

Champion

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

On behalf of the directors and employees of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, I would like to wish you and your family a Happy New Year filled with good health, happiness and good fortune. As the new year begins, we renew our commitment to provide you with the best and most economical electric service possible.

The 'Affordable Five'

By taking advantage of "The Affordable Five," our new single-phase rates, you can start the year right and save on your energy costs. These special rates were developed to give you choices that are competitive with other energy sources. There is a Single-Phase Interruptible Rate for members who allow us to interrupt ALL electric service during peak alerts (peaks may occur from June 15 to September 15, between noon and 8 p.m.). If you have a standby generator, this rate may be the one for you. The Electric Heat Rate is available to members who have permanently installed and are using an electric heat pump or resistance heat as their primary source of space heating and have permanently installed and are using an electric water heater. The Summer/Winter Rate was designed for those members that use most of their electricity between September 1 and April 30. An Interruptible Air Conditioning option is available to members using electricity as their primary energy source for air conditioning if the unit is a 240-volt system and is capable of being cycled off and on during peak alerts. With this option, you can receive billing credits up to \$100 per year. You can also take advantage of the Interruptible Water Heater option and receive billing credits up to \$72 a year. This option is available to

members who are using electricity as their primary energy source for domestic water heating. The 240-volt unit must have at least a 30-gallon capacity that can be turned off and on during peak alerts. Similar rates are available for three-phase service. In order to maintain these affordable rates, we must continue to sell more electricity to spread our costs. Call our member services department — they will help you select the rate that's best for you.

Annual meeting

On March 19, the cooperative's annual meeting will be held at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School in Paxton. In order to reduce our costs, we are going to try something new. Instead of sending out a separate annual meeting notice, the annual report will appear in the March center section of this magazine which will be mailed to you during the last week of February. Mark your calendar and don't forget to watch for the annual report in the March Illinois Rural Electric News magazine.

Skyvision

As we have discussed in the last two issues of the IREN, our new subsidiary Skyvision will begin providing a new competitively priced television programming option in April. As mentioned before, the programming will be called DirecTv and will utilize a petite 18-inch dish. To find out more information and get on the first-come first-served waiting list, contact Dave Lithgow at 800-236-9263 or 217-379-2155 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Have a Happy New Year!



Brad and Liz Richardson are pictured with their answering service equipment. They have phone lines from the EIEC office for voice, computer link, and two-way radios. They work outages on alternating two-week periods when the office is closed.

Storm officially welcomes new answering service

EIEC's newest outage-reporting team has been officially welcomed to their duties: immediately after they took over the job, a good-sized storm hit, giving them an initiation that would make later times look like smooth sailing.

EIEC members Brad and Liz Richardson live in Paxton with their three children: Katrina, 12, Jessie, 6 and Josh, 4. Liz is a Loda-area native, while Brad grew up in Lafayette, Indiana. He is assistant manager of the local Pizza Man restaurant, in

addition to his outage reporting duties, and both are auxiliary deputies with the Ford County Sheriff's Department.

They share their duties with Bert and Diana Helregel, also of Paxton, during alternating two-week periods.

The answering service receives trouble calls during times when the EIEC office in Paxton is closed. After 5 p.m. on weekdays, weekends and around the clock on holidays, if you call the office — no matter why — you will get one or the other of the

answering service teams, since after-hours calls are automatically call-forwarded there.

Each team is provided with telephone lines for the computer link, radio link and telephone system. The phone line for voice accept calls from all six phone lines going into the headquarters, and those lines are separate from the family's own telephone. They also have system maps and a two-way radio, so they can contact co-op crews and dispatch them to problem areas.

It seems to be a foregone con-

clusion that when a new outage reporting team comes aboard a storm hits, giving them a welcome that they'd just as soon not have.

"The storm came in on October 16," Liz says, "and we had crews out all over the co-op's service territory. It lasted all day Saturday and much of Sunday. We learned very quickly about all kinds of problems that can arise. With the help and patience of the linemen, I think everything went off rather smoothly."

Brad notes that it was quite a welcome, and that the Richardsons were a little concerned about the job they'd undertaken. "People kept telling us that it wasn't always like that," he says, "and we didn't know whether to believe them or not. It finally settled down and things worked out. It's not bad at all, now."

Over the years members have occasionally been frustrated when calling the service because they didn't understand what it is designed to do. It is intended to provide outage reporting, and that's all. Members with billing problems or other business should contact the co-op during the regular office hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. "We have maps, a radio and phone lines," Liz says. "We can't deal with normal day-to-day business calls, or complaints, or service requests or the like."

"When a member calls in with an outage problem," Liz says, "we try to get their account number, telephone number, and find out what the problem is and what time it occurred. Then we figure out who their area serviceman is. We call him on the radio and give him the particulars. That's really what we're here for."

Brad and Liz both note that they still have guilt feelings about calling a serviceman in the middle of the night. "It still

bothers me a little to call at 2 a.m.," he says, "especially since it's usually the wife who answers the phone."

Brad notes that there are a few other aspects of the job he is learning to deal with, too. "We had an outage that was caused by a vehicle accident," he says, "and all I could think about was getting a crew out and getting power back on. It didn't occur to me until later that somebody might have been injured in the accident. As it turned out, there was a fatality. I felt really bad about that."

While such situations occur very rarely, others crop up fairly often. "After calls are answered by the automated voice, callers need to be patient," Liz says. "Each call takes time because we need to know the extent of the outage, and we need to get any problems taken care of right away. While it may be nerve-racking at the time, each call helps us find out more about the outage. As soon as we hang up, another call rings through until all calls have been answered."

Naturally, when many people, perhaps even hundreds, are trying to call in, there are going to be problems. Even with six

lines, the system can be quickly overloaded.

She adds that she was a little surprised at the "feast or famine" nature of the work, which involves long spells of little or no problems, spiced by an occasional burst of frenzied activity. "Most people who call are thoughtful and considerate," she says, "and the calls go off without a hitch. From my standpoint, I hope people will realize that we'll get them back on as soon as possible. When someone calls in and asks when their power's going to come back on, that's all I can tell them. I can dispatch a crew, but I can't tell when the power's going to be back on at a certain location. There are so many variables that there's no way of knowing."

Please remember: When you have an after-hours problem, unless it has to do with an outage, the answering services are not equipped to deal with it; and please remember also that they may be swamped if there's a really serious outage situation. But please keep calling. We need to know who has power and who doesn't. And, you can speed things up a little if you have your account number handy.



Brad, left, discusses the computer link with Wm. David Champion, Jr., manager of EIEC, while Liz looks on.

Board meeting report



The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors held its regular board meeting on November 23, 1993, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the October 26, 1993, regular board meeting and executive session were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending October 31, 1993, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,560,373, Total Operating Expenses \$1,730,617, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,971,222, Operating Margins (\$410,849), Total Margins (\$313,522) and Year-To-Date Margins \$877,041.

In October, 83 members joined the cooperative and 77 terminated their memberships.

President Thompson indicated that the Executive Committee had met on November 10 and November 17. The board went into executive session.

A report of the Land Use and Facilities Committee held on November 10 was given by Director Aden. The Committee reviewed the proposed 1994 Capital Budget and recommended its adoption. After discussing each line item, the board approved the capital budget.

According to manager Champion, the Nominating Committee met November 1 and nominated candidates for the nominating committee election that will be conducted by mail balloting on December 2, in Districts 1, 5, 10 and 12. They also selected candidates in Districts 2, 6, 8, 9 and 13 for the director elections that will be held at the March 19, 1994, annual meeting.

President Thompson announced that the Annual Meeting Planning Committee will meet December 6 to finalize plans for the 1994 annual meeting.

An update on legal activities was given by manager Champion. In addition, he provided the following information: receipts from the cooperative's November 18 annual equipment sale totalled \$39,099.50. details of a member's com-

plaint, an insurance consultant's interpretation of home owner's coverages with respect to excess consumption of electricity, a process used by one cooperative for nominating director candidates, Delta Mobile Testing has completed testing the structural and electrical capability of co-op vehicles and 1992 capital credit allocations will be printed on the December bills.

In other action, the board approved becoming a charter member in the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group, entering into a three phase contract with W.C. Fields of Ashkum, and amending the 1993-94 work plan to include \$50,000 for repair on an older transmission line and \$84,000 for four 69 KV air break switches. A request from the City of Rantoul to purchase cooperative right-of-way was denied.

Manager Champion advised that a safety meeting and all employee meeting will be held December 9. He also furnished the board with a written job training and safety activities report for November.

Director Chesnut summarized the November 18 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board of directors meeting. On December 16, the AIEC board will select a new general manager to replace Thomas H. Moore who will retire January 31, 1994. Implementation of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group was discussed. Reports of the IEC Memorial Scholarship Committee and 1993 Hot Line School and Climbing School were given.

The November 17 meeting of the Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting was highlighted by director Warmbir. The Clinton Power Plant is scheduled to be back on line December 3. Activities of the Policy, Finance, Marketing and Economic Development Committees were reviewed. Manager Champion furnished a detailed written report of the meeting.

The next meeting of the board of directors will be held December 21, 1993, at 8:30 a.m.

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

**Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 19
Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School
Paxton**

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

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 19, 1994
Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School
Paxton, Illinois

All members will receive a Click-Switch Adva-Lite flashlight

Prizes!!!

Two SEPCO 80-gallon water heaters
50 door prizes

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

The election of five directors

"The Other Guys," A U of I comedy octet, will provide entertainment

Blood pressure checks
Diabetes screening
Cholesterol checks
Children's I.D. program
Child care
Live line safety demonstration
Bargain corner
State of Illinois ethanol E-85 car
Cordless electric powered lawn mower
Pedal power
Rural Partners
System:GT
Radio-controlled water heaters
Efficient compact lighting
Skyvision



Donna in her spotless kitchen. She notes that many customers are surprised that she provides a full breakfast, rather than just coffee and a sweet roll.

The Farmhouse B&B

It seems that bed and breakfast places, or B&Bs, are popping up like mushrooms after a spring rain, and our area has one, too. Owned and operated by Donna Judd, the Farmhouse B&B, near Rossville, is just what the name implies: a farmhouse.

From about World War II on, farm families have been building new houses, usually ranch-style. Most bulldozed or burned the old house. Those who quit farming often abandoned the old structures, which were long on charm but difficult to heat and cool.

Donna's house, built around the turn of the century, was, fortunately, saved. The owners built nearby but left the old house. Bed and breakfast enthusiasts should appreciate that fact, because she has turned the old house into a first-rate place to spend the night. While the place looks as though the carpenters who built it just packed up their tools and left, it wasn't always like that.

"It was a mess when I got it," the petite retired librarian says over her half-glasses, "and I had a field day tearing out a lot of stuff. Somebody had used those metal tracks and hangers to lower the ceilings, and I tore all that out. I also tore out a lot of other stuff. I had a lot of fun with that. Then it was time to start spending money."

She redid the interior, furnishing the place with several antiques she owned, and giving each of the three rooms a "theme." The rattan room is furnished, as might be expected, with rattan furniture, and the Oak and Cherry rooms feature those fine hardwoods. All are neat and homey. One room has its own bath, and two rooms share one. Donna's quarters are separate.

"I've set up the parlor for those who want to sit and visit," Donna says, "and I try to keep it homey and casual. I have a TV there, and there are usually

opportunities to visit, for those who want to."

The startup was a pleasant surprise. While Donna had expected a fairly long spell of gradual growth, people started arriving about the time she was ready for them. "The chamber of commerce in Danville sends people out," she says, "and some of the food machinery consultants from the canneries in Hoopston also come here. I'm only a couple of miles from Rossville, which is well-known for all its antique shops. Many antique hunters come here.

"Bed and breakfast places seem to appeal to a certain kind of people," she continues, "and they like a B&B more than they would a motel. And it seems like they're all nice people. I've never had a 'people' problem."

Donna does a little advertising and hands out brochures. Friends pass brochures out, and word of mouth works well for her. "I'm getting some repeat

business. I had a couple come up from Texas once, and they liked the place so much they've come back again."

The B&B trade is such that if one is full, it'll refer prospective customers to another. There's a directory out, and it's getting bigger all the time. The Farmhouse isn't in the current issue, but will be in the next one.

"Breakfast is a surprise to most people who come here," Donna says, "in that I fix a full breakfast. Most come expecting a cup of coffee and a sweet roll. I cook eggs and pancakes and bacon and sausage and the whole bit. I have my own recipe for breakfast muffins that I've received a lot of compliments about, and I won't share it with anyone. While my full breakfast surprises a lot of my customers, they surprise me, too. I remember one time when I had three gentlemen here, and I was sure they wouldn't touch breakfast. I fixed it anyway, and they ate everything in sight."

Another surprise, she notes, came when a woman asked for porridge. "I didn't know what she meant by porridge," Donna says, "but I kind of assumed she meant oatmeal or maybe Cream of Wheat. It turned out that she meant Malt-O-Meal, so that's what I fixed."

She sounds out the clientele the night before to find out when they want breakfast, and serves it at an agreed-upon time. "I cook it myself," she says, "in the kitchen that's especially for the business. I built it to satisfy the health department and I took a course in food preparation.

"It's interesting," she says, "because there'll be times when I'm working in the kitchen and people want to come in and visit. That makes for an enjoyable time, and I certainly don't discourage them. Once in a while somebody will ask if they can help. I say, 'Sure, pitch in', and we have a good time."

No matter what time is decided on for breakfast, she puts



Donna shows one of the three bedrooms. There is a Rattan Room, a Cherry Room and an Oak Room.



This room is for gathering, TV-watching and conversation, if guests so desire.



Like the rest of the house, the dining room, where the guests are served breakfast, is tastefully furnished and immaculate.

Board meeting report



On December 21, 1993, the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors held its regular board meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the November 23, 1993, regular board meeting and executive session were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending November 30, 1993, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$2,140,465, Total Operating Expenses \$1,552,953, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,791,834, Operating Margins \$348,631, Total Margins \$366,415 and Year-To-Date Margins \$1,243,465.

During the month of November, 79 members joined the cooperative and 83 terminated their memberships.

President Thompson reported that the Executive Committee had met on December 17. The board went into executive session.

A report of the December 6 Annual Meeting Planning Committee was given by director Warmbir, chairman of the committee. The committee met to finalize plans for the March 19, 1994, annual meeting. All members will receive a small Click-Switch Adva-Lite flashlight. In order to

save money, the annual meeting report will be a 12-page center section in the March Illinois Rural Electric News magazine rather than providing members with a separate notice. Entertainment will be provided by "The Other Guys," a U of I comedy octet. The board approved the committee report.

Information on current litigation was provided by manager Champion. He advised that tellers from Districts 1, 5, 10 and 12 had counted nominating committee ballots in their respective districts on December 17 at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton, and that new nominating committee members had been elected in those districts. Other information furnished to the board included costs to repair a transformer that had been damaged by lightning at the Sidney substation, a \$49 check had been received from Illini

F.S. and details of the "Guaranteed Comfort Home" program which is being considered by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

In other action, the board selected director Warmbir as delegate and Brandon Jackson, Manager of Finance and Accounting, as alternate to represent EIEC at the January 19, 1994, annual meeting of the Illinois Cooperative Workers' Compensation Group. The board also approved the 1994 operating budget and writing off \$2,039.50 of miscellaneous uncollectible accounts.

Director Loy highlighted the December 9 safety meeting that he had attended. Two accidents that had occurred in the state were discussed. Manager Champion provided the board with a written job training and safety activities report for December.

Delegates were selected for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting that will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on February 6-9. President Thompson is the NRECA delegate and director Reitz is the alternate. The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation delegate is director Anderson and the alternate is director Byers. Manager Champion will serve as the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative delegate and director Byers will serve as the alternate.

Director Chesnut summarized the December 16 AIEC board of directors meeting. Earl Struck, AIEC Director of Legal and Public Affairs, was selected as the new AIEC general manager to replace Thomas H. Moore who will retire January 31, 1994. Financial reports were reviewed and the Illinois Cooperative Workers' Compensation Group was discussed.

The Soyland Power Cooperative board met in Decatur on December 15. Director Warmbir reported that the Clinton Power Plant had gone back on line December 10 after a refueling outage and that the Superseding Debt Restructuring Agreement had been signed on December 17. A detailed written report of the meeting was provided by manager Champion.

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

a pot of coffee out at 6 a.m., and earlier if people ask for it.

"I was going to put a coffee maker in each room, but the fire marshal really discouraged that," she adds.

