Total \$30 per year	\$7.50 per month for 4 months Total \$30 per year
Air Conditioner or Heat Pump Credits	\$2 per ton per month 2 months Total \$4 per ton per year	\$2 per ton per month for 4 months Total \$8 per ton per year

Office closing

Reminder: Clay Electric will be closed for Christmas Holiday, Monday, December 26, and New Years Day, Monday January 2.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Kitchen and cooking energy savers

- Use cold water rather than hot to operate your food disposer. This saves the energy needed to heat the water, is recommended for the appliances, and aids in getting rid of grease. Grease solidifies in cold water and can be ground up and washed away.

- Install an aerator in your kitchen sink faucet. By reducing the amount of water in the flow, you use less hot water and save the energy that would have been required to heat it. The lower flow pressure is hardly noticeable.

- Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean. They will reflect the heat better and you will save energy.

- Water will come to a boil faster and use less energy in a kettle or covered pan.

- Match the size of the pan to the heating element. More heat will get to the pan; less will be lost to surrounding air.

- If you cook with electricity, get in the habit of turning off the burners several minutes before the allotted cooking time. The heating element will stay hot long enough to finish the cooking for you without using more electricity. The same principle applies to oven cooking.

- When using the oven, make the most of the heat from that single source. Cook as many foods as you can at one time. Prepare dishes that can be stored or frozen for later use or make all oven-cooked meals.

- Watch the clock or use a timer; don't continually open the oven door to check food. Every time you open the door, heat escapes and your cooking takes more energy.

- Use small electric pans or ovens for small meals rather than the kitchen range or oven. They use less energy.

Energy savers

In the kitchen, laundry and bath



When buying appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, washing machines and dryers, compare the Energy Guide labels of competing models of the same capacity to determine their annual energy cost ranges. Over time, the energy-thrifty machines will be more economical purchases.

- Use pressure cookers and microwave ovens if you have them. They can save energy by reducing cooking time.

- If you purchase a gas oven or range, look for one with an automatic (electronic) ignition system instead of pilot lights. You'll save an average of up to a third of your gas use — 41 percent in the oven and 53 percent on the top burners.

- If you have a gas stove, make sure the pilot light is burning efficiently — with a blue flame. A yellowish flame indicates an adjustment is needed.

- When cooking with a gas range-top burner, use moderate flame settings to conserve gas.

- When you have a choice, use the range-top rather than the oven.

Dishwashing energy savers

When buying a dishwasher, look for an energy-efficient model with air power and/or overnight dry settings. These features automatically turn off the dishwasher after the rinse cycle. This can save you up to 10 percent of your dishwashing energy costs. The typical dishwasher uses 14 gallons of hot water per load. Use it energy efficiently.

- If you need to rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher, use cold water.

- Be sure your dishwasher is full, but not overloaded, when you turn it on.

- Let your dishes air dry. If you don't have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the control knob after the final rinse. Prop the door open a little and the dishes will dry faster.

- Don't use the "rinse hold" on your machine for just a few soiled dishes. It uses three to seven gallons of hot water each time you use it.

—U.S. Dept. of Energy