

Geothermal

It's closer than you realize.

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Across the Manager's Desk



By Dickson L. Dunsworth

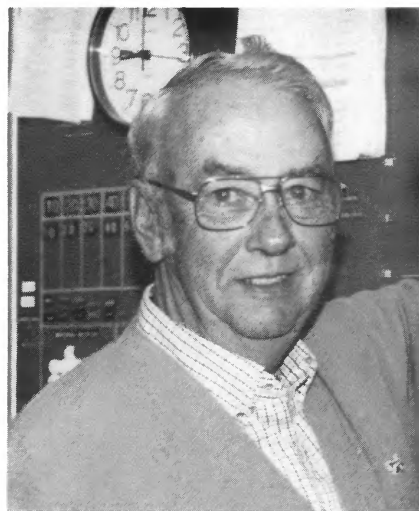
I hope the holidays were as good for all of you as they were for my family. We were blessed with having all of our kids home for Christmas for the first time in 11 years. My wife and I especially enjoyed the four granddaughters. Having the lit-

tle ones there brought back a lot of memories of years past.

McDonough Power would like to renew our New Year's resolutions. We promise to . . . work as diligently as we can to provide adequate and reliable electric power to our members, striving constantly to keep quality of service high and the cost as low as possible . . . to search out and pass along to you ideas and information on efficient energy use . . . to be open and forthright with you, our members.

If there is anything you want to know about, our activities or policies, please tell us — we will pay attention.

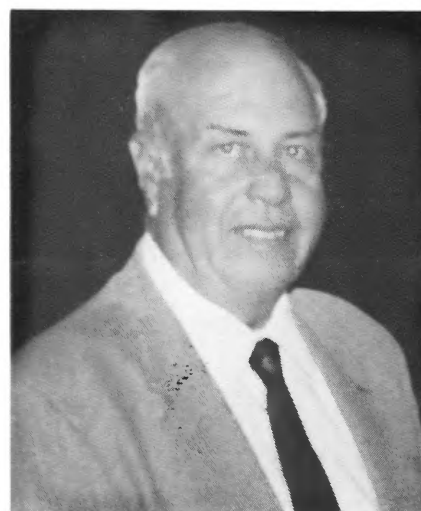
We wish you a healthy, comfortable and prosperous New Year.



Wayne Evans



Roger Robeson



Bill Pollock

Three honored for cooperative service

At the recent McDonough Power Christmas dinner, service awards were given to three individuals: Wayne Evans, engineer for 45 years of service; Roger Robeson, office coordinator for 35 years of service and Bill Pollock, director for 15 years.

Wayne Evans currently serves as the engineer for McDonough Power. Beginning

with the cooperative in 1948, vast changes have been seen by Wayne. He completes sight inspections, locates existing underground lines, completes estimates for new and additional services and trouble shoots member power concerns. Wayne also assists the line crew in restoring power to McDonough's members as quickly and efficiently as pos-

sible. Originally from this area, Wayne and wife Patricia, live just south of Good Hope on Highway 67. Pat is retired from Haeger Pottery in Macomb. The Evanses have three daughters, Gwynne, Tonna and Kimberly. Wayne is a member of the American Legion and the Elks Club. His hobbies include learning about the local history, hunting and fishing.

Roger Robeson, an employee of McDonough Power since 1958, serves as office coordinator. He directly supervises the record keeping, billing and accounting operations of the Cooperative. Roger began as the cashier and held all positions in the billing department beginning his current position in 1986. Roger works closely with McDonough's computer processing company in St. Louis, handles member billing complaints and concerns and acts as McDonough Power's loan officer for the Illinois Electric Cooper-

atives' Credit Union. Roger is originally from McDonough County, Bethel Township, and now lives in Macomb. He enjoys following professional motor racing.