Of course, the building has all the safety features required. "I'm a member of the Illinois Bed and Breakfast Association," Donna says, "and I've been careful to meet all the criteria they have in that respect."

She notes that hunters have come to her place, and that they're welcome. "I don't have

any special facilities for them though," she says, "but they can clean their game in the garage."

She has a "smoking area," which some establishments lack, but tries to discourage pets—except cats. "I have a couple of my own," she says.

After living for years in Danville and Chicago, you'd think rural life might be a problem. "It's not," she says, "because the farm that was here is still being worked. I essentially bought the house and part of the

old farmstead, and there's some activity here all the time. and the 'new' house is close by, so it doesn't seem isolated at all. But I do miss Chicago, with all the bright lights and cultural activities. Even so, this is what I've always wanted to do, and I'm really enjoying it."

Those who want to reserve a room can call the Farmhouse B&B at (217) 748-6505. The mailing address is 11786 E. 3550 North Rd., Rossville, IL 60963



Kentucky Fried Chicken

Kentucky Fried Chicken will be served in the high school cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Door Prizes

Prizes will be given at the close of the business meeting and are being furnished by cooperative vendors.*

* Eligibility for prizes: You must be registered for this year's annual meeting by 1 p.m. to be eligible for all prize drawings and you must be present to win.

Win a SEPCO Water Heater

Two lucky members will win 80-gallon SEPCO water heaters manufactured by Vaughn Manufacturing Company. We do require that the water heaters be installed on the cooperative's lines.

Annual Report

You are invited
to attend

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's
1994 Annual Meeting
March 19, 1994

Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School
Paxton, Illinois

The 7th Annual Meeting of Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will be held on Saturday, March 19, 1994, at 1 p.m., C.S.T. at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School Gymnasium, 700 West Orleans, Paxton, Illinois. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. and will close at 1 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at 1 p.m.



Attendance gift

*This year's attendance gift is a click-switch,
convenience Adva-Lite flashlight.*



President's Message



Robert D.
Thompson

“The cooperative is on solid ground and in good financial condition, but we want to make sure that we can keep it that way over the long run.”

During the year, the board was able to reevaluate our overall plan to bring the rate differential together that had existed since consolidation. Prior to 1993, we had brought the rates closer together so that there was just a slight differential. As we changed our philosophy on rates somewhat this year, we were able to pull the two rates together. Now the rates are the same for us as though we had always been one cooperative. We are happy that this occurred a year ahead of time and all members should be extremely happy because of the overall savings that we have achieved and the overall level of service that we have been able to bring about because of consolidation.

Speaking of rates, we had a change in our wholesale rate this year which gave us direction in reevaluating all of our retail rates. By doing this reevaluation and mirroring the benefits of the wholesale rate design in our retail rates, we were able to come up with some very attractive rate alternatives for our membership. Most members can receive some substantial savings, even over the older dual heat rates, by choosing these alternatives.

One of the issues that the board is always concerned with is that of capital credits. We talk about this several times each year. When the cooperative has the kind of margins that we had this year, \$1.2 million, you may wonder why we have not issued capital credit checks. That is simply because we have come off of a couple of years where we had extreme storms and then we didn't make the goals that we had set out to make last year even though it was a very good year. We finally did achieve the kinds of margins that the board feels are necessary in 1993; however, we want to be sure that this trend continues in 1994 with these rate changes. Therefore, we are a little bit hesitant to issue capital credit payments at the moment. The board certainly wants to issue capital credit checks as soon as it is safe to do so. I don't want to mislead you. The cooperative is on solid ground and in good financial condition, but we want to make sure that we can keep it that way over the long run.

One of the activities that we are all very interested in is the new technology that is on the horizon with the Direct Broadcast Satellite. Thirty-six percent of our members indicated that they would participate in a program where we could provide digital quality video and compact disc quality audio to their homes via satellite if we could do it at an affordable price. The Direct Broadcast Satellite was launched in December and Eastern Illini has chosen to participate in this program through its subsidiary Unlimited Visions. We have a division of Unlimited Visions which is now called Skyvision. The programming from the new satellite will be available in April and the equipment including an 18" dish will be coming along throughout the year 1994 that will make this service available to you. We already have a sign-up list of well over 200 members who have said that they would like to participate. We look for this to be a real source of revenue for Skyvision. Since it is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, we look for it to bring some revenues back to the parent company as well. This is a service that we can provide, and it is certainly needed in the rural areas because cable television is not available. Now with this new technology and this new satellite, the costs are affordable and we hope to be your entertainment provider through Skyvision.

You may note that the annual report is in a much different format this year. We chose to utilize the center section of the REN rather than having a separate mailing of an official annual meeting notice because we expect to save approximately \$6,000 in annual meeting expenses by sending the notice out through this format. We certainly want to hear your response to this. We feel that the savings is worth the change because we are able to give you the same message that we would have in the other book. By the same token, we are able to cut costs significantly, and that is something that all of us are after. So please give us your input about whether you would like for us to continue this practice of utilizing the center section for the annual meeting notice if it means those kinds of savings.

I look forward to seeing you at the 1994 annual meeting. It will be held at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School as it has in the past, and it will be on Saturday, March 19. We will have the full group of displays that you have seen in the past, and it should be a very enjoyable day for everyone who can attend. I hope to see you there on March 19th.

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his past year was an extremely good year for the cooperative in terms of weather related sales and lack of storms, and it gave us an opportunity to continue our system rebuild. We are still trying to rebuild at least 100 miles of line per year. The rains slowed that activity down some this year but we nearly reached our goal. The system maintenance and rebuild activity are beginning to show in fewer outage calls which means better service. This year, the cooperative's financial performance has been a big bonus as well because of the cooperating weather conditions.

Each year I try to give you an update on Soyland Power Cooperative's activities to give you a feel for what we can expect in the way of future power costs. All the agreements were signed in late December to restructure the Soyland debt once again. We felt it was absolutely necessary to restructure the debt so that our wholesale cost per kilowatt-hour wasn't any greater than we had been paying the past two or three years. We felt that it's imperative that the wholesale rate has to be maintained at a constant level in order for the distribution cooperative, such as EIEC, to even think about trying to stabilize our retail rates to our members.

The resulting restructuring did buy us some time and we can expect Soyland's wholesale rate to remain stable for the next few years. This is a major accomplishment. By stabilizing rates, we are to a point where we can hope to improve the retail rate structure.

Also significant was that Soyland changed its direction in how they bill the distribution cooperatives. In the past, Soyland has always billed based on two summer peak months and three winter peak months. That is what all our marketing programs have been designed to reflect since 1984. For 9 years, we were able to place some guarantees on some heating and cooling rates that helped our members considerably. With the change in direction, Soyland is looking only at summer demands now and they are not at all interested in keeping track of winter demands. This reflects the Soyland costs more than the old rate did so that is why it was felt that this change was necessary. The resultant is that the only peaks that we are concerned with are between June 15 and September 15. This has caused us to scramble somewhat because the Soyland rate change happened so quickly, but we wanted to initiate retail rates to our members that reflected this change. This summer, we put together a task force which consisted of the Executive Committee of the board and key staff members who work in the rate and marketing areas. We developed our new set of retail rates that will allow you more flexibility and more options than we were able to offer in our marketing programs before. Now with these new programs using the electric heat rate, for example, you can get down to 4 cent electricity for all uses during many months of the year. The other advantage of the new electric heat rate is that you don't have to have a backup system or a dual system installed. I felt like many of our members were prohibited from participating in the old marketing program because it required them to buy another heating system as a backup or go without the backup which was rather risky, especially if you were to have weather like we just had in January of 1994. This is a very competitive rate and it is very easy to qualify. These new retail rates that have been developed will certainly give opportunities to the members to have a choice in their energy use and in managing their energy dollars.

Another key accomplishment on a statewide basis this past year was the establishment of our own Illinois statewide workmen's compensation pool. Those of you who are involved in paying workmen's compensation for employees know that the state of Illinois has the highest workmen's compensation rates of virtually any state in the Midwest and is extremely high relative to states that surround Illinois. The telephone and electric cooperatives have pooled together to start their own workmen's compensation pool and will self insure for this potential loss in the future. We expect this to have a significant impact on our workmen's compensation premiums over the next few years.

During the year, we had three key retirements within the organization. Howard Schweighart, Manager of Operations, retired at the end of August after 45 years of service; Kenny Watkins, Manager of Engineering, retired as of December 31 after 40 years of experience, and Everett Swenson, Engineering Technician, retired on February 9, 1994, after 40 years of experience. With these retirements, we lost 125 years of experience at the cooperative. These folks will be sorely missed and we wish them well in their retirement.

I hope you will mark your calendar to come and visit with us on March 19. This meeting is to let you know more about your cooperative and to hear your input. We are here to provide you the best service that we possibly can and any suggestions you have in helping us do that are certainly well taken and welcome.



Manager's Report



Wm. David
Champion, Jr.

"We developed our new set of retail rates that will allow you more flexibility and more options than we were able to offer in our marketing programs before."



Candidates for board

Glenn R. Anderson, Kempton Directorate District 2



Glenn R. Anderson is Assistant Secretary of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. In 1984, he was elected to the Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative board and has served on the Eastern Illini board since consolidation. While a member of the EIPC board, he served as treasurer.

Anderson received the Professional Directors Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in 1989.

After 40 years of farming in the Kempton area, Anderson will be retiring this year. His wife, Esther, recently retired as guidance secretary from the Kankakee Area Career Center. The Andersons have four children: Ellen Dyke of

Ogden, Lisa Martin of Bourbonnais, Eric of Mendota, and Keith of Edwardsville. Glenn and Esther also have six grandchildren.

Anderson is presently serving as supervisor of Mona Township, is treasurer of Tri-Point School District and is president of Prairie View Lutheran Foundation. He is a past director of Tri-Point School District and Prairie View Nursing Home. Anderson is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church of Cullom and a member of the Ford-Iroquois Farm Bureau.

Robert D. Thompson, Paxton Directorate District 6



Robert D. Thompson currently serves as President of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. He was elected to the Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative board in 1978 and has served on the board of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative since consolidation. During his tenure, he has also held the offices of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and served as the cooperative's delegate and alternate at state and national meetings.

In 1989, he received the Professional Directors Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Bob and his wife, Janet, a retired registered nurse, live on a grain farm near Paxton where he has farmed for 36 years. They were both born and raised and went to school in Paxton. Bob and Janet have three daughters: Cindy Schaumburg a registered nurse who lives in Bloomington; Julie Edwards of Rantoul, who is a special education teacher; and Chris Bock of Streamwood who is a registered nurse. The Thompsons also have seven grandchildren.

A member of the Evangelical Covenant Church in Paxton, he has served as church chairman, treasurer, Sunday School superintendent and teacher. Thompson is a former member of the Soil Conservation Service Board.

Bradley J. Ludwig, Fithian Directorate District 8



Bradley J. Ludwig was first elected to the Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative board in March 1985 and has served on the Eastern Illini board since consolidation. He is an alternate director to the Soyland board.

In 1990, he was awarded the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Professional Directors Certification.

Brad lives near Collison in Vermilion County where he has resided all his life. He graduated from Armstrong High School and attended Danville Junior College for two years and the University of Illinois for one year. Brad married Sally Walder of Cissna Park in 1974. Brad and Sally operate a grain farm in the Collison area. The Ludwigs have four

daughters: Holly, Kelly, Courtney and Casey.

Ludwig is a member of the Muncie Baptist Church. He has served as a church trustee and on the Building Committee. He is a member of the Vermilion County



Bargain corner

You can purchase 130-volt, long-life, and energy-efficient light bulbs, at reduced prices at the "Bargain Corner."

State of Illinois Ethanol E-85 Car On Display

One of the State of Illinois E-85 Chevrolet Lumina cars will be on display. The cars are designated "E-85" because they use a blend of 85 percent, denatured, 200-proof ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.

Illinois produces more than half the nation's ethanol. About 17 percent of the state's annual corn crop is used for the fuel production. Ethanol sales add \$600 million to the gross state product. As part of the Clean Air Act, ethanol will be blended with gasoline in at least half of the cities required to use cleaner burning auto fuels by 1995.

of directors

Farm Bureau and Illinois Farmers Union and has served as a delegate to the IFU state convention. Ludwig has served as an ASC committeeman in Vermilion County. From 1985-1988, he served on the Armstrong-Ellis school board.

Robert W. Bauer, Cissna Park

Directorate District 9



In 1983, Robert W. Bauer was elected to the Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative board of directors and since consolidation has been a director of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.

Bob and his wife, the former Sonnie Hofer of Cissna Park, were born and raised in the Cissna Park area. Bauer began his grain farming operation in 1959. Sonnie formerly owned the Cissna Park Flower Shop and is still employed there.

The Bauers have four children: Deborah Orsinger of Roanoke, Virginia, is a homemaker; Doug of Cissna Park is employed at the University of Illinois; Eric is at home; and Dan lives in Cissna Park and farms with his father. Bob

and Sonnie also have eight grandchildren.

Bauer is a member of the Christian Bible Church at Cissna Park. He has been a member of the church board and also served as secretary. In addition, he has served on the board of the Cissna Park Cooperative Grain Company and is a member of the Ford-Iroquois Farm Bureau.

Herbert L. Aden, Newman

Directorate District 13



Herbert L. Aden is the treasurer of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. In 1979, he became a director of Illini Electric Cooperative and since consolidation has been a director of Eastern Illini. He has also held the positions of secretary and vice president and has been a delegate for the state meeting. In 1991, he received the Professional Directors Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Aden has been a cash grain farmer near Newman since 1979. Born and raised in the St. Joseph-Royal area, he graduated from Ogden Community High School and received a BS in Agriculture from the University of Illinois.

In 1967, he was drafted in the U.S. Army and served two years, one year in Vietnam. After his discharge in 1969, he was employed by Standard Oil for one year. For 8½ years, he was assistant manager and manager of the Villa Grove Farmers Elevator Co.

Aden's wife, the former Nancy Schweineke, grew up in the Newman area. She teaches business education at Villa Grove Community High School. Herb and Nancy have four daughters: Mindy, 20, is a sophomore at Parkland College; Tiffany, 16, is a junior; and Casey, 15, is a sophomore at Heritage High School; and Lindy, 11, is a fifth grader at Carrie Busey in Champaign.

A member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church at Broadlands, he has served as vice president of the congregation and has served on the board of Christian Education. Aden is also a member of the Illinois Gladiolus Society and University of Illinois Alumni Association. He is treasurer of the F&W Flyers, Inc. and Trustee of the Newman Fire Protection District. Aden has served as a leader of the Corner 4-H Club at Broadlands for six years and has served on the Champaign County 4-H Youth Council. During the summer, Aden coaches the ABL girls junior softball team.



Pedal power

Young and old will have fun pedaling the exercise bike and learning the value of a kilowatt-hour of electricity. A 12-volt alternator can be rotated to generate electricity and light ten 25-watt bulbs.

Cordless Electric Lawnmower

A cordless electric lawnmower will be on display. There is no gas to store or mix, no noxious fumes, and no cords to struggle with. It's rugged, lightweight, quiet, rust free and makes mowing and maintenance easy.

Live Line Safety Demonstration

Don't miss the Live Line Safety Demonstration at noon in the gymnasium. You can see what happens when a tree limb, wet kite string and mylar balloon comes in contact with an electric line.



Children's ID Program

Bring your children to the meeting and have their ID records established. The Paxton Police Department will be on hand to take fingerprints and photos of your children and set up their ID records.

The Other Guys

The Other Guys is a comedy octet which was formed at the University of Illinois in 1969. The eight men who make up the group are traditionally chosen from the ranks of the Illinois Varsity Men's Glee Club, one of the finest collegiate men's choruses in the nation.

Members of The Other Guys select their own repertoire, arrange their own music and develop their own unique choreography. They have performed for alumni groups, fraternities, sororities, conventions and general audiences in cities all across the United States, as well as in Paris, Venice and Rome.

Music from the 50s, pop tunes, parodies, and traditional campus songs are all part of the lively show.



Nominating Committee, from left: John W. Clark, Rossville, District 10; Lavon D. Blasey, Clifton, District 3; David Burklund, Paxton, District 6; Shirley Schoolman, Gilman, District 5; Loren W. Schable, Atwood, District 11; Richard D. LaFond, Donovan, District 4; John Wilkening, Cissna Park, District 9; James W. Young, Newman, District 13; Eugene Kamradt, Tolono, District 12; Richard Haag, Cullom District 2; Dan Eyer, Anchor, District 1; Larry Knox, Dewey, District 7.

1993 Nominating Committee

On November 1, 1993, the nominating committee met at the office of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.

The committee nominated candidates for election to five EIEC directorships: Glenn R. Anderson, Kempton, for Directorate District 2; Robert D. Thompson, Paxton, for Directorate District 6; Bradley J. Ludwig, Fithian, for Directorate District 8; Robert W. Bauer, Cissna Park, for Directorate District 9; and Herbert L. Aden, Newman, for Directorate District 13.

In addition, the committee nominated two candidates in Directorate Districts 1, 5, 10 and 12 for the nominating committee election.

Sample Ballot Election of Directors

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative
March 19, 1994 — Paxton, Illinois

For Director from
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 2
(3-Year Term)

(Vote for one)

- Glenn R. Anderson, Kempton

For Director from
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 6
(3-Year Term)

(Vote for one)

- Robert D. Thompson, Paxton

For Director from
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 8
(3-Year Term)

(Vote for one)

- Bradley J. Ludwig, Fithain

For Director from
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 9
(3-Year Term)

(Vote for one)

- Robert W. Bauer, Cissna Park

For Director from
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 13
(3-Year Term)

(Vote for one)

- Herbert L. Aden, Newman



Results of Nominating Committee election

On December 17, 1993, tellers from Directorate Districts 1, 5, 10 and 12 met at the cooperative's headquarters to count nominating committee ballots that had been mailed to members in those districts on December 2, 1993. The cooperative's attorney French L. Fraker supervised the tellers.

Tellers were John H. Hester of Saybrook and Tom Klintworth of Saybrook, District 1; Donald Ikins of Onarga and Roger R. Ebert of Onarga, District 5; Arthur G. Huffman of Bismarck and Jean Stewart of Rossville, District 10; and John E. Pflum of Tuscola and Larry W. Dallas of Tuscola, District 11.

From the 3,295 ballots that were mailed to members, 975 ballots were returned or 30 percent.

Elected to serve three-year terms on the nominating committee were:

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
District 1	Dan Eyer Anchor	Paul Ummel Saybrook
District 5	Shirley Schoolman Gilman	Gary L. Perkinson Onarga
District 10	Jerry C. Douglass Rossville	Melvin Hambleton Rankin
District 12	Eugene Kamradt Tolono	Eugene Bialeschki Sadorus



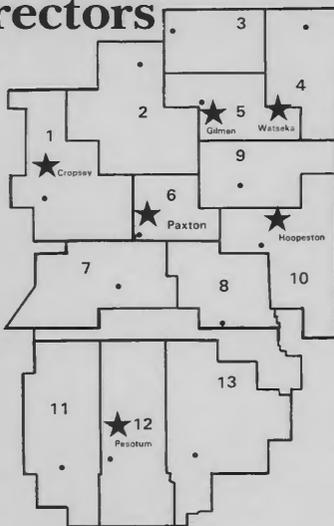
Child Care Provided

For all children ages two and older, child care will be provided from 12:45 p.m. to the end of the business meeting.

LaFonda Evers, Librarian for the Paxton Carnegie Library, will provide a story hour. Other activities will also keep the children entertained.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

William P Raber Saybrook District 1	Bradley J. Ludwig Fithian District 8
Glenn R. Anderson <i>(Assistant Secretary)</i> Kempton District 2	Robert W. Bauer Cissna Park District 9
Gene P. Warmbir Clifton District 3	Marion Chesnut <i>(Secretary)</i> Rossville District 10
Harold M. Loy Beaverville District 4	Charles D. Day, Jr. Bement District 11
Donald Reitz Gilman District 5	Laverl Byers <i>(Vice President)</i> Tuscola District 12
Robert D. Thompson <i>(President)</i> Paxton District 6	Herbert L. Aden <i>(Treasurer)</i> Newman District 13
L. Dean Ward Champaign District 7	French L. Fraker <i>(Attorney)</i> Champaign



★ Location of cooperative facility

Free Blood Pressure Checks \$5 Diabetes Screening \$5 Cholesterol Checks

You can have the Ford-Iroquois Health Department check your blood pressure free of charge.

They will also do diabetes screening and cholesterol checks for a charge of \$5 each.

If you plan to take advantage of the diabetes screening, do it before you eat lunch.

Minutes of Sixth Annual Meeting of Members

March 13, 1993

The Sixth Annual Meeting of Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held in the Gymnasium of the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, 700 West Orleans, Paxton, Illinois on Saturday, March 13, 1993 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Robert D. Thompson who presided and acted as Chairman. Marion Chesnut, Secretary of the Cooperative, acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

The Chairman announced that the Credentials Committee, consisting of the registration staff, had informed him that there were 342 members present in person and 12 members present by proxy. Therefore, the attendance in person and by proxy being in excess of 200 members, as required by the Bylaws, the Chairman announced that a quorum was in attendance and he declared the meeting duly constituted to transact business. All proxies were ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative. A list of members present in person and by proxy, as reported by the Credentials Committee, is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Presentation of Colors

The presentation of the colors was conducted by Pack 35 of the Paxton Boy Scouts of America and was followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the membership and the singing of the National Anthem.

Invocation

The invocation was delivered by the Reverend David Lewis, Pastor of the Grace Bible Church, Cissna Park, Illinois.

Notice of meeting

Secretary Marion Chesnut read the official notice of the meeting and the proof of mailing of said notice. The Chairman directed the Secretary to annex to the minutes of this meeting a copy of said notice together with the affidavit of mailing thereof.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the Fifth Annual Meeting of Members held March 14, 1992, as printed in the official annual meeting notice and brochure, were presented for consideration. It was moved that the rules be suspended, that the reading of the minutes of the 1992 Annual Meeting of Members be waived and that said minutes be approved as printed in the official annual meeting notice and brochure. This motion was seconded and was unanimously carried.

Report of treasurer

Herbert L. Aden, Treasurer of the Cooperative, presented the annual financial reports for the calendar year 1992. He directed the members' attention to the financial reports as printed in the official notice of the meeting, including the Statement of Receipts and Expenses which included the following information:

Total Receipts	\$19,972,364
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$19,775,119
Operating Margins	\$197,245
Interest and Other Non-Operating Revenues	\$227,834
Total Margins	\$425,079

Mr. Aden noted that these figures represent a substantial improvement over the 1991 financial reports when the Cooperative sustained an operating loss because of ice storm damage and other reasons.

Mr. Aden also supplied information concerning the

balance sheet as of December 31, 1992 as follows:

Total Assets	\$42,139,124
Total Liabilities	\$27,602,699
Total Equity (Net Worth)	\$14,536,425

At the conclusion of the Treasurer's report, Member Raymond Ault moved that the financial reports for the year 1992 be approved as presented. His motion was seconded by Member L. Anderson and was unanimously carried.

Introduction of directors and guests

President Thompson introduced the members of the Board of Directors and their wives. Vice President Lavel Byers then introduced special guests attending the meeting.

Report from essay contest winner

Director Glenn Anderson introduced Darin Bohlmann of Milford who was awarded first place in the Cooperative's Youth-to-Washington Essay Contest. He received an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. and a \$200 savings bond. Darin Bohlmann addressed the meeting recounting his experiences on this trip. He reported a very interesting and informative trip on which many new friends were made. He described the sites viewed by the participants and their meetings with several political representatives while in Washington. Darin closed by urging other high school students to participate in the essay contest.

Heritage High School Jazz Band and Chorus

The Chairman introduced the members of the Heritage High School Jazz Band and Chorus. This talented group directed by Karen Taylor participated in the Illinois State Sweepstakes (Class D) and placed fourth or better for the last four years. Their presentation was well received by an appreciative audience.

Recognition of retiring manager of operations

The Chairman announced that Howard Schweighart, Manager of Operations, will be retiring at the end of August. Mr. Schweighart has been employed by Illini Electric and Eastern Illini Electric Cooperatives for 45 years. The Chairman, in recognizing his contributions to the Cooperative's success, praised his very competent services and his dedication to the Cooperative and the cause of rural electrification.

Report of president and general manager

President Thompson and General Manager Champion presented, by means of a video tape, a joint report on the condition of the Cooperative, its current operations and future plans. Their report included detailed discussion of activities during the last year. It was noted that the Cooperative had regained some of its equity lost by reason of the 1991 ice storm. Mr. Champion discussed the Cooperative's new long range plan and the changes involved in it. He also reviewed cost cutting techniques being employed by the Cooperative and discussed technological improvements being produced by the Cooperative's subsidiary, Unlimited Visions. The Cooperative has purchased three towers near Watseka, Paxton and Fisher in an effort to complete the communications system. It appears that there will be no rate increase next year except for the rate phase-in plans mandated by the Consolidation Plan. In conclusion, President Thompson and General Manager Champion praised the employees of the Cooperative for their dedication and loyalty and the excellent service which they provide.

Report of nominating committee

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Kenneth J. Hieser, Chairman of that Committee from District 7. He reported that the Nominating Committee had nominated the following candidates for four directorships:

District	Candidates
1	William P. Raber
5	Donald Reitz
10	Marion Chesnut
12	Laverl Byers

Mr. Hieser also reported that the election of members of the Nominating Committee had been conducted by mail. The results of this election were canvassed on December 18, 1992 with the following results:

District	Member	Alternate
3	Lavon C. Blasey Clifton	Rachele Lemenager Clifton
4	Richard D. LaFond Donovan	Edward L. Gooding Sheldon
7	Larry Knox Dewey	Wayne F. Apperson Fosland
11	Loren W. Schable Atwood	Glen Stumeier Tuscola

Election of directors

At the request of the Chairman, the election of Directors was conducted by Mr. Fraker, attorney for the Cooperative. Mr. Fraker presented the names of the candidates as nominated by the Nominating Committee. He then advised the membership that the Cooperative's Bylaws provide that if no more than one candidate has been nominated for each Director to be elected so that there is no contest for any directorship up for election, then the election of Directors may be held by voice vote if a majority of the members shall so determine. After additional discussion, on motion duly made, seconded by Member Albert Theesfeld and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS no more than one candidate has been nominated for each Director to be elected at this meeting so that there is no contest for any Directorship up for election, and

WHEREAS the Bylaws of this Cooperative provide that, in such event, the election of Directors may be by voice vote if a majority of the members present in person or proxy at this meeting shall so determine;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the election of Directors by written ballot be waived and that said election shall be by voice vote;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all of those Directors nominated by the Nominating Committee shall be and the same are hereby declared to be duly elected to the Board of Directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative to hold office for a term of three years until the 1996 Annual Meeting of Members or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

The names of the Directors so elected are as follows:

Name	District
William P. Raber	District 1
Donald Reitz	District 5
Marion Chesnut	District 10
Laverl Byers	District 12

The Chairman thereupon announced that the following persons have been duly elected as Directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, each for a term of three years or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Name	District
William P. Raber	District 1
Donald Reitz	District 5
Marion Chesnut	District 10
Laverl Byers	District 12

Old and new business

The Chairman then called for the presentation of any old business but, none being presented, he then called for any new business. None was presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Drawing for prizes

A drawing for prizes was conducted immediately following the adjournment of the meeting.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman



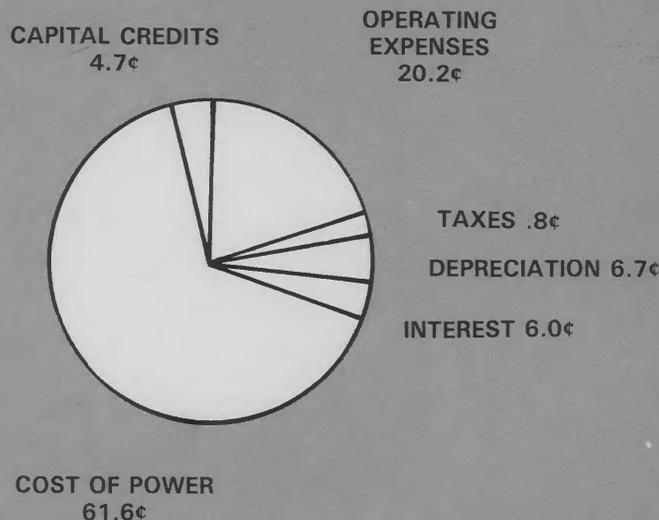
Treasurer's Report



Herbert L. Aden

The enclosed financial information represents the cooperative's operation for the full calendar year 1993. These reports were taken directly from the cooperative's books and records which are currently being audited by the auditing firm of R.L. Quint, Certified Public Accountants, Mission, Kansas. You may wonder at times why we use an auditing firm from Kansas rather than someone that is local. The board puts the audit out to be bid on two-year intervals. R.L. Quint has been the successful bidder in recent years. The Rural Electrification Administration defines the scope of the audit in addition to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' requirements. The audit of the REA Uniform System of Accounts has become very specialized and not all auditing firms are geared up for this type of audit. We feel that we receive very good quality bids from experienced and qualified firms; however, most of the firms that specialize in these audits are from outside our service area.

Where your electric dollar went in 1993



Interesting information about your cooperative's progress and what it means to local business

	1993	1992
Total value of electric plant	\$48,682,700	\$46,893,108
Total miles of distribution lines	4,485	4,484
Average plant investment per mile	\$10,855	\$10,458
Average number of consumers served	12,682	12,581
Average number of consumers per mile of line	2.82	2.81
Average plant investment per consumer served	\$3,839	\$3,727
Total cost of purchased power	\$12,776,961	\$12,876,093
Maximum monthly KW demand	49,352.8	52,508.3
Total KWH purchased by cooperative	199,987,248	194,655,403
Total KWH purchased by members	184,120,468	174,432,526
Average KWH used per month per member	1,210	1,155
Total operating revenue	\$20,755,770	\$19,972,364
Average monthly electric bill per member	\$135	\$132
Average monthly revenue per mile of line	\$386	\$371
Average ownership equity per member	\$1,238	\$1,155
Total taxes paid	\$997,893	\$910,220
Number of Co-Op owned vehicles	50	50
Miles traveled by Co-Op vehicles	621,882	604,195
Total transportation costs	\$332,800	\$324,405
Average cost per mile traveled by Co-Op vehicles	53.51¢	53.69¢

Members financial report

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993, WHAT WE OWN (ASSETS):

Total cost of our system is	\$48,682,700	
We estimate it has depreciated	<u>12,336,709</u>	
The net value of our system is		\$36,345,991
We have cash on hand and in banks amounting to		107,870
We have funds invested in short-term securities		2,032,408
We have invested in CFC and associated organizations		3,696,057
We have owing us for electric service furnished to members		1,922,539
We have owing us for materials sold or other services rendered		43,897
We have owing us for interest on invested funds		20,106
The value of our stock of materials and supplies amounts to		754,269
Our prepaid expenses; deferred charges and miscellaneous assets amount to		<u>358,657</u>
TOTAL OWNED		<u>\$45,281,794</u>

WHAT WE OWE (LIABILITIES):

We borrowed from REA and CFC	\$41,296,102	
We have paid back	<u>13,752,027</u>	
We still owe REA and CFC		\$27,544,075
We owe for power, materials, taxes and interest		1,521,668
Customer's deposits paid		190,033
Deferred credits and miscellaneous liabilities amount to		<u>330,506</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>\$29,586,282</u>

OUR EQUITY (NET WORTH):

Membership fees and other capital	\$ 111,670	
Patronage capital and operating margins	15,379,683	
Non-operating margins	<u>204,159</u>	
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>15,695,512</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH		<u>\$45,281,794</u>

Statement of receipts and expenses

OUR RECEIPTS:

We sold electric service amounting to		\$20,556,998
Other receipts amounted to		<u>198,772</u>
Total receipts for the year		\$20,755,770

OTHER EXPENSES:

Electric power cost us	\$12,776,961	
Operations and maintenance expenses	1,848,879	
Consumer accounting and collecting expenses	414,691	
Customer assistance expenses	303,155	
General office salaries and expenses	545,082	
Legal engineering and auditing services	42,278	
Insurance expenses	165,083	
Administrative and general expenses	876,069	
We estimate our system depreciated (this year)	1,387,712	
Our taxes were	167,147	
Our interest to REA and CFC was	<u>1,245,013</u>	
Our total cost of electric service was		<u>\$19,772,070</u>
Operating margins for the year were		\$983,700
Interest and other non-operating revenues were		<u>236,667</u>
Total margins for the year were		<u>\$ 1,220,367</u>

Operating statistics

	1993	1992	1991
Cost of purchased power	\$12,776,961	\$12,876,093	\$12,223,427
Total KWH purchased	199,987,248	194,655,403	189,381,916
Total KWH sold	184,120,468	174,432,526	172,625,704
Ave. no. consumers served	12,682	12,581	12,555
Average KWH usage per month per consumer	1,210	1,155	1,146
Average cost per KWH to consumers	11.2729¢	11.4499¢	10.7116¢

Long-term obligation to REA and CFC

	REA	CFC	Total
Total loans approved	\$34,967,000	\$6,329,102	\$41,296,102
Total funds advanced	\$34,967,000	\$6,329,102	\$41,296,102
Accrued-deferred interest	—	—	—
Total obligation	\$34,967,000	\$6,329,102	\$41,296,102
Payments made on principal when due	\$13,119,032	\$632,994	\$13,752,026
Payments made on principal in advance	—	—	—
Total payments	\$13,119,032	\$632,994	\$13,752,026
Net obligation	\$21,847,968	\$5,696,108	\$27,544,076
Total interest paid to date	\$12,787,104	\$5,303,267	\$18,090,371

Board meeting report



The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors held its regular board meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton on January 25, 1994.