Bill Pollock was elected in 1978 to the board of directors and has completed his 15th year as a director for McDonough Power. He served as secretary to the board for four years and, except for one year, has served as vice president since 1987. Bill also serves on McDonough's policy and planning committee and is an alternate director to

the Soyland Power Cooperative board. Bill and his wife, Mary Jane, who is employed at Thermo-Gas in Blandinsville, are both originally from Industry. The Pollocks reside in rural Colchester. They have four children: Scott, Bruce and Mike, who live in the Colchester area, and Pamela Hubbert of Winchester. They also have eight grandchildren. Bill enjoys his hunting dogs, trail riding and camping. He raises cattle and farms approximately 800 acres with son Scott.

Hazel Baker



Hazel Baker

Hazel Baker is retiring as cashier after 26 years of employment. She started to work on September 11, 1967.

Hazel and her husband, Harlan, a retired painter, are the parents of three children. Their daughter Susan lives in Salem, son Larry and family live in Pennsylvania, and their youngest son Harlan (Toby),

lives near Good Hope. They have eight grandchildren.

Hazel says she plans to keep busy with her grandchildren, catch up her picture albums and stamp collection, quilt two quilts her grandmother pieced for her, do a lot of traveling and continue her church work.

Hazel and Harlan are planning to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary in Queensland, Australia, with friends. At another stop on their trip, Harlan will celebrate his birthday with an AFS grandson in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Hazel will be missed by everyone at McDonough Power especially by the members who come in each month to pay their bills. We wish her and Harlan the best of luck in the future and hope they have many happy years of retirement.



Babs Lawyer

Barbara Lawyer

Barbara "Babs" Lawyer joined the McDonough Power staff December 6, 1993. She assumes the position of cashier vacated by Hazel Baker. Babs worked formerly for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. She is originally from the Industry (Pinhook) area and is looking forward to being closer to "home." Babs' interests include archaeology, biographies and history, and she enjoys sharing pictures of her three cats: Peaches, Max and Joey. McDonough Power is very pleased to have Babs on staff.

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All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400

The 'paperless' newspaper

Electronics changing readers' options

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roger Fidler, director of media

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

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

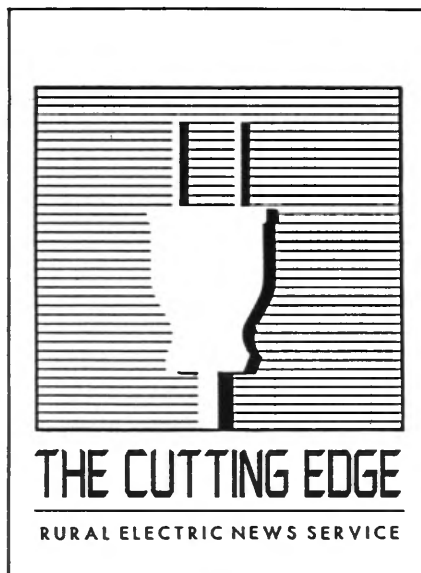
Eventually, Fidler hopes, the technology will be sophisticated enough to make the on-screen newspaper interactive: The tap of a pen on a restaurant ad, for example, would connect the reader's computer with the restaurant's reservation system.

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

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

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

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



Two-way TV turns living room into shopping center

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

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

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

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

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

programmed into your TV set.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Rural Electric News Service



Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Across the Manager's Desk



By Dickson L. Dunsworth

There are many causes for low voltage or brownout situations. One of the most common is a loose or open neutral wire on the utility's side or on the member's side of the meter. Low voltage on only one circuit, or part of the service, will almost certainly be caused by a bad neutral connection. This loose or bad connection can be anywhere from the transformer to the device which indicates the problem. Lightning is a major cause of damage that involves low voltage on the utility side.

When a low voltage or brownout condition occurs, it is a natural first inclination to wait a few minutes to see if it comes back to normal.

Waiting a few minutes will not harm the light you are watching. Any motors that are running or are attempting to run may be damaged. Our

advice is to immediately unplug or shut off any appliance that operates automatically, then call our outage number, 837-1400, to report the occurrence. Don't attempt to use any motor-driven appliances until the power has returned to normal for at least five minutes.

There are devices on the market that will protect equipment from brownout or low voltage damage. The device continually monitors the voltage on the circuit and if a low voltage situation occurs, it will shut off power to that circuit. The device will restore power five minutes after the voltage has returned to normal.

On December 7, 1993, a brownout situation occurred on part of our system at about 8:30 a.m. The problem was not caused by McDonough Power, but was a problem caused by our power supplier.

High voltage surges can also cause problems and again, lightning is the main cause of this. McDonough Power has surge protectors available. There are several types that can be installed.

Low voltage will not damage: lights, stoves, toasters, water heaters.

Low voltage may damage: air conditioners, computers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, disposals, dryers, freezers, furnace, garage door openers, hair dryers, pumps, refrigerators, TVs, VCRs, washers.

McDonough Power to sponsor Youth-to-Washington tour

The board of directors recently announced that McDonough Power Cooperative will be sponsoring the Youth-to-Washington, D.C., and Youth-to-Springfield programs this spring. McDonough Power, as well as McDonough Telephone Cooperative, is sponsoring this program to introduce students to government and the political process.

Two students from each high school in the respective service areas will receive an all-expense-paid bus trip to Springfield on Wednesday, April 13. During the day the students and their counterparts from other area high schools will meet their elected senators and representatives at the capitol and learn first-hand about the workings of state government.

From the group of high school students attending Youth Day, each cooperative will choose two students to attend the Washington tour.

The trip will be a week-long, all-expenses paid, June 17-24. During the week in the nation's capital, the Illinois student contingent will meet with Senators Carol Moseley Braun and Paul Simon and Representative Lane Evans. They will also tour the many historic and government sites of Washington, D.C. They hope to meet with President Clinton and/or a member of his staff.

McDonough Power is very pleased to be able to participate in this program for the area youth and hopes the experience for the students will be a rewarding one.

Paying on time saves everybody money

Thank you for paying your bill on time. A majority of our members pay their electric bills promptly each month.

This promptness saves money, helps us hold down operating costs and our rates. Those who do not pay on time cost us extra money and contribute to increased costs.

Paying after the 17th of the month will add at least 5 percent to your bill. Why not at least save this much.

Energy guide labels help smart shoppers

If your freezer turns ice cream into milk shakes or if your dog licks dishes cleaner than your automatic dishwasher gets them, it's probably time to break down and buy that new appliance.

But before you do, be sure you understand there's more to the cost of an appliance than the sales price. There's also the annual cost to run that appliance. That cost is provided to you through EnergyGuide labels.

Each label provides the following information:

1. The type of appliance, the capacity and the model are listed at the top.

2. The large number in the center tells you the annual energy cost in dollars. This is based on an estimated hours of use per year and a standard energy price. The energy price is the average for the entire country, and it changes as energy prices go up or down. Your actual price for energy may

be higher or lower than the standard energy price. So if you want to accurately determine your annual cost for running the appliance, call McDonough Power Cooperative before you go shopping and ask for their cost per kilowatt-hour.

3. The yearly cost table allows you to estimate the annual operating cost based on your electric rates. If you've called your power cooperative ahead of time, just use the cost table to find the kilowatt-hour closest to yours.

4. The line scale (to the left and right of the large number in the center) tells you how this appliance compares in operating costs with other comparable models. One thing to be careful of though is that this range is not updated regularly and is often not accurate. Since the ranges were determined, appliance efficiency has greatly increased.

Blinking lights mean everything is okay

If you're like most people, when you come home from work and see the digital displays on your microwave and VCR blinking "12:00, you automatically think McDonough Power is not doing its job. But in reality, your electrical system **is** working properly!

Let's take a moment to see how these momentary interruptions are actually indicators of a good electrical system.