Minutes of the December 21, 1993, regular board meeting and executive session were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending December 31, 1993, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,852,818, Total Operating Expenses \$1,605,337, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,844,638, Operating Margins \$8,182, Total Margins (\$23,270) and Year-To-Date Margins \$1,220,367.

In December, 77 members joined the cooperative and 77 terminated their memberships.

Manager Champion updated the board on legal activities. He also reported that the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group had held its first annual meeting on January 19, 1994, at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. Brandon Jackson, EIEC Manager of Financial Services, was elected to serve a one-year term on the ICWCG board of directors. The EIEC board was provided with residential rate comparisons for Illinois electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities. Manager Champion advised that the employee cafeteria plan has saved the cooperative \$2,913.53 in 1993 and additional savings of \$4,190.91 will be realized in 1994. He also provided the board with a written job training and safety report for January.

The Audit and Finance Committee will meet on February 17 at 8:30 a.m. at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

The board went into executive session.

In other action, the board approved a new organization chart, reviewed bid proposals and approved purchasing four trucks and four vans from Rieger Motors, Forrest, (the vans will be purchased as needed for Skyvision) and selected director Warmbir and manager Champion as the Soyland Power Cooperative directors and director Ludwig as the alternate director.

A report of the January 20 AIEC board of directors meeting was given by director Chesnut. Reports were given on the 1st annual meeting of the ICWCG held on January 19, the establishment of the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Fund, preliminary plans for the 1994 Youth Tour, activities of the Energy, Environment and Engineering Department, legislative developments and that the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference would be held in Washington, D.C., May 1-4.

Director Warmbir indicated that the Soyland Power Cooperative board of directors had met January 19. Soyland's annual meeting will be held March 16 in Peoria. A facilitator was selected for Soyland's strategic planning session. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave the Clinton Power Station high marks on its recent refueling. Manager Champion indicated that EIEC had received 26 of the System:GT \$500 rebates. A detailed written report of the meeting was provided by manager Champion.

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

Proxy

1994 Annual Meeting Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

As a member of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, an Illinois Corporation, I, the undersigned, hereby appoint:

_____ my proxy to vote in my stead at the 1994 Annual Meeting of Members to be held at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, Paxton, Illinois, on March 19, 1994. This proxy is unlimited as to matters on which it may be voted.

(Please print name and address)

Date _____

(Signature of Member Giving Proxy)

Under the Bylaws, no member may vote as a proxy for more than three members and the presence of a member at the meeting revokes a proxy heretofore given.

Meet Dale Kuhn

Dale Kuhn has been hired as the Manager of Marketing and Member Services at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.

Dale brings to the cooperative several years of utility experience in various areas including customer service, marketing and economic development. Recently, he went back to the University of Illinois, Champaign, and completed his Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) with areas of concentration in marketing and finance.

Dale will be working directly with members to assist them with their energy needs.

"If you have questions about The Affordable Five rate options," Dale says, "please call or stop by the office, and we will help you decide which rate best suits your lifestyle. We welcome your other questions, too. We may not always have the answer, but we will do our best to find it for you."

"These new affordable and competitive rates were designed to promote the off-peak use of electricity and give you the opportunity to use electricity as your main energy source," he adds. "Taking advantage of the new rates is very important. The more we can increase off-peak kilowatt-hour sales, the more we can spread our fixed costs and ensure rate stability."

He notes that Soyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, is again offering the \$500 rebate for installing geothermal heating, cooling and water heating systems in 1994, and he encourages members to take advantage of the offer.



Dale Kuhn
Manager of Marketing and Member Services

"We are committed to providing you with outstanding service and will go the extra mile." Dale says.

Dale and his wife, Patty, currently live in Urbana with their two daughters, Andrea, 3, and Alison, 6 months. In the future, they plan to move to Paxton.



The Thompsons built an impressive home from their two barns.

Two old barns become one fine new house

When Leif and Brenda Thompson recycled their barns, they did it up right! Brenda, who's from North Carolina, and Leif, who's from Wyoming, met in college in North Carolina. After a stint at Texas Tech, where Leif was a professor, they moved to Illinois, near Philo, to take a job at the University of Illinois.

"In much of Illinois," Brenda recalls, "we noticed a lot of gambrel-roofed barns. We thought they looked really nice and often talked about how nice it'd be to live in one."

But they realized they couldn't live in a barn without extensive modifications. Brenda says, "We didn't think it'd be possible to just convert an existing barn and be able to heat and cool it affordably."

Since there was no existing

barn, they decided to buy one, relocate it, and build a house from the salvaged materials. As they drove around the countryside, they explored the possibility of buying a barn. "We saw lots of them," Brenda says, "but none we could persuade anyone to part with."

But they started planning. Leif made cardboard models of houses they'd like to build out of such a barn, when they eventually found one. After several years of looking, asking, hoping and model making, they found a woman who'd sell them a barn, and they set out to move the hayloft to the place they'd bought earlier: a three-mile move.

And there was another barn, too. "My family had an old tobacco barn back in North Carolina built by my father and

grandfather," Brenda says, "and we decided to use some lumber from it. We went down and Leif started working on it. It was rough-cut pine, but it was good lumber. The barn was over 60 years old, and I had a real sentimental attachment to it."

They had the lumber tongue-and-grooved and planed there, and Brenda approached a distant relative who owned a trucking firm. "He had trucks that came this way occasionally," she relates, "and I asked him if he could bring our lumber up some time when he had room on a truck, and he did."

"We decided to see if there was enough to do the ceiling. We hoped there would be, and started putting it there, after I stained it. We didn't really do any of the actual building: I just got the wood ready for the



builders to use. It turned out that it worked out beautifully.”

Brenda notes that it took longer to build the house than they had expected, but that planning had otherwise been about right. They built a big fireplace that’s the centerpiece of the house, and left the living room open clear up to the roof — except for a spacious loft above the entryway. The Thompsons proudly display Brenda’s grandfather’s scythe and sickle over their fireplace. An unusual addition is a barbecue pit they built in the kitchen. It resembles a tiny fireplace and has its own flue. “We built it because we like to barbecue,” Brenda says, “and we wanted to be able to when we couldn’t go outside.”

Leif added another touch of his own to the kitchen. While looking through magazines, they saw a trestle table they liked and decided to build one. He made it out of an old desk.

Before the workers had even finished, Brenda was busy with furnishings. “I had a dresser that belonged to my great-grandfather,” she says, “and I refinished it. My grandmother had a spinning wheel that I refinished, and there was an old oak Bible table that I redid. They all have sentimental value to me, and I’d actually started refinishing old furniture when I was still in high school. We keep

many of our antiques in the loft, which we jokingly call our museum. We keep a few things from the tobacco farm there, because I have fond memories of them.”

There is no doubt that Leif and Brenda and their daughters, Sasha and Allie, live in an unusual house, and Brenda says it’s great. “Nobody believes it when we tell them we live in an old barn,” she chuckles, “and both our families came to see the place and fell in love with it. Ideally, we’d have left it more like a real barn, but we didn’t think you could do that and live in it during Illinois winters.

“Anyway, we’re delighted with it. Unusual things fascinate us, and the house has more meaning for us than if we’d gone out and bought a 2,000-square-foot tract home or if we’d had one built from a set of plans. We’re still trying to figure out if we saved any money by salvaging lumber.”

She remarks that the house presented some difficulties because of its unique nature. “I tell people I wouldn’t build another one, but I’m not sure. I don’t think I’d build another one with so many angles and peculiarities, though.

“Even so,” she concludes, “now that it’s built, we’re very glad we did it.”



Clockwise from left, Leif and Brenda Thompson show their home scrapbook to Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC manager. Brenda gives an idea of the height of the ceiling and the size of the fireplace. The loft/museum is over the entryway.

Board meeting report



The regular meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held February 22, 1994, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the January 25, 1994, regular board meeting and executive session were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending January 31, 1994, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,802,222, Total Operating Expenses \$1,627,612, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,866,128, Operating Margins (\$63,906), Total Margins (\$45,631).

During January, 63 members joined the cooperative and 71 terminated their memberships.

A report of the February 17 Audit and Finance Committee was given by director Ludwig in the absence of Harold Loy, chairman of the committee. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, the committee examined the accounts of the cooperative and reviewed expense statements, cash receipts, disbursements and supporting data. All records were found to be in order. The board approved the report.

Manager Champion advised the board that cooperative personnel will be meeting with CILCO representatives to continue working on a service area agreement. The board was also furnished with the following information: REA Financial and Statistical Report, annual meeting opinion survey for the March 19 annual meeting, update on a large power account that has ceased operating, details of an EPA complaint, summary of work completed in 1993, summary of grain drying load added in 1993, an electronics problem in the Pesotum area, environmental study expenses for the Hoopeston warehouse, and a patronage refund check in the amount of \$15.21 has been received from the McLean County Service Company in Bloomington.

According to manager Champion, the Rate Task Force met on February 17 to discuss the time-of-day and interruptible large power rates and to determine demand side management goals. It was the Rate Task Force's recommendation to amend

the interruptible large power service rate to eliminate the 125 KVA requirement. The board approved their recommendation.

In other action, the board approved purchasing property and liability insurance from Federated Insurance Company, entering into an interruptible three-phase contract with MEIOCO in Ashkum, and contributing to the Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship fund. In addition, a follow up request by the Village of Rantoul to share right-of-way was denied and Regulation No. 21 was amended to reflect current material and labor costs.

Director Warmbir reported on the February 1 safety meeting that he had attended. A written February job training and safety activities report was provided by manager Champion.

Directors Chesnut, Day, Reitz and Warmbir, attorney Fraker and manager Champion summarized the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting that they had attended in New Orleans on February 6-9.

Director Raber indicated that he had attended NRECA Course 510.2 — "Understanding Electric Utility Operations" on February 14-15 at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.

Highlights of the AIEC board of directors meeting held on February 17 was given by director Chesnut. Financial reports were reviewed and the NRECA annual meeting was evaluated. Reports were given on current litigation, legislative and regulatory activities, the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group.

A report of the February 16 Soyland Power Cooperative board of directors meeting was given by director Warmbir. Alternate director Ludwig and manager Champion also attended. Financial, Clinton Power Plant, marketing and economic development, power supply and committee reports were given. Manager Champion provided a detailed written report of the meeting.

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

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Manager Wm. David Champion, Jr. left, congratulates the five directors who were re-elected to the board of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative during the utility's annual meeting of members. The event took place Saturday, March 19, at Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, Paxton. Re-elected by member-owners in attendance were, from left, Bradley J. Ludwig of Fithian, Robert D. Thompson of Paxton, Glenn R. Anderson of Kempton, Herbert L. Aden of Newman, and Robert W. Bauer of Cissna Park.

Stable rates projected

Rates for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members should remain stable — reflecting the cost of utility's power supply and completion of the consolidation that created the cooperative. Some 800 members and guests heard status reports on the not-for-profit cooperative during its annual meeting of members on Saturday, March 19, at Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, Paxton.

Robert D. Thompson of rural Paxton, president of EIEC's board of directors, told the crowd that in 1993 the cooperative

combined the two different rates for the northern and southern regions of the service territory. The combination of the two rates, which stems from the 1987 consolidation of Illini Electric Cooperative and Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, was accomplished a year ahead of schedule.

"There is now just one rate schedule for all members, which will create savings in terms of time, paperwork and all the other expense of issuing electric bills," Thompson said. "We can now look ahead without

worrying about having a different rate structure for different people."

A major factor in future stable rates for EIEC members is the restructured debt of Eastern Illini's wholesale power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative. The debt-restructuring agreement between Soyland and its lenders, the Rural Electrification Administration and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, was signed in December 1993.

To better serve the members



Clockwise from top of page: Live electric lines make the Live Line Safety Demonstration very effective. A member takes advantage of the health screening services that were available. Members shop at the Bargain Table.

once they were under one rate structure, EIEC developed a package of five rate programs to meet consumers' various needs. "The Affordable Five," Thompson said, includes a single-phase interruptible rate, a

summer-winter rate, an electric heat rate, and special rates for members who allow EIEC to briefly interrupt their electric water heater or central air conditioner.

Thompson explained that this

rate structure "can fit the needs of more people and at the same time save members money and increase kilowatt-hour sales."

Manager Wm. David Champion, Jr., further commented on Eastern Illini's electric sales.



Clockwise from below: Interested members learn about the cooperative's television services. The Paxton Police Department operated a children's fingerprint ID booth. The University of Illinois comedy octet The Other Guys performed.



"1993 was a very good year for us in terms of weather. The very cold conditions early in the year weren't good for people, but they sure were good for sales. Then, after the warm, wet summer came the grain drying season, which helped us end the year with very good margins."

Though the cooperative avoided ice storms that had damaged its system in recent years, Champion said that thunderstorms and rain slowed down the planned repairs and replacement of lines. Eastern Illini has set a goal of replacing 100 miles of old power lines each year.

"We're attacking the worst lines first and trying to reduce the number of outages. This is

really helping out because, considering the storms we had last year, we would have had many more outages without our line replacement program."

Also during the meeting, members re-elected five directors to the EIEC board. Elected to three-year terms were Glenn R. Anderson of Kempton, Robert D. Thompson of Paxton, Bradley J. Ludwig of Fithian, Robert W. Bauer of Cissna Park, and Herbert L. Aden of Newman.

The board reorganized following the meeting. New officers are Laverl Byers of Tuscola, president; Marion Chesnut of Rossville, vice president; Herbert Aden, treasurer; Glenn Anderson, secretary; Donald

Reitz of Gilman, assistant secretary.

Among the attractions at this year's annual meeting was one of the State of Illinois E 85 Chevrolet Lumina cars, which use a blend of 85 percent denatured 200-proof ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.

A Live Line Safety Demonstration used live electrical equipment to dramatize the power and potential hazard of improper electric use.

Two members of the cooperative won the grand prizes during the meeting. Erwin Ehmen of Thomasboro won an electric water heater, and Herman Bauer of Hoopston won a \$75 credit.

Board meeting report



On March 22, the regular meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the February 22, 1994, regular board meeting were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending February 28, 1994, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,921,712, Total Operating Expenses \$1,511,841, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,739,801, Operating Margins \$181,911, Total Margins \$202,503 and Year-To-Date Margins \$156,872.

During the month of February, 69 members joined the cooperative and 64 terminated their memberships.

President Byers furnished the board with a copy of new committee assignments. He announced that the Rate Task Force would meet following the board meeting and the Land Use and Facilities Committee would meet April 5.

Dale Kuhn, Manager of Marketing and Member Services, reported on the activities of his department. During the annual meeting, the department had the opportunity to discuss and promote marketing programs with members. Their main focus is to build winter load and shave summer peak to stabilize members' electrical costs. Kuhn indicated that water heater sales have been brisk and the department has been very busy inspecting electric heat installations and installing water heater and air conditioning switches.

Manager Champion indicated that the cooperative and CILCO are continuing to work on a service area agreement. The board was furnished with a copy of the 1993 audit report which was prepared by R.L. Quint, CPA, Mission, Kansas. The audit report will be considered at the April board meeting. In addition, manager Champion provided the following information: the cooperative received 102 essays and the essay contest will be held April 11 at Lakeview Country Club, Loda; CMS Cleaning Service of Rantoul has been awarded the cleaning contract for the cooperative's headquarters; and a company is interested in renting space on the Paxton tower.