All electrical lines are equipped with special devices that look for short circuits. Short circuits can be caused by an object (like a tree limb) brushing up against the line or by something breaking or damaging the line.

For example, if a tree limb should happen to fall across a line but not break it, and then would fall to the ground, the circuit breaker would have tripped for that period of time and then come back on when the limb fell off. If the limb had stayed on the line, the power would have remained off until someone came

to remove the limb thus resulting in a long outage.

These devices were designed to keep power outages at a minimum — momentary outages would last much longer if not for these. Connections with power lines that only last seconds will switch the power off and then back on again in a blink of an eye.

Momentary interruptions in electrical service have always been around but no one really noticed them until digital and computerized equipment became commonplace in homes and businesses. You probably used to think that your electric wall clock had just been losing time!

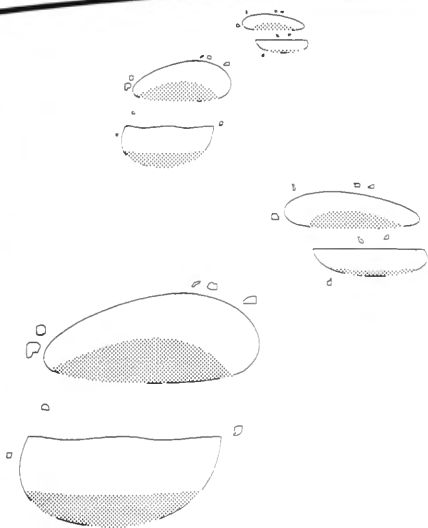
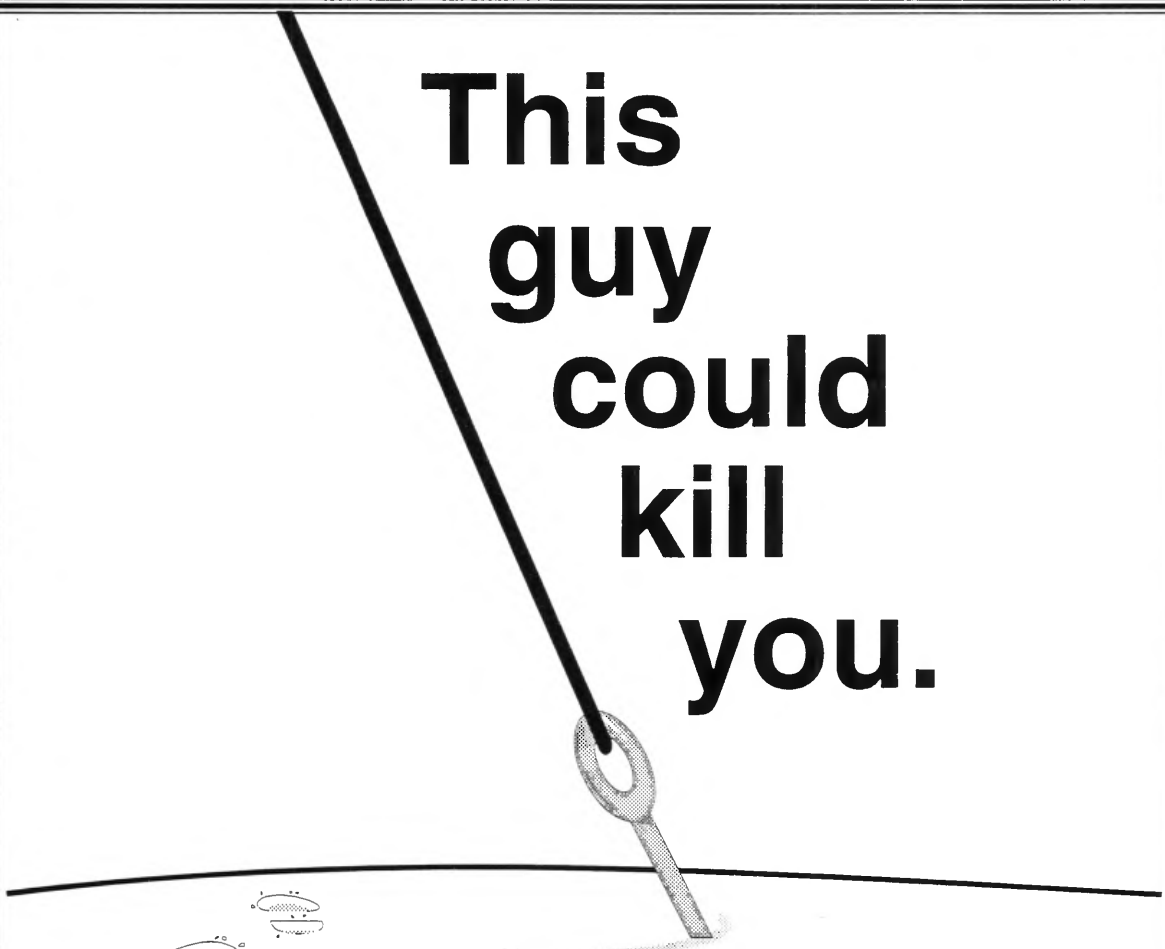
To keep yourself from having to reset all your digital displays if a momentary power outage occurs, consider purchasing or installing battery back-ups in all your appliances and computer equipment. It will save you a lot of headaches in the future as you look for that instruction manual on how to reset your clocks!

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All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400

This guy could kill you.



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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

10-pound 'virtual office' goes wherever worker does

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"With new technology the

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

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

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

since 1989.

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

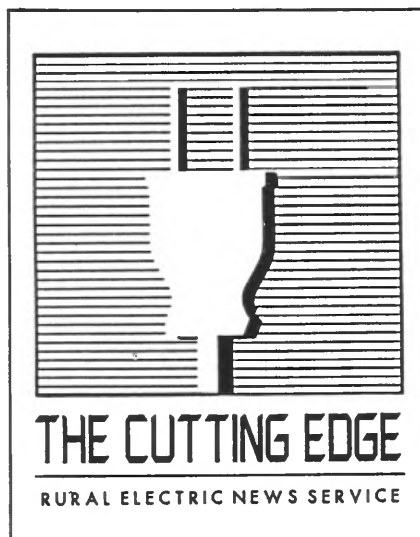
"First there was the telegraph and then the telephone and now we've got personal computers, faxes and video teleconferencing," says Edward Cornish, president of the World Future Society in Bethesda, Maryland. "The prospect of living your life and conducting business without ever being in the same room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

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

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

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

Distance is no longer a hindrance to corporate decision-
(Continued on page 12d)



Watts New

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Macomb, Illinois 61455

Across the Manager's Desk



By Dickson L. Dunsworth

Have your bills been higher this winter than you think they should be? Since electricity is so convenient and used for so many chores, it's easy to forget just how many kilowatt-hours (kwh) are adding up on the electric meter.

The first natural thought is that something is wrong with that blankety-blank meter when you get an unusually high bill. Years and years of experience with investigating high bill complaints indicate that meters rarely are the cause. In fact, more often than not, meters have a tendency to slow down after they have been installed for a long time.

If there has been a drastic increase in consumption, usually the cause is a wiring problem on the member's side of the meter or an electrical appliance problem.

What if you think you used too many kwh some month? If the meter is turning rapidly, literally spinning, try turning off one circuit at a time at

your breakers or fuse panel, then check the meter. This could possibly isolate the problem to one circuit or appliance.

Also make an honest evaluation of your family's lifestyle and how you use electricity. You realize with variations in families and activities, monthly usage will always vary somewhat.

If you can't solve your problem, please don't let it go on for a long period of time without contacting McDonough Power. Sometimes our personnel can answer your questions or solve your problem over the phone, but if a site trip is necessary to help you, they will be glad to do that.