According to manager Champion, the cooperative sustained around \$60,000 in damages due to recent storms. The first storm began on the evening of February 22 when the area south of Champaign began receiving heavy ice. Everyone was back in service by February 23; however, the ice stayed on the lines. When the blizzard hit on February 25, our crews fought the storm all day. Because of zero visibility in the rural

areas that evening, our crews were brought in and they resumed restoring service the next morning at 4:40 a.m. By mid afternoon on February 26, the restoration of service had been completed.

In other action, the board approved hiring R.L. Quint to perform the 1994 audit, purchasing a Chevrolet Caprice from Shields Auto Mart in Paxton, accepting a settlement offer from Nationwide Insurance Company to settle the EPA Arkansas claim, obtaining additional funds for the Energy Resources Conservation (ERC) Loan Program and entering into a three-phase contract with Wm. C. Schable of Atwood.

Director Reitz reported on the March 10 all employees and safety meetings that he attended. A written report of job training and safety activities was provided by manager Champion.

The board reviewed the cooperative's March 19 annual meeting. Manager Champion provided statistics and other information. Questionnaires completed by members at the meeting contained many positive comments. The board reiterated that in their opinion it was a very good meeting.

Highlights of the 1994 NRECA Director's Conference held March 12-15 in Orlando, Florida, were given by directors Anderson, Chesnut, Day, Loy, Ludwig and Reitz.

Director Chesnut summarized the March 17 meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' board of directors. The AIEC board approved the implementation of new personnel policies and continuing its sponsorship and support of the Illinois Farm Electrification Council. The board was advised that \$32,500 has been received from Federated Insurance Company for their loss control program and the Illinois Electric Cooperative Federal Credit Union has over \$6 million in assets.

Director Warmbir and manager Champion reported on the Soyland Power Cooperative annual meeting held March 16 in Peoria and the SPC board of directors meeting held that same day. The 1993 audit performed by Deloitte & Touche was discussed and plans for the Strategic Planning process were reviewed. Applied Energy, Soyland's subsidiary, has sold 97 geothermal units during the first two months of 1994 and has earned \$36,004. Financial, Clinton Power Plant, power supply and committee reports were given. Manager Champion furnished the board with a synopsis of the meeting.

The next meeting of the Eastern Illini board of directors will be held Monday, April 18.

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

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Roberts, Vogel, Feller to represent EIEC on Washington, D.C. tour

Three area high school students have been chosen as grand prize winners of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's 1994 "Youth to Washington" essay contest and have won all-expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., June 17-24. Heather Roberts, Tolono, and Christina Vogel and Jill Feller, both of Hoopston, were chosen grand prize winners from a group of eight finalists at EIEC's essay dinner on Monday, April 11, in Loda. In addition to winning the Washington trip, Roberts won a \$200 savings bond for having the highest score. The other two winners of the tour, Vogel and Feller, received \$100 and \$75 savings bonds, respectively. The other five finalists each won \$50 savings bonds. From left are: Laverl Byers, EIEC president; Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC general manager; Vogel; LeAnn Genzel, Buckley; Feller; Tamara Miller, Onarga; Roberts; Shelly Minnis, Hammond; Annette Douglass, Rossville; and Jason Dotterer, Fairbury. More than 100 area students submitted essays entitled "Getting Things Done—The Co-op Way" in EIEC's "Youth to Washington" competition. The eight finalists represented EIEC on Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day in Springfield on April 13. Judges for the competition were: John Freitag, assistant to the manager, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield; Gary Kinnett, farm director, Radio Station WIAI, Danville; and Myra Kuhn, community relations representative, St. John's Hospital, Springfield.

Ron Warfield of Gibson City, who was elected president of Illinois Farm Bureau last December, talks about the changes the office has brought to the Warfield household. He notes that his life as a farmer, which kept him close to home, was a sharp contrast to his new job, which involves a lot of travel.



New job as IFB president entails lifestyle changes

Farming traditionally has meant family togetherness, since the workplace is at home or close by. It is ironic, then, that the duties of Illinois Farm Bureau president require Ron Warfield to be away from his farm and family for days at a time.

Last December, the rural Gibson City farmer became president of the Illinois Farm Bureau, which includes nearly 75 percent of all Illinois farmers among its 370,000 members. On a recent windy, gray afternoon, he made a rare appearance in his living room to talk about the work of the IFB and how his duties have changed his daily routine.

"As farmers, we all have our schedule dictated a lot by the weather," Warfield said. "It is unpredictable. Now, my days are more structured, but they're scheduled very heavily, so

obviously it has an impact on my time at home. When you're farming, even at very busy times, you're around the family and see them occasionally during the day. Now, it is not unusual to leave early Monday morning and not get back until Friday night."

Because a Farm Bureau president often lives far from the headquarters city of Bloomington, the organization provides an apartment for that official.

Nearly 20 affiliated organizations exist in the Illinois Farm Bureau "family of companies," from Prairie Farms Dairy to IAA Federal Credit Union. The IFB has more than 300 full-time employees, including county managers for 96 county Farm Bureaus. The many issues and activities concerning these groups require a lot of meetings and homework for Warfield.

"It is a very demanding job. I knew that going in, and I'm not surprised by that. A typical week would probably entail a couple of affiliated company meetings one day, followed by a special meeting on ethanol, a meeting dealing with funding of the organization, and another meeting that afternoon, then maybe speaking at the annual meeting of a county Farm Bureau."

Warfield said it is tricky shifting gears from one mindset to another, adding, "We have an excellent staff of people, high-quality people in both the Farm Bureau and the affiliated companies who are very dedicated, very loyal, like family."

He adds that the membership and the staff are extremely supportive and helpful, making the job easier and more rewarding.

Describing the IFB structure, Warfield said the president, who



Ron and his wife, Melanie, look on as their daughter, Leah, practices the piano. They also have two sons. Scott, 22, is at Eastern Illinois University, and Robb, 19, is a student at Wake Forest University.

is elected by the membership, is the chief executive officer. A management team helps guide the Bureau.

The real bosses, though, he emphasizes, are the members. "The membership is what drives the organization. They are the strength. They determine the policies and give us our direction. It is very much a grassroots organization."

As an example of how the members and the Bureau work together on an issue, Warfield talked about a major agriculture issue in the Midwest — ethanol. A national policy calling for wider use of this corn-based fuel would open up a market for corn producers.

"On this particular issue, we brought in representatives from across the state representing all the counties. We said, 'This is the issue,' armed them with the facts and figures and suggested how to proceed. We answered their questions and got feedback from them," he said.

The result was 12,000 letters from throughout Illinois directed to the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency. It was a well-coordinated effort not only within the Farm Bureau, Warfield observed, but with corn growers and the ethanol industry.

He commented, "This was a model of a successful Farm Bureau effort. The membership has a definite position on an issue that affects their income; we make it a priority. The staff gets the data, we mobilize the counties to organize their members. It is the member on the farm who writes the letters, makes the phone calls, has the personal contact with a legislator."

The Farm Bureau must keep up not only with the issues affecting members but with changes in members themselves. New generations of farmers have different attitudes and backgrounds than their fathers and mothers, even while they carry on the traditional values.

"Of course, the trend for at least 50 years has been a decline in the number of farmers and a rise in productivity, producing more with fewer people. Technology has helped farmers keep

up with the loss of producers. The farmers who are left are much more sophisticated, better educated and extremely talented. We're not just getting the mechanics or agronomists. They are good marketers, good managers, good financial people, and that's what it takes to farm in the '90s and into the 21st century."

Farmers and their families today are also likely to have responsibilities off the farm, as well. "We have two or three county presidents who have full-time or almost full-time jobs off the farm, and they still farm. You see a significant amount of off-farm income and wives working off the farm. On the other extreme are the farmers in larger categories, who are organized either in partnerships, corporate organizations, or family operations that are still what I call a family farm."

Making up Warfield's own family are his wife, Melanie, and children: Scott, 22, at Eastern Illinois University; Robb, 19, at Wake Forest University; and Leah, 14, attending Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School. Oh, yes, and there's a lively big black dog, full of puppy energy, named Plato.

As for the farm itself, he said, "We raise 1,850 acres of corn and soybeans, and we feed about a thousand cattle a year. We are phasing down our livestock, and in fact only have about one load of cattle left," Warfield said.

With his new duties calling him off his farm, Warfield's life is reflecting the non-traditional farm operation increasingly seen in the modern Illinois Farm Bureau membership.

"I have always had two full-time men. A year ago we hired a full-time man who is going to take on more management responsibilities. I hope during the busy season I can get back on the tractor for awhile, to help me keep my feet on the ground."

Board meeting report



The regular meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held April 18, 1994, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the March 22, 1994, regular board meeting and executive session were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending March 31, 1994, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,638,085, Total Operating Expenses \$1,436,926, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,669,401, Operating Margins (\$31,316), Total Margins (\$4,041) and Year-To-Date Margins \$152,832.

In March, 76 members joined the cooperative and 81 terminated their memberships.

Director Reitz, Chairman of the Land Use and Facilities Committee, reported that the committee had met on April 5 and 12 to discuss the cooperative's facilities needs. Recommendations of the committee included correcting the water quality and pressure problems at the Pesotum warehouse; making modifications to the Paxton headquarters in order to comply to the Americans with Disabilities Act and better utilize existing space; modifying the Paxton warehouse to maximize storage space; and to proceed with the concrete driveway work at the headquarters site. After discussion, the board approved the committee report.

Manager Champion indicated that the Rate Task Force had met April 12 to discuss the single-phase and three-phase electric heat rates and the interruptible large power rate. The Task Force recommended that the rates for single- and three-phase electric heat allow a premise to qualify if electric resistance heat is used exclusively in over 75 percent of the inhabitable area and that electric heat pump installations include a fossil fuel kit with a set point of 25 degrees Fahrenheit or below. The Task Force further recommended that single- or multi-phase services, 201 amperes or larger, be eligible for the interruptible large power rate; that a 15-month deferred payment agreement be available for the \$1,500 metering fee required to go on this rate; and that the cooperative reserves the right to limit the availability of the rate. The

board approved the report of the Rate Task Force.

Steve Hancock, manager of Operations and Engineering Services, reported on the activities of his department. Hancock reviewed the work completed by his department and indicated that an aggressive work plan is scheduled for 1994. He advised that negotiations are ongoing with CILCO to establish a service area agreement. Hancock indicated that a committee of employees has been established to review line building specifications and to standardize on material items. He announced that Clyde Bargmann, line foreman at Gilman, will retire June 3; and that an electric system technician and an electrical engineer will be hired in the near future as authorized by the board in previous action.

Manager Champion provided the board with the following information: an oil disposition inquiry has been received from the EPA, the essay contest was held April 11; a \$32,989.04 interest check has been received from the National Rural Utilities Finance Corporation (CFC); and the Farmers Home Administration has \$150,000 loans available for new businesses.

In other action, the board approved a corporate resolution authorizing check signatories; revising Regulation No. 12 — Billing, in order to change the processing of incoming checks; purchasing two pickup trucks from Birkey's Chevrolet-Buick in Gibson City; selling two older trenchers and purchasing a new trencher; a resolution authorizing a request to CFC for a \$1 million, 60-month line of credit; authorized the manager to attend a course entitled Simplified Strategic Planning for Small to Mid-Sized Companies, and accepted the 1993 audit report, which was prepared by R.L. Quint, CPA, Mission, Kan.

Manager Champion indicated that a safety meeting and all employees meeting would be held April 27 and that director Anderson would represent the board. He also furnished the board with a written job training and safety activities report.

This EIEC board meeting was held eight days early; therefore, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board of directors and Soyland Power Cooperative board of directors had not met. Reports will be given at next month's meeting.

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

The Affordable Five

These special single-phase rate options give you an opportunity to use affordable and competitive electricity as your main energy source. Similar three-phase service rate options are also available.

1

Single Phase Interruptible Rate — Available to members who allow EIEC to interrupt ALL electric service as needed between June 15 and September 15 (noon to 8 p.m., excluding weekends, Independence Day and Labor Day). The member is required to pay for the interrupt device (it will be installed by EIEC). \$35 per month facility charge.

First 500 kwh per month 12¢ per kwh;

Over 500 kwh per month 5¢

2

Electric Heat Rate — For members who have permanently installed and are using an electric heat pump or resistance heat as the primary source of space heating and have permanently installed and are using an electric water heater. \$18 per month facility charge.

Winter energy charge for September 1–April 30

First 500 kwh per month 12¢ per kwh;

Over 500 kwh per month 4¢ per kwh

Summer energy charge for May 1–August 31

First 1,000 kwh per month 12¢ per kwh;

Over 1,000 kwh per month 9.2¢ per kwh

3

Summer/Winter Rate — A good rate for those members who use most of their electricity in the winter. \$18 per month facility charge.

Winter energy charge for September 1–April 30

First 1,000 kwh per month 12¢ per kwh;

Over 1,000 kwh per month 7¢ per kwh

Summer energy charge for May 1–August 31

First 1,000 kwh per month 12¢ per kwh;

Over 1,000 kwh per month 9.2¢ per kwh

4

Interruptible Air Conditioning — Available to members using electricity as their primary energy source for air conditioning. It must be a 240-volt system that is capable of being turned off and on between June 15 and September 15 by an EIEC control device. If your total monthly household electric use exceeds 500 kwh, a \$25 credit will be applied to your account for the months of May, June, July and August (a total of \$100 per year).*

5

Interruptible Water Heater — Available to members who use electricity as their primary energy source for domestic water heating. It must be a 240-volt unit that is capable of being turned on and off by an EIEC-provided control device (must have a 30-gallon minimum capacity). If your total household electric use exceeds 500 kwh in any month, a \$6 credit will be applied to your account for that month (a total of \$72 a year).*

*Option not available with Single Phase Interruptible Rate

— You must request these special rates —

For more information about **The Affordable Five** or similar three phase rates, contact the member services department.



Most of the staff of WGFA, Watseka, are pictured here. Seated from left are Linda Depoe, Juanita Clark, M'Liss McCartney, Maggie Martin, Marla Miller and Donna Mann. Standing from left are Carl Gerdovich, Dale Hastings, Tim Waters, Ron Hunt, Chris Wagner and Neil Kissack. Staff members who were unavailable for the photo are Michelle Fergus, Wade Muller, Roger Ball, Jeff Subkoviak, David Pharr and Rachael Brown.

Local tie-in spells success for WGFA

With today's technology, it's entirely possible to operate a radio station as a multimarket, regional enhancement to serve the listener and advertisers, as well as train the whole station to a high tech level and still have some real fun with the creative options.

Maggie Martin, general manager, notes that WGFA is very much a "hands-on" business, and that it's very involved in the east-central Illinois and west central Indiana area it serves.

The involved nature of the station was planned into its name when it first got off the ground some 33 years ago by her husband, Dick Martin, who was the play by play voice of the Illini for 20 years. "When you start a station," Maggie says, "you get to choose the call-

letters, and many get part of the name of their town in it if they can. WGFA is more general than that, and stands for 'World's Greatest Farming Area', which pretty well describes Watseka and the area around it."

The name was chosen to indicate a very real commitment to the Illiana area, she adds, and that commitment is as deep now as it ever was.

"We believe that to survive in the business you have to be very much a part of the community. We have lots of local news. When something regional or national happens, we try for a local peg, if it's at all possible.

"People want their local station to do more than just provide music, national news and commercials. We keep very tuned in to the area we serve,"

she adds.

The community interacts through the bulletin board and trading post. "We use some automation," Maggie says, "and it gives us the time to do more creative things, and to get out into the community."

The station's community involvement extends to being there when there's an emergency situation, too. "We are the region's emergency center for Sheriff, State Police, area power companies, local police agencies, phone services interruption and Emergency Services and Disaster Administration, or ESDA, notices," Maggie says, "and of course, we give all the school closings in the area. We're set up so the Sheriff's office can interrupt our programming



Chris Wagner works his magic on a commercial.

for any real emergency.”

Fulltime news coverage is provided by Carl Gerdovich, and Ron Hunt heads up the morning show. Chris Wagner hosts the afternoon show, manages sports with Carl and, along with Ron, does a lot of computer generation. Donna Rae Mann comes in at 4:15 every morning to do the Farm Show, then goes to Glenn Raymond School, where she teaches junior high classes.