Check meters can be set on various loads or, if you insist, we will field test your meter for a \$30 test fee. If the meter happens to be over 4 percent fast, the fee will be refunded and your bill adjusted for the period of the increased usage or up to six months.

Many times there isn't any electrical problem involved with a high bill; it may be a problem with meter reading, so be sure to accurately read your meter each month.

If you think you have a problem, give our office a call.

Office closing

McDonough Power Cooperative will close April 1 in observance of Good Friday. The office will reopen Monday, April 4, at 8 a.m.

Geothermal

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

If you're thinking of building a new home or upgrading your current residence, keep geothermal in mind.

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McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson St.

P.O. Box 352

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Map Location Number				Usage Last Yr.			
Previous	Present	Mult.	KWH	\$	Amount	C	R
PURCHASED POWER AND ADDED COST							
ANY BALANCE FORWARD SHOWN ON BILL MUST BE PAID IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID DISCONNECTION.							
BC	CL	THIS STATEMENT IS FOR CONSUMPTION NOT LATER THAN		Mo.	Day	Yr.	\$ Net Bill C R
Rate Schedule	BILL IS DELINQUENT AND GROSS APPLIES IF NOT RECEIVED BY		Mo.	Day	Yr.	\$ Gross Bill	C R
Meter Number				Account Number			

Keep For
Your Records

McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson St.

P.O. Box 352

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Post Card Rate
Permit No. 552
Macomb,
Illinois 61455

FORWARDING & ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED

Map Location		Date Meter Read _____					
ENTER METER READING HERE							
Billing Date		Prev. Rdg.					
Account Number				\$	Gross Amt. Due	C	R
				\$	Net Amt. Due	C	R

RETURN THIS PORTION - PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT

Help us help you

Know your location number

When a power outage does occur, please follow this procedure:

1. Check your fuses and circuit breakers.
2. If none of your lights burn, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. If you are reasonably sure the trouble is not in your own wiring or equipment, then call the cooperative. The telephone is answered 24 hours a day.

When you call in for an outage please be sure to have your location number on hand. When you have this number ready for us, it will quicken our response time and your power will be restored as quickly as possible. Your location number can be found on your electric bill (see copy of bill).

For example, if your location number is 4219A1-500A, that tells us immediately you are

located in T-4N, R-2W, and that you live in section 19, in the northwest quarter of the section (A1). The 500 indicates the line and the A indicates the phase. This may sound like Greek to you, but to our lineman and operating personnel it tells them exactly where you are located.

Also, please give us the name shown on the account. If the account is in John Smith's name and Mary Smith calls in, we don't know that Mary is John's wife.

All of this will assure we have the right person at the right location. We suggest you write your location number down on your telephone book or post it close to your telephone where it is ready when you call to report your outage. If you have any questions regarding your location number, please contact us here at the office.

Stay safe and sound when spring comes 'round!

Launch the spring season safely as you begin to spend more time outdoors for work and play.

- Make sure outdoor electrical outlets are grounded and have weatherproof covers.
- Never fly kites or model planes near power lines. Use only dry string on kites.
- Never place a ladder where it can fall into a power line.

- Instruct the kids to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.

And, there are more helpful things to keep in mind when you're working and playing outdoors. Just contact us, and we'll be delighted to help you play it safe for all your outdoor activities.

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

“The work force is communicating increasingly electroni-

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

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

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

their jobs are in big cities.

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

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

Rural Electric News Service

The things we value



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

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

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

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

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

Electricity. A source of comfort.