There are several other local people who help make the station a success, Maggie adds, and Michelle Fergus, M'Liss McCartney and Juanita Clark all help put the “community” in the community-oriented radio station. Marla Miller, Tim Waters, Kyle Conrad and Linda Depoe all help on a part-time basis.

“We like to have some fine high school talent in training,” Maggie says, “and David Pharr and Rachel Brown are helping now. Neil Kissack and Wade Muller, our two recent graduates, are now doing well in college. We look for young people who can speak well, read well and are very trustworthy.

“Wade, who’s a student at the University of Illinois, and Hoopston pharmacist Roger Ball anchor football games for us on Friday nights,” Maggie continues, “and Dale Hastings and Jeff Subkoviak take over for the basketball season. Dale is a



Maggie Martin discusses WGFA’s operations with Wm. David Champion, Jr., manager of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.

teacher and coach from Clifton, and Jeff is a baseball pitcher with the Colorado Rockies, a farm team in Denver. It’s good to have them with us.”

She notes that this year was particularly exciting, since Watseka’s high school team went all the way to the Class A first round in Bloomington.

While strong local programming is important, there are other parts to the mix that make for interesting listening, and the station has a “new mix” on the FM side. Maggie describes it as an adult contemporary format that’s a real success with the great majority of the station’s listeners.

“We separated the AM format from a simulcast last September,” she says. “It is now a Big Band and Jazz format called Stardust 1360, and provides music, interviews and news.

“While the target audience of Stardust is in the 35-64 age bracket, the program does attract many who are younger and older. It features such performers as Barbra Streisand, Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Neil Diamond, Andy Williams, Anne Murray, and many others. The idea is to have two distinctly different kinds of station programming to appeal to as big an audience as possible. We think our AM and FM offerings do just that.”

Maggie notes that Watseka and the surrounding area are poised for economic growth in the near future, because it is surrounded by areas that are booming.

“We want to position ourselves to help with that growth. Every single community in our listening audience is important,” she says.

Board meeting report



On May 24, 1994, the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative held its regular board meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

The minutes of the April 18, 1994, regular board meeting were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending April 30, 1994, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,568,530, Total Operating Expenses \$1,232,799, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,464,776, Operating Margins \$103,754, Total Margins \$140,166 and Year-To-Date Margins \$292,997.

During April, 94 members joined the cooperative and 74 terminated their memberships.

Director Reitz, Chairman of the Land Use and Facilities Committee, reported that the pole piles have been relocated and work has begun on the concrete driveway at the headquarters site in conjunction with the project that was approved by the board.

Director Thompson, Chairman of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, announced that the annual meeting survey information has been compiled and that the committee will meet June 1 to begin planning the 1995 annual meeting.

President Byers reported that manager Champion was ill and unable to attend the board meeting. The board discussed the following information provided by manager Champion in his written report: legal activities and disputes, a loan fund review conducted by the Rural Electrification Administration indicating that all loan funds have been properly accounted for, personnel changes, letter to a nearby village, summary of work completed in 1993, report on flood damage and additional information on the Farmers Home Administration relending program.

In other action, the board approved entering into three phase contracts with Mona's Steak and Spirits, Inc., Tuscola, and Scott Wilken, Iroquois County, Ashkum Township; amending the Energy Resource Conservation loan program to

increase loans for geothermal installations from \$7,000 to \$8,000, reduce the amount loaned on an air source/split system from \$5,000 to \$3,000 and to loan \$1,200 for a 200 amp service upgrade and \$600 for a 100 amp service upgrade; and conducting a water heater promotion during area county fairs (80 gallon water heaters will be sold at \$125 plus tax and 50 gallon units will be sold at \$100 plus tax).

Director Anderson indicated that he had represented the board at the May 12 safety meeting. The latest OSHA directives were reviewed and regulators were discussed. A written job training and safety activities report was provided by manager Champion.

Director Anderson and attorney Fraker provided highlights on the NRECA Legislative Conference that they had attended in Washington, D.C., on May 1-4. Manager Champion also attended. They met with the Illinois congressional delegation and discussed financing and rural development, territorial protection, health care, telecommunications, and energy and the environment. The conference was very successful. On May 18, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 1485, the compulsory license legislation allowing satellite viewers to continue receiving broadcast network and superstation programming — just like people in cabled areas.

A report of the April 21 and May 19 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board of directors meetings was given by director Chesnut. Financial, government relations, legislative, and departmental reports were presented and the proposed budget was reviewed.

The detailed written reports furnished by manager Champion of the April 20 and May 18 Soyland Power Cooperative board of directors meetings were reviewed by the board. The reports included information on finances, power supply, the Clinton Power Station, and marketing and economic development.

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

Install a geothermal system in 1994 and receive a rebate

Soyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, is offering a \$500 rebate for installing a geothermal system during 1994.

and

WaterFurnace International is offering a \$300 rebate for installing a Water-Furnace geothermal system between May 1 and December 31, 1994.



Dwain Dippel



Chris Johnson

Getting to know your employees

Dwain Dippel of Buckley and Chris Johnson of Paxton have been hired as member services representatives at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative and have joined the Marketing and Member Services team, which includes Dale Kuhn, manager of the department, and Pat Gallahue and Tim Fricke, member services representatives.

Dippel has worked part-time for the cooperative in the Marketing and Member Services Department for the past few years and has been a self-employed electrician/farmer. He and his wife, Chris, have four children: Jo Hanna, 11; Laura, 10; Brian, 7; and Eric, 6.

Before joining EIEC, Johnson was employed at Capitol Group in Champaign. He has a bachelor of science degree in technical education from the University of Illinois and an associate degree in electronics from Parkland College.

When you call the co-op with a question about our new marketing programs, "The Affordable Five," our Marketing and Member Services team will help you select the rate that best suits your needs. They will also be able to provide you with information on the Energy Resource Conservation 5 percent loans, geothermal rebates or any of your

other questions that pertain to your bill or your electric service.

Are you considering building a new home or remodeling your present one? They will perform heat loss calculations, energy audits, and assist you in choosing the right heating, cooling and water heating system.

If you purchase a water heater from the co-op, one of our member services representatives will deliver it to your home.

You may also want to save on your energy costs by having a control switch installed on your water heater, air conditioner, or both. They will install these devices for you.

Look for our Marketing and Member Services team at co-op activities. They will be there to answer your questions and provide you with information.

Whenever you have a question concerning your electric service, equipment or the cooperative, please call and we will try to answer your questions.

Remember, we are here to serve you — it's your cooperative!



Harold "Bud" Beck with one of the three trucks it takes to keep his family operation going

Beck Well Drilling

Harold "Bud" Beck of rural Paxton got into his well drilling business in an odd sort of way: as a result of an Air Force assignment. Bud, who grew up in the Loda area, joined the military and wound up being stationed at Chanute Air Force Base, in Rantoul. While there, he had a job in which he was on duty 24 hours and off 24.

That kind of free time left him plenty of opportunity to seek outside employment, to supplement what was then a meager military pay scale. As luck would have it, he found a job with a local well driller.

"You get into well drilling by serving a five-year apprenticeship," Bud says, "and when you complete that, you're eligible to take a test and put in an application for a license. After I left the Air Force, I took the test and put in an application to get a job with a local electric company. I figured that if I didn't pass the test, I'd still have a shot at a job."

It turned out that he passed the test and was offered the job—on the same day. So he went into well drilling. "That was in 1967," he says, "and if I hadn't passed that test, I guess I'd have spent the last 27 years in the electricity business, and I'd still be in it today."

But there was one catch: While he had his license and was legally able to drill wells, he had very little equipment. "I had a rig," he says, "but I had to contract out some of the other chores, like backhoe work."

He began accumulating equipment, eventually coming up with enough to put three rigs into the field. That turned out to provide more expenses and headaches than he was willing to put up with.

"It got to the point that a quarter of the employees' salaries was going to the Workmen's Comp people," he says, "and I was having employee difficulty, too. I decided that it was all more

trouble than it was worth, so I scaled it back to where it's a family-sized operation that's easier to manage.

"I have a drill rig," Bud continues, "and one service truck and a repair rig. Now I work with my son, David. My stepson, Shan Lawless, is a student at Illinois State University in Bloomington, but he helps during the summer. My wife, Cheryl, helps with the bookkeeping and that sort of thing. My daughter, Chris Silver, lives in Phoenix and my stepdaughter, Heather Lawless, will attend Patricia Stevens College in St. Louis this fall."

Bud notes that he usually tries to stick to an area within a 40-50 mile radius of Paxton. Wells in the area tend to average about 150 feet in depth and can be drilled and made ready in two to three days.

"While that's an average," he's quick to point out, "there's a lot of variation. There have been some places where I've hit good



Clockwise from top: The Beck Well Drilling crew: From left are David Beck, Shan Lawless and Bud. The drilling rig in operation on Willow Pond golf course, Rantoul. Bud and wife Cheryl, who helps with the books.

water at 70 feet, and in other places I've needed to go as far as 350 feet. My rig is rated to drill 1,000 feet, but I've never done it."

Much of the area is over the Mahomet Aquifer, he says, and good water is usually not too difficult to find and is not too far down. But there are some areas where it's definitely easier to find water in than others. "It's easier around Paxton than it is over in the Danville area, for example, where it's often kind of touchy," he says.

Many of the subsurface formations are unconsolidated clay, which makes for reasonable drilling.

"But it'll surprise you sometimes," he says, "because there are hard clay formations, like hardpan, and it's tough to drill through. I've lost drill rods, and occasionally twisted off bits and had to work like mad to get them out. When we get into really hard clay, we use a special bit, much like they use to drill for oil."

While it's usually a fairly simple matter to drill a hole in the ground, there's sometimes more to it than just doing that. "A lot of the trick of finding water is just common sense," Bud says, "and that's part of why you have to learn during your apprenticeship. Even so, you sometimes

come up dry."

Some customers, in an attempt to avoid that problem, will occasionally seek outside help in the form of water witchers, or dowzers, and that sometimes is a source of friction. "I've worked with dowzers a few times," Bud remarks, "and it's a situation where you can't win. If you drill where they tell you and don't find water, they say it's your fault. If you do find water, they take the credit. Even so," he concludes, "well drilling is an enjoyable job, and you provide people with something they need. I'm glad I got into the profession."

Board meeting report



The regular meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held June 28, 1994, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

The minutes of the May 24, 1994, regular board meeting were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending May 31, 1994, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,434,302, Total Operating Expenses \$1,211,707, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,461,950, Operating Margins (\$27,648), Total Margins (\$6,954) and Year-To-Date Margins \$286,043.

A member in Iroquois County addressed the board to discuss an issue of contention.

In May, 105 members joined the cooperative and 94 terminated their memberships.

A report of the June 1 Annual Meeting Planning committee meeting was given by director Thompson, chairman of the committee. He indicated that the committee had reviewed the annual meeting survey results and a large majority of the members did not want to change the annual meeting format. The 1995 annual meeting will be held March 18, 1995, at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School in Paxton. The annual meeting notice will again be printed in the Rural Electric News magazine, the attendance prize will be a 4-in-1 screwdriver, Leland Glazebrook will be the speaker and the business meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. The board approved the committee report.

Manager Champion updated the board on legal activities. He also provided the following information: a new subdivision is being developed in the cooperative's territory, a \$7,250.58 rebate check has been received from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Adam Clapp of rural Kempton received the Illinois Farm Electrification Council's Ag Electrification award during the annual FFA Convention on June 15 at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall in Champaign; the Simplified Strategic Planning for Small and Mid-size Business Course provided a template for strategic planning and was very informative; and the audit of 1990 FEMA funds has been completed.

Manager Champion advised that Soyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, had called for a peak alert on June 16 and June

20 and load control activities were activated. Large power interruptible accounts shut down, air conditioners with switches were cycled, and water heaters and single-phase interruptible accounts with switching devices were interrupted. Although we were able to manage our load, we were still 3 megawatts over our target and need to be able to shed more of our load.

In other action, the board approved entering into a three-phase contract with Darrell Fischer, Crescent City; entering into three-phase interruptible contracts with Perkinson Pork Farm, Thawville, and R.B. Swine, Inc., Melvin; granting a right-of-way easement to a nearby village; contributing to the CFC System Integrity Fund; holding a cooperative picnic on August 20; allocating \$1,291,110.19 in 1993 capital credits; and paying the 1994-95 AIEC dues assessment.

Manager Champion advised that the next safety meeting will be held July 21 at the cooperative's headquarters. He also provided a written job training and safety activities report.

Director Chesnut summarized the June 16 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board of directors meeting that he had attended. The AIEC board approved IEC Continuing Education courses to be held in 1994-95, accepted the bid of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Corporation for renewal of property and casualty coverage, and selected voting delegates for the AIEC annual meeting which will be held August 23-25 in Springfield.

The EIEC board also chose voting delegates for the AIEC annual meeting. President Byers was selected as the Director Designee and Chairman of Voting Delegates for the Illinois Statewide Power Cooperative meeting. Director Chesnut was selected as the NRECA voting representative and director Day was selected as the alternate. The AIEC voting delegate is director Chesnut and the alternate is president Byers. Director Chesnut was selected to serve a two-year term as the AIEC board member and director Byers will serve as the alternate.

A report of the June 15 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting was given by director Warmbir. Finance, Power Supply, Clinton Power Station and legal reports were given. A synopsis of the meeting was furnished by manager Champion.

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

See for yourself! The advantages of a geothermal heating, cooling and hot water system

**EIEC's geothermal open house
Tuesday, Sept. 6 - 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**at the
Colin and
Melinda
Shaffner
home
near Dewey**

**Free pork
burgers
and drinks
served**



Stop by Colin and Melinda Shaffner's home near Dewey, see the installation of a geothermal system and find out how it operates.

A geothermal system keeps your home cool in the summer, warm in the winter and makes hot water on the side—and it's safe, clean and convenient. When compared with propane or fuel oil, it

will cut your heating bills in half in most cases.

EIEC employees will be assisted by WaterFurnace Midwest representatives and Ed Hovel of Thomasboro who is installing the Shaffner's geothermal system.

Attend the geothermal open house on Sept. 6 and see for yourself.



David Lithgow, right, SkyQuest business manager, tells Elmer and Inez Leydens how to get the best use from their new system.

And they're off —

SkyQuestsm, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's new satellite subsidiary, is off and running with their first installation of the 18-inch dish. Elmer and Inez Leydens of Lake Iroquois, Loda, were the first to get their DSSsm equipment installed.

Leydens were the first people to place a deposit on the system. "Without cable, we knew that this was the system we have been waiting for," Mr. Leydens said.

SkyQuest has been taking a \$50 deposit since December to

reserve a spot in line as equipment becomes available. SkyQuest business manager, David Lithgow said, "We thought that it was fairer to give our members the opportunity to get on a first-come, first-served list knowing that equipment would be scarce."

EIEC Manager Wm. David Champion, Jr., expressed the importance of still getting on the waiting list. "An allocation period will exist for the rest of this year," Champion stated. "As these units

get installed and as we begin marketing the system, we anticipate that list growing tremendously."

Besides the small size, one of the main attractions to the satellite dish is the \$700 basic unit cost. Mrs. Leydens echoed the importance of that feature. "When you compare the cost of the different options, this is the best one at the most reasonable price."

SkyQuest installers arrived early in the morning and were



Mike Batte, DBS chief technician, installs the 18-inch dish on the side of the Leydens' deck.

through just over two hours later. "There's not much to it," Mrs. Leydens exclaimed. "You don't notice the dish and they did a nice job of making a clean and professional hookup."

DIRECTV, the programming sold by SkyQuest, is gearing up 150 channels on the satellite dish. "There is something for everyone on the system," Lithgow added. Mrs. Leydens concurred. "We will enjoy the movies, sports, news and the ability to always have something worth watching."

Following the installation, Lithgow and Chief Technician Mike Batte explained the system in detail. "We want the customer to feel comfortable with the new technology and get full use of its capabilities," Lithgow stated. "They told us all of what the unit would do and how we could get the most for our money.

The Leydens figure to be the first of many satisfied customers in the newest cooperative subsid-

iary. "It's nice to see the realization of over a year's worth of planning come together," Champion noted.

The DSS system utilizes a high-powered Ku-Band signal and provides a digital super VHS video picture and compact-disc quality stereo audio to its subscribers. "This is a top-of-the-line system and the newest and best technology available at the most reasonable price," Lithgow boasted.