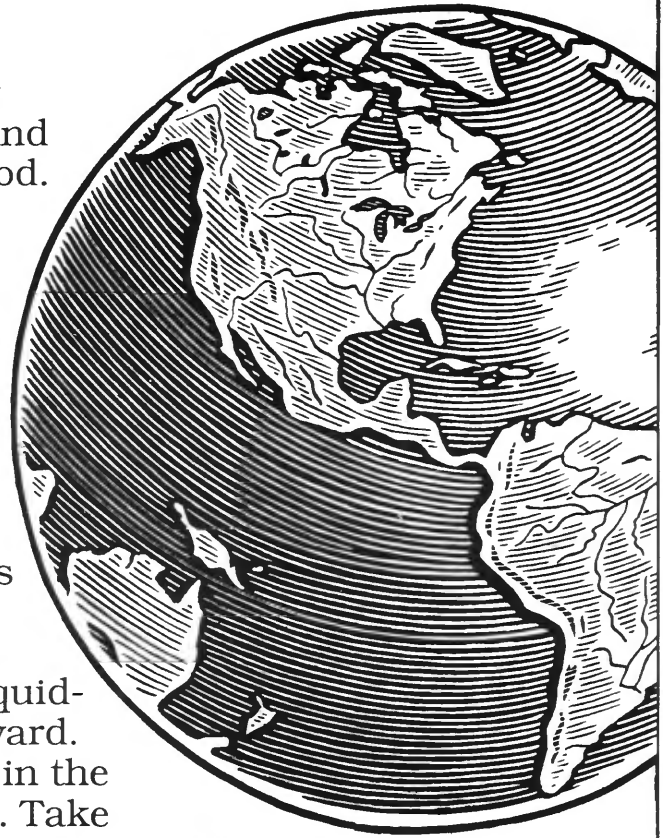


Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

Use the earth to your advantage

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois.

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Across the Manager's Desk



By Dickson L. Dunsworth

What is a cooperative?

*It's a group of people working together to fulfill a common need.

*It's a group of people working together to operate a common undertaking.

*It's a group of people working together to gain a common benefit.

The common need may be either one specific need or a bundle of needs compacted together. There are many cooperatives that we are all familiar with and perhaps are a part of. Most were formed so people could find a better way to:

*Market their agriculture products; hence the marketing cooperatives.

*Obtain their production supplies such as fuel and fertilizer; hence the supply cooperatives.

*Have a good source of financing suited to their specific need; hence the Farm Credit System and the credit unions.

*Obtain electric power and telephone service in the rural areas; hence the rural electric and telephone cooperatives.

Throughout the United States, people are working together in more than 25,000 cooperative undertakings of various kinds, with many of these grown to considerable size and maturity.

Cooperatives are incorporated as regular business organizations, have a staff of hired employees to operate the day-to-day business, have their own place of business and follow normal and good

business practices if they are to succeed.

Cooperatives operate in the same general pattern as any other business. They are chartered by the state governments, have bylaws that spell out how directors are to manage the business, and have a corporate structure similar to other businesses. Co-ops pay local, state, federal, and other taxes that are applicable. They keep books, make financial accounts, and maintain financial stability.

Members elect a board of directors from within the membership. The board hires a top executive officer who in turn manages the business.

There are two distinctions between a cooperative corporation and another type of corporation.

First, the users, called the members, are the owners and keep control of the organization through democratic processes.

Second, the user-members get the money, called capital credits or patronage refunds, after the cost of doing business is deducted and in direct proportion to the use they make of the cooperative. This differs from investor-owned businesses, as they receive the profits on the basis of their investment in the stocks of the business.

Cooperative members meet annually to elect a board of directors, who must be members. At this annual meeting, the members hear reports from the hired management or employees and the chairman of the board, again a member, on how business has gone over the past year and plans for the future.

Members also vote on any important matters, such as bylaw changes, and can raise questions on pertinent matters.

The directors are responsible for policy and decisions on the general direction the cooperative takes and forsee that the business is soundly run by the chief executive they hire.

The chief executive or manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the cooperative, hiring and supervising employees, managing operations, executing policy, and the like.

The directors meet regularly to hear reports from the management, make plans and decisions, and conduct any needed business. This is part of their overall responsibility to the other members



to see that the cooperative operates as well as possible and in the best interest of the majority of the members.