After displaying DIRECTV at the Iroquois County Fair and Georgetown 4-H Fair, there are a lot of people throughout the EIEC service area who are placing deposits to await their system. Others are viewing the technology at SkyQuest's office at 119 S. Market in Paxton. They too expect to share in Mr. Leyden's enthusiasm. "This is great!" he exclaimed.



Jeannine Langley is customer services representative/secretary for SkyQuest. She will assist you in purchasing DSS equipment and DIRECTV programming.

Board meeting report

On July 26, 1994, the regular meeting of the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

The minutes of the June 28, 1994, regular board meeting were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending June 30, 1994, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,390,120, Total Operating Expenses, \$1,299,365, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,531,236, Operating Margins (\$141,116), Total Margins (\$129,283) and Year-To-Date Margins \$156,761.

In May, 110 members joined the cooperative and 79 terminated their memberships.

President Byers announced that the Audit and Finance Committee will meet August 1.

Manager Champion reported on the warehouse modifications, pole yard improvements and the concrete driveway work that has been completed. He added that the modifications in the warehouse have maximized its use and created storage space for cooperative vehicles.

Manager Champion indicated that negotiations are continuing with CILCO to establish a service area agreement. He reported that load control activities have not been activated since the last board meeting. Other information furnished to the board included: a successful voluntary program implemented by another cooperative whereby members round up their electric bill to the next highest dollar to help people in need, future challenges of cooperatives as seen by some cooperative leaders and a request from an insurance company asking us to purchase stock.

In another action, the board approved transferring certain accounts from accounts receivable to accumulated provision for uncollectibles, purchasing an air conditioning recovery system and diagnostic equipment and entering into a three phase contract with Bear Creek Truss, Inc., near Arthur.

Highlights of the July 21 safety meeting were given by director Aden. Alan Pinkstaff, safety instructor from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, discussed the correct and safe operation of a fork lift. Employees took a written exam on the operation of a forklift and practiced operating one. Manager Champion furnished a written job training and safety activities report.

A report of the July 21 AIEC board of directors meeting was given by director Chesnut. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has



selected retired AIEC manager Thomas H. Moore to receive the Clyde T. Ellis award at NRECA's annual meeting in February 1995 at Orlando, Florida. Financial, legislative, and Youth Tour reports were given. The AIEC board approved purchasing additional audio-visual equipment. Voting delegates were selected for the CFC District V Annual Meeting which will be held September 21 in Springfield.

Director Warmbir summarized the July 20 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting. Finance, Power Supply, Clinton Power Station and marketing and economic development reports were given. A detailed written report of the meeting was furnished by manager Champion.

David Lithgow, business manager for SkyQuest, gave a progress report on the DBS business. He advised that the first shipment of DBS units has been received and will be installed in the next several weeks.

The next EIEC board meeting will be held August 22 at 8:30 a.m.

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

Just Wait Till You See DIRECTV™

- 18-inch receiving dish
- Affordable, easy-to-use
- State-of-the-art receiver and remote control
- Crystal-clear digital pictures and sound
- Approximately 150 channels

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Nominating Committee process begins

The Nominating Committee was invited to attend the August 22 Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors meeting to observe them in action. The 13-member board is elected from each of the 13 directorate districts and charged with the immense responsibility of establishing policies, setting rates and guiding the operation of the cooperative which has assets of over \$45 million.

The Nominating Committee will meet this fall to select candidates for the nominating committee election that will be conducted by mail balloting during December in Districts 2, 6, 8, 9 and 13. They will also nominate candidates for director elections in Districts 3, 4, 7 and 11 which will be held at the March 18, 1995, annual meeting in Paxton. Directors currently serving in those districts are: Gene P. Warmbir of Clifton, District 3;

Harold M. Loy of Beaverville, District 4; L. Dean Ward of Champaign, District 7; and Charles D. Day, Jr. of Bement, District 11. Directors Warmbir, Loy and Day will seek reelection if nominated. Director Ward has

announced that he will retire from the board.

If you are interested in being a member of the Nominating Committee or serving as a director, please contact one of the committee members below.

Nominating Committee

- Dist. 1** — Dan Eyer, RR 1, Box 30, Anchor, IL 61720
- Dist. 2** — Richard Haag, RR 1, Box 114, Cullom, IL 60929
- Dist. 3** — Lavon C. Blasey, RR 2, Box 109, Clifton, IL 60927
- Dist. 4** — Richard D. LaFond, RR 1, Box 146, Donovan, IL 60931
- Dist. 5** — Shirley Schoolman, RR 1, Box 195, Gilman, IL 60938
- Dist. 6** — David Burklund, RR 2, Box 36, Paxton, IL 60957
- Dist. 7** — Larry Knox, 804 County Rd. 3300N, Dewey, IL 61840
- Dist. 8** — Larry Roberts, RR 2, Box 150, Penfield, IL 61862
- Dist. 9** — John Wilkening, RR 1, Box 78, Cissna Park, IL 60924
- Dist. 10** — Jerry C. Douglass, 34045N 1950E Rd., Rossville, IL 60963
- Dist. 11** — Loren W. Schable, RR 1, Box 121, Atwood, IL 61913
- Dist. 12** — Eugene Kamradt, 610 County Rd. 800N, Tolono, IL 61880
- Dist. 13** — James W. Young, RR 1, Box 63, Newman, IL 61942

October is Co-op Month



Join us as we celebrate co-op month in October. This year is special because 1994 marks 150 years of the first modern cooperative which was founded October 24, 1844, in Rochdale England, to purchase food and necessities for its 28 members.

Today, 700 million people around the world share the cooperative legacy of the founders of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society. In the United States, 120 million people are member-owners of a network of 47,000 cooperatives that provide credit unions, farm marketing and farm supply, housing, florists, insurance, news service, and, of course, electric and tele-

communications services.

The principles developed by the Rochdale pioneers set the standards for today's cooperatives and assured their success. The principles are: democratic control, open membership, limited return on investment, return of surplus to members (capital credits), high quality products and services, cooperative education and cooperation among cooperatives.

Cooperatives are helping people meet their common needs through group efforts. Established 150 years ago, the cooperative concept is TIME TESTED AND MEMBER APPROVED.

Mona's Steak & Spirits

Mona's Steak & Spirits is a new restaurant that has opened on Highway 36 about two miles west of Tuscola, and across from a large chemical plant.

The eatery, housed in a building formerly occupied by a small truck stop, is full of surprises. Walk into the two-tone light-colored structure, and you'll see a building interior that's a bit out of character, considering its truck stop past.

But that's not necessarily what's surprising: the proprietor is. Look the place over, focus on absolutely the most unlikely-looking person there to be called "Mona," and ask for her. Mark Weaver is likely to raise his hand. "Here," he'll boom. "Guilty as charged!"

As you look at the beefy, pony-tailed man, the thought might well cross your mind that he'd be right at home in a biker bar. That's exactly the case. Mona's is his third restaurant/bar venture. The first one started out in the tiny town of Hindsboro, and catered largely to motorcycle types. It gradually turned into a steakhouse.

Mark, or Mona, as he prefers to be called, is proud of the fact that he cooks every steak himself. "I'm the secret ingredient—I cook each one," he says emphatically, "as though I'm going to eat it myself."

The nickname, incidentally, is a holdover from high school days. "Everybody called me



Mark "Mona" Weaver works at the grill. He calls himself the restaurant's "secret ingredient," and he says he is proud that he cooks every steak himself.

'Mona's kid', and then it finally got shortened to 'Mona', and it stuck. Now I look at people funny when they call me Mark."

As he cooked all those steaks, word got around, and something started happening. Diners—conservative people who'd almost have to be dragged into a biker bar—started showing up to enjoy those famous steaks. He later set up shop in another location, and finally tired of the restaurant business.

He tried several other ventures in east-central Illinois, went to Florida, and came back. Nothing seemed to jell as well, or be as enjoyable, as the restaurant business had.

"People kept asking me when I was going to open another restaurant," Mona chuckles, "and I kept telling them I needed another restaurant like I needed a toothache. Still, the interest was there and I certainly didn't see anything I liked more, so I started giving it some thought."

He looked at the deserted truck stop and tried to visualize what it'd be like as Mona's. "The place had sat empty for eight and a half years," he says, "and I had to climb through a window to look it over. It was a mess, but it was more than twice as big as any place I'd had before. I decided to go for it. Sometimes I joke that I bought myself a job so I could go to work with a ponytail."

Whatever the case, he decided to talk to the building's owners. "I went down to Arthur to talk to them," he says with a chuckle, "and we did a handshake deal. We got started working on the place right away."

And they were doing a lot. "We took out four 20-yard dumpsters full of debris," Mona says, "and built a new roof. Then we started on the inside."

"I had lots of friends, neighbors and volunteer helpers," he says, "and the project took on a life of its own as the guys put their hearts into it. There was a



The dining room features brass, hunter green, and ambiance.



This is the bar. Mona, who has an "eye for decoration," did the place himself.

lot of enthusiasm and interest. People were saying, 'Mona's back in business', and everyone was looking forward to the opening. It became fun!"

While all this was going on, Mona went shopping, buying all the equipment he needed at auctions. "I spent six days on the road," he says, "and got every stick of furniture I needed."

Then he started installing the stuff, putting in a layout he came up with himself. "I have a good eye for decoration," he says, "and I set up the bar with blacks and grays. I put brass and hunter green in the dining room, with seating for 90. It's nicer than I'd pictured it'd be when I started looking at it."

Mona still chuckles when he talks about a group that made reservations at his previous business. "The Lady Republicans of Douglas County were going to come out," he says, "and they told me there'd be no more than 25 people. We prepared for 32, just to be on the safe side. We wound up with 60, and they all had a surprisingly good time. I've gone from panheads to execs and everything in between. Even conservatives can swallow me now."

Probably one of the factors

that made Mona's places successful in the past is the fact that he enjoys cooking. "I've always liked cooking and experimenting," he says, "and several years ago I had the opportunity to work with a real chef. He was Swiss, and he really had an affect on me."

"One thing he taught me was that it's silly to reinvent the wheel. He told me, 'There's no reason in the world to make something from scratch if you can find something that's already good, and improve on it.'"

Citing his experiments with lasagna, Mona notes that he set out to figure out how to cook the stuff in a microwave oven without skimping on quality. "I experimented with butcher paper and different plastics. I do things in an unconventional way to make it simple, cut corners and keep the quality. But I nuke everything."

In addition to unconventional cooking, Mona has an unconventional way with wine sales, too. "I've always had the policy that if the customers didn't like the wine, they didn't have to pay for it, and I still do that."

"I have an extensive wine list and all the wines are good because I pick them. If I like a wine,

I can sell it. It's as simple as that. In my other businesses, I got to where I was selling so much wine that distributors would come to my place to see what I was doing."

Mona emphasizes that his steak and spirits place is not a corporate kind of place, where people are rushed in and out as quickly as possible. "I think your place is better if you know your clientele," he says, "and I enjoy working the crowd. I've never been in a situation where 80 percent of the people weren't my friends, and that makes a difference."

"If a waitress knows a customer, I have her put his name on the order, and if it's somebody I know likes a big baked potato, I see that he gets one, and I'll take it to him myself. You can't be corporate, you have to know your people."

"It seems kind of funny that I'd be back in the restaurant business again," he says, "but maybe it's not so funny after all. It's what I'm known and recognized for around here, and it's what I do best. I urge people to come out and see for themselves. "I've never disappointed anyone, and I don't plan to start now."

Board meeting report

The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on August 22, 1994, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

President Byers welcomed Shirley Schoolman of Gilman and Eugene Kamradt of Tolono, members of the 1995 Nominating Committee. In order to observe the board in action, members of the committee were invited to attend the meeting. President Byers asked directors Day, Loy, Ward and Warmbir, whose terms will expire at the March 18, 1995, annual meeting, if they would run for reelection. With the exception of director Ward, they all responded that if nominated, they would seek reelection.

The minutes of the July 26, 1994, regular board meeting were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending July 31, 1994, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,729,387, Total Operating Expenses \$1,383,945, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,622,438, Operating Margins \$106,949, Total Margins \$123,175 and Year-To-Date Margins \$279,936.

In July, 87 members joined the cooperative and 79 terminated their memberships.

A report of the August 1 Audit and Finance Committee meeting was given by director Raber in the absence of director Bauer, chairman of the committee. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, the committee examined the accounts of the cooperative and reviewed expense statements, disbursements and supporting data. All records were found to be in order. The board approved the report.

Steve Hancock, Manager of Operations and Engineering Services, provided an overview of his department's activities. Hancock indicated that more than 44 miles of new line have been constructed throughout the co-op's territory and an additional 45 miles have been staked for construction. He added that a number of services have been built in to new homes and the annual pole testing program will soon be completed. Hancock provided details of a recent incident where an employee was injured while investigating a low voltage complaint. The employee was hospitalized for several hours of observation and then released.

Darold Phillips, electrical engineer with Ledbetter Toth, Springfield, Mo., presented a long range work plan for consideration. He explained that the plan was a flexible outline that would accommodate growth in the system and improve reliability. After discussing the details of the long range work plan, it was adopted by the board.

Manager Champion updated the board on negotiations with CILCO. He also provided information on the NRECA Issues Committee final recommendations, real estate taxes paid in 1994, CFC activities, a written report of August job training and safety activities



and presented the recommendations of area farm cooperatives for observing the 150th anniversary of cooperatives. Manager Champion announced that he has been selected to serve a three-year term on the Farm Credit Services of Central Illinois board of directors and that he will present the Illinois Electric Cooperative's public service award to Congressman Tom Ewing on August 24 at the AIEC annual meeting in Springfield.

In other action, the board approved bidding employee physicals, entering into a three phase contract with Richard A. Nelson of rural Paxton, signing an ERC loan resolution, and paying the 1994-95 NRECA dues.

President Byers was selected as the voting delegate for the NRECA and CFC meetings that will be held at the NRECA Region V meeting on September 20-22 in Springfield. Vice president Chesnut was selected as the alternate delegate.

Highlights of the August 17 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting were given by director Warmbir. The Soyland manager's search, litigation activities, a four-day maintenance outage at the Clinton Power Station, and operating and maintenance expenditures were discussed. Manager Champion provided a detailed written report of the meeting.

Business manager for SkyQuestSM, David Lithgow, reported that 27 individuals have subscribed to DIRECTVTM and that SkyQuest technicians will soon be installing an average of six DSSTM units a day.

The next EIEC board meeting will be held September 26 at 8 a.m.

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

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

New electric heat rate

When our wholesale power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, changed their billing structure so that we no longer were assessed a winter time demand charge, we were provided an opportunity to build load during the winter months without being concerned with winter energy peaks.

We developed an attractive electric heat rate so that we could offer you the opportunity to use electricity as your main energy source. However, it eliminated the need for the dual heat rate since we only have to be concerned about establishing a peak in the summer months between June 15 and September 15.

Several of our members who were on the dual heat rate have voiced their dissatisfaction with the provision that they must use a permanently installed electric water heater to qualify for the new 4 cent electric heat rate. In order to maintain the affordable and competitive electric heat rate, we must continue to sell more electricity to spread our costs.

The new electric heat rate is actually better than the former dual heat rate. For example, you will be able to use the electric heat rate for your total household electric needs, rather than submetering only your heating and cooling consumption. Without heating or water heater interruptions during the winter, you will be more comfortable, too.

We also developed water heater and air conditioning options that will cut your energy costs even more. By allowing the cooperative to install radio control switches on your water heater and air conditioner to ensure that they cannot come on during the cooperative's summer peak periods, you can receive credits on your bill. Peak periods will only occur as needed between June 15 and September 15, from noon to 8 p.m., except weekends, Independence Day and Labor Day. During the control period in 1994, we only controlled the load on two occasions, once each on June 16 and June 20. This represents six total hours of control for the entire year of 1994. If you use over 500 kilowatt-hours per month on your meter, you will receive a monthly water heater credit of \$6 or up to \$72 per year. If your monthly consumption exceeds 500 kwh during May, June, July and August, a \$25 air conditioner credit will be applied to your account for each of those months or up to \$100 per year.

By stimulating off-peak electric sales, we will help dilute our costs and ensure competitive rates for all our members.

To find out more about these or our other attractive rates, call our Marketing and Member Services Department at 800-824-5102 or 217-379-2131 in Paxton between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Rate

Single-Phase Electric Heat Rate - For members who have permanently installed and are using an electric heat pump or resistance heat as the primary source of space heating and have permanently installed and are using an electric water heater. There is a facility charge of \$18 per month. A similar rate is available for three-phase accounts.

Winter energy charge for

September 1 - April 30

First 500 kwh per month 12¢ per kwh

Over 500 kwh per month 4¢ per kwh

Summer energy charge for May 1 -

August 31

First 1,000 kwh per month 12¢ per kwh

Over 1,000 kwh per month 9.2¢ per kwh



Colin and Mindy Shaffner co-hosted the open house, allowing visitors to see how a geothermal system works. Here, they're pictured on the circular stairway in their home.

Another successful geothermal open house

Contractors for Colin and Mindy Shaffner of rural Dewey are putting the finishing touches on a fine new house that will have heating and cooling costs that many people in homes half the size would envy. And their domestic hot water will cost about 30 percent less than it otherwise would. The cooperative held an open house on September 6 at the Shaffner's home so others could see how. Representatives of WaterFurnace Midwest and Hovel Heating and Cooling participated in the event.

After visiting with EIEC representatives and neighbors, the

Shaffners decided on a five-ton geothermal system for their 2,500-square-foot home because of the low operating costs and high efficiencies. In addition, the system is safe, environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing with no outside unit.

The purpose of a field day is to give people an opportunity to look at the geothermal system, get an idea of how it works and talk to someone who has one. Approximately 150 area residents attended the open house to learn the ins and outs of the installation. They asked intelligent, well-thought-out questions

about the geothermal system and how it works.

Tim Frick, EIEC member services representative, served as field day coordinator, and he's especially qualified: he worked for several years in the heating, air conditioning and appliance repair business. He also had a system installed in his home last year and hosted a field day.

"I bought the old home place from my parents, who retired from farming," he says, "and it was a typical two-story farm home.

The Fricks decided to meter the geothermal setup separately,



In the photo at left, Ed Hovel of Hovel Heating and Cooling, center, explains the unit's operation to several of the people who attended the open house. Top photo: Wenona Gumbel, EIEC manager of human resource services, registers guests. Above, Tim Frick, member services representative, explains the geothermal concept.

to verify the cost calculations that are generated by the software the cooperative uses to help members figure the costs and benefits of the systems. He installed the unit in mid-December, and started metering it separately in mid-February.

"I had the family records," Frick says, "and they showed that it cost about \$1,800 a year to heat the place. We estimated that it would reduce our heating cost by 60 percent. While I don't have a full year in, that figure looks about right. We're saving

about a third on water heating costs, too.

Dale Kuhn, manager of marketing and member services, adds, "The geothermal system offers a way for members to heat their homes for less than they could if they had used fossil fuel. Moreover, geothermal systems provide air conditioning and water heating savings as well."

Kuhn emphasizes that geothermal will work equally well with new construction or existing homes. Geothermal systems are also utilized for many com-

mercial and industrial applications.

"If a member is interested in learning more about how much money they can save by switching to geothermal, we'll be glad to show them," Kuhn says.

Eastern Illini offers a four cent electric heat rate and other incentives. Contact marketing and member services representatives for more information at 800-824-5102 or 217-379-2131 in Paxton between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Fridays except holidays.

Board meeting report



On September 26, 1994, the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors held its regular monthly meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

The minutes of the August 22, 1994, regular board meeting were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending August 31, 1994, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,676,562, Total Operating Expenses, \$1,346,141, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,590,762, Operating Margins \$85,800, Total Margins \$104,808 and Year-To-Date Margins \$384,743.

In August, 97 members joined the cooperative and 87 terminated their memberships.

Manager Champion reported on legal activities. He indicated that the cooperative has received a \$1,148 patronage capital refund check from United Utility Supply, a \$32,104.36 patronage dividend check and an \$11,736.74 patronage capital certificate from CFC, and a \$999.06 patronage refund check from Central Area Data Processing Cooperative. EIEC's annual truck and equipment sale will be held at 6:30 p.m. on November 2 at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton. Manager Champion also reviewed the modifications that are proposed for the headquarters facility to make it ADA compliant.

Manager Champion reiterated that load control was activated on June 16 and 20, and the Soyland/IP peak occurred on June 20. During the period of time between June 15 and September 15 when Soyland may call for peak alerts, it was necessary to control the load for only six hours. Because the cooperative's 1994 load management activities were successful, the wholesale power fixed costs for 1995 will be lower.

In other action, the board approved participating in the East Central Illinois Cooperative Association's activities to enhance cooperative education; signing a resolution on the Restatement of the Money Purchase Plan (employee pension plan); contributing to the PBL Panther Regiment; donating to the Illinois 4-H Foundation; participating in the IEC Continuing Education program; accepting the low bid of Murle Roy Construction, Paxton, to perform maintenance work at the Sidney substation; and entering into three-phase interruptible contracts with Lee Bidner of Fisher and Robert Leman of Forrest. A motion to not purchase stock from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Corp. was also approved.

President Byers reported on the August 30 safety meeting he attended. Manager Champion furnished a written report on job training and safety activities.

Directors Anderson, Byers, Bauer, Chesnut, Day, Loy, Ludwig, Raber, Thompson, manager Champion and attorney Fraker reported on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting they attended in Springfield on August 23-25.

President Byers, manager Champion and attorney Fraker highlighted the NRECA Region V meeting held on September 20-22 in Springfield.

A summary of the AIEC board of directors meeting held August 25 was given by director Chesnut. Officers were elected, the annual audit was presented and information was provided on the 1995 NRECA Legislative Conference. The AIEC board decided to begin planning for the 1995 Youth to Washington Tour and adopted a motion not to purchase stock from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Company.

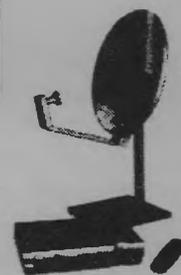
A report of the September 20 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting was given by director Warmbir. Joseph F. Firlit of Baldwin, New York, has been hired as the executive vice president and general manager of Soyland. The Pearl Power Plant has experienced an outage but is expected to be back on line by September 26. The System:GT rebate program has resulted in 161 geothermal units being installed in Soyland's territory. The Soyland board approved a 1994 audit agreement with Deloitte & Touche and discussed a 10-year long-range work plan. Manager Champion provided a comprehensive written report of the meeting.

David Lithgow, business manager for SkyQuestSM, indicated that 120 individuals have subscribed to DIRECTVTM. The board authorized manager Champion to establish a leasing program for DSSTM equipment.

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

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General Manager's Comments

by Wm. David Champion, Jr.

Sustaining new rates

On behalf of your cooperative's board of directors and employees, I want to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with good health, happiness and prosperity.

Our new rates, "The Affordable Five," have been in place for more than a year, and it appears they are working.

When I wrote this article, the revenues generated by these new rates were around \$144,000 below budget, but there is a definite reason for this. Since the consumption of electricity is directly affected by the weather, the unusually mild summer temperatures generated much lower revenues than we had expected. Traditionally, we experience high temperatures and humidity during June, July and August; however, this year June was very warm and July and August were mild. Because of this, our members used less electricity during this period.

We expect to have a reasonably good grain drying load this fall, but it will not be exceptional because of the dry weather we had while the crops were maturing. As you can see, the amount of electricity you use is strongly influenced by the weather.

Even though our revenues are not

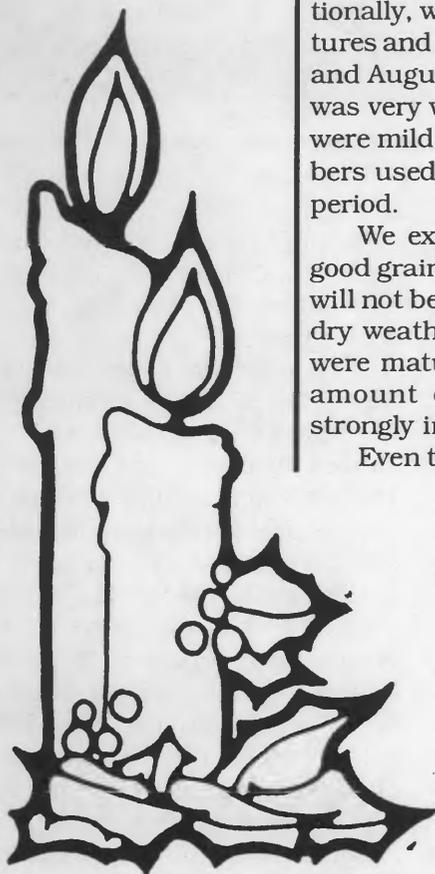
as good as we had projected, we still feel that our new competitive rates are adequate as long as you, the members, utilize as many kilowatt-hours as possible.

The more kilowatt-hours you use off-peak between September 15 and June 15, the more we can spread our costs and maintain these rates. Since we no longer have to worry about reaching a peak demand during the winter, we want to encourage you to use electricity as your total energy source. For example, with the new 4 cent electric heat rate, you may want to switch to electric heat or you may want to consider the 5 cent single-phase interruptible rate if you have a standby generator.

By being prudent, the cooperative has kept its controllable expenses \$56,000 below budget so far this year, and we are continuing to do everything possible to cut costs while providing you with top quality service.

Please help us maintain these very attractive rates by selecting electricity as your total energy source.

For more information about our attractive rates, contact our Marketing and Member Services Department at 800-824-5102 or 217-379-2131 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday



Merry
Christmas

Doctor retires after 52 years

Dr. Paul Sunderland is hanging up his hat, just over half a century after he "hung out his shingle." Dr. Sunderland and his wife, Mildred, are living in an earth-sheltered home they moved into about 13 years ago, on land they bought in the 1960s. "We bought the place back then as physical and mental therapy," he says, "and there were 30 acres. Mildred's father and I worked it up, and our sons and daughters planted 30,000 evergreens."

The property, which is just a hop, skip and a jump from the Sangamon River, is separated from that waterway by an oak-covered ridge. There was a small depression between the home site and the ridge, and it had nearly 300 acres of watershed. "We knew that a small dam would give us a nice little lake," Dr. Sunderland says, "so we built one. It worked out well, and the lake is really nice."

But the road leading to the snug house on a small lake was a long one. Born in Fisher, Dr. Sunderland lived there until he was six years old, when the family moved out of town to a farm. There were a few years of moving



Paul and Mildred Sunderland in their snug, earth-sheltered home. They met while both were students at medical school.

around in the area, caused by the fact that the family had lost everything in the Depression, which made the decade of the 1930s so rough on so many people.

"Dad bought 120 acres for \$105 an acre," Dr. Sunderland says, "and we paid for it with our small dairy operation. We sold milk in Fisher for seven and a half cents a quart, delivered. There were a lot of regulations coming along about that time, and we phased out the operation as time went by."

By that time, he was ready to leave for college, anyway. In 1936, he enrolled in the University of Illinois at Urbana, then spent four years in medical

school in Chicago, where he met Mildred, a Chicago girl. They were married at the beginning of his senior year.

"I'd planned to go into the Navy," Dr. Sunderland says, "so we moved to Annapolis, where I started my career. Mildred spent 1942-'46 there, while I went overseas in 1944 with the First Marine Division, which was fighting in the Southwest Pacific."

After the war ended, Dr. Sunderland returned to Great Lakes Hospital to take a surgical residency. "I liked it there," he said, "but by then we had two children and another on the way, and the pay wasn't all that good. A doctor from Gibson City came in with stomach pains, and had



The spacious home, which is built with berms at each end, is easy to heat and cool. It gets even cozier when the snow is halfway up the windows, the Sunderlands say.



Dr. Sunderland shows some of the landscape features of his property to Wm. David Champion, Jr., manager of EIEC.

acute appendicitis. The last thing he said to me before he went into surgery was, 'If you ever get out of this man's navy, give me a call.' Before long, I did just that."

He worked out of Gibson City, and did part-time work out of offices in Fisher, Paxton and Bellflower.

As time went by, they raised four children, one of whom, a daughter, died at 28. A son, Gale, lives in Cody, Wyoming, where he runs a locker plant and a meat packing operation that processes beef, buffalo, antelope, moose, sheep and elk. Steven is a carpenter and plumber, working for a builder while studying to become an Orthodox priest.

He lives in Blanco, Texas.

Their daughter, Karen Smith, lives at Bayles Lake and works in a Gibson City clinic.

With the kids grown and gone, the Sunderlands settled into the home they had meticulously planned to be comfortable and easy to take care of, with lots of flowers and trees to provide an agreeable landscape. They built the place of reinforced concrete with 2-inch thick polyurethane and cedar exterior sheathing. The house has a bedroom and a bath on each end, so they can hire live-in help with both parties having some separate space.

"We built in a heat pump," Dr. Sunderland says, "and it's been very satisfactory. It keeps us

snug and warm in the winter, and comfortably cool in the summer. We run the air conditioner just a little at night to cool it down so we can sleep well, and it stays cool all the next day. It's cozy, and we're most protected if we get snowed in."

Mildred notes that they were snowed in the first winter they were in the house, and it was really snug. "The snow was halfway up the windows," she says, "and it was nice and snug in here."

There is a bonus for them this year, too. "EIEC's new rate will save us \$600 a year in heating costs," Dr. Sunderland says, "and that's going to be a big help."

While the house is comfortable and affordable, they don't expect to spend all their time in it. They've enjoyed travel for many years, and have some trips planned for the future. "We went to Southeast Africa in 1968," Dr. Sunderland says, "and it was an enjoyable and interesting trip. We plan someday to go down to Rio and take a boat from there down the coast, around Cape Horn, and back up to Santiago, Chile.

"I've had an interesting career," he says, "and one of the things I've enjoyed about it has been the opportunity to work with many fine people. One of the finest is the wife of a co-op director, in fact. I practiced medicine for 52 years, and Joyce Raber of Saybrook, Mrs. William P. Raber, was my nurse for almost half that time—25 years.

Dr. Sunderland says half in jest that one key to a successful life is to adhere to an old Navy saying: "Don't take life too seriously—you'll never get out of it alive anyway."

"The one real regret I have," he says with a twinkle, "is that I neglected myself a little. If I'd known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself!"

Board meeting report



The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on October 25, 1994, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

The minutes of the September 26, 1994, regular board meeting were approved by the board.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending September 30, 1994, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,619,479, Total Operating Expenses, \$1,408,575, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,645,551, Operating Margins (\$26,072), Total Margins \$12,138 and Year-To-Date Margins \$396,882.

In September, 94 members joined the cooperative and 82 terminated their memberships.

A report of the October 18 Land Use and Facilities Committee meeting was given by director Chesnut. The committee reviewed the improvements being made to the headquarters site and discussed the proposed 1995 capital budget. After discussion, the board approved the report and the 1995 capital budget.

Manager Champion updated the board on legal activities. He reiterated that the cooperative's annual truck and equipment sale will be held on November 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton. He also provided the board with the following information: Dustin Tripp of Overland Park, Kansas, has been hired as an electrical engineer; the Live Line Demonstration is being conducted by other electric utilities; two notes for \$100,000 and \$250,000 have been paid in full to the Rural Electrification Administration; a patronage dividend check of \$16.35 has been received from RESCO; a written report on job training and safety activities; and the Nominating Committee will meet November 1 to nominate candidates for the Nominating Committee election and the directors election. In addition, the board reviewed CFC's five year Key Ratio Trend Analysis and REA's Borrower Statistical Profile for 1993.

In other action, the board approved REA Form 268, Report of Compliance and Participation; Subordination of Surface Rights for Public Road Purposes; and entering into a three-phase contract with Michael Reichert for a meat processing operation near Ashkum and a three-phase interruptible contract with Wayne Niewold of rural Paxton.

Highlights of the October 20 AIEC board of directors meeting were given by director Chesnut. NRECA, CFC and REA reports were given. Initial plans were reviewed to form an insurance pool to provide Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives with property and casualty insurance. The AIEC board voted to continue investigating this issue.

Director Warmbir reported on the October 19

Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting. Joseph F. Firlit, Soyland's executive vice president and general manager, updated the board on efforts to reduce power costs. A task force has been created to enhance the strategic plan. The Clinton power Plant sustained a maintenance outage but is back on line. The System:GT rebate program will be continued in 1995. Year-to-date, 214 geothermal systems have been added to the Soyland system. An inclusive written report of the meeting was provided by manager Champion.

Business manager for SkyQuestSM, David Lithgow, advised that 310 individuals have subscribed to DIRECTVTM and a leasing program has been developed for DSSTM equipment.

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

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