The one thing that helps make the cooperative system work is the idealist in all of us. "Pride of ownership" appeals to nearly everyone. The old rural traditions of barn-raising and harvesting crops for the injured farmer are still a part of the rural psychology. But economic necessity has also

had an influence. To protect themselves, farmers and rural Americans have had to select the kind of leadership that would permit the things I have described and that would provide the personal service or convenience the citizens of rural America want.

This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the cooperative way of doing business.

Tips to help you save on lighting costs

It's easy to use more light than you need. More than 16 percent of the electricity we use in our homes goes into lighting. Most Americans over-light their homes, so lowering lighting levels is an easy conservation measure. Consider these ideas:

Turn off lights in any room not being used.

Light-zone your home and save electricity. Concentrate lighting in reading and working areas and where it's needed for safety (stairwells, for example). Reduce lighting in other areas, but avoid very short contrasts.

- 💡 Consider installing solid-state dimmers or high-low switches.
- 💡 Use one large bulb instead of several small ones in areas where bright light is needed.
- 💡 Use long-life incandescent lamps only in hard-to-reach places.
- 💡 Always turn three-way bulbs down to the lowest lighting level when watching television.
- 💡 Use low-wattage night-light bulbs.
- 💡 Try 50-watt reflector floodlights in directional lamps.

- 💡 Try 25-watt reflector flood bulbs in high-intensity portable lamps.
- 💡 Use fluorescent lights whenever you can. They give out more lumens per watt.
- 💡 Consider fluorescent lighting for the kitchen sink and counter top areas.
- 💡 Fluorescent lighting also is effective for make up and grooming areas.
- 💡 Keep all lamps and lighting fixtures clean.
- 💡 You can save on lighting energy through decorating.
- 💡 Have decorative outdoor gas lamps turned off unless they are essential for safety or convert them to electricity.
- 💡 Use outdoor lights only when they are needed.



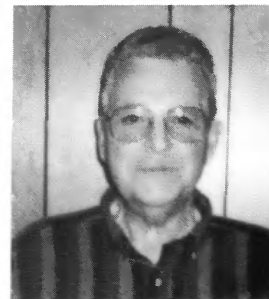
Check out McDonough Power's new display of light bulbs for sale. We are selling many of the bulbs mentioned in this article.

Downey is new co-op employee

McDonough Power Cooperative welcomes William Downey as its new part-time janitor. Bill and wife, Charlene, were 20-year residents of Little Swan lake and recently moved to Macomb after Bill's retirement.

Bill is a member of the Eagles Club and enjoys fishing.

The Downeys have five children: Dianna Beck, Randy Downey, Deb Sallee, Denise Vogel and Aaron Downey; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.



William Downey

DIRECTORS

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All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400

On-line computer services are 'global connectivity'

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

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

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

The boom is fueled by low-cost computers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

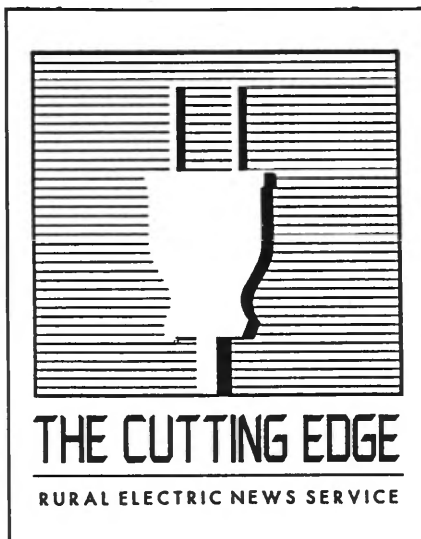
"It's chilling," says author and psychologist Michael Broder. "For a lot of people, it's a fantasy life. No real person can measure up to personalities one sees in computer messages."

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

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

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

—Rural Electric News Service



Getting the most out of your air conditioner

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

Clean the filter

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

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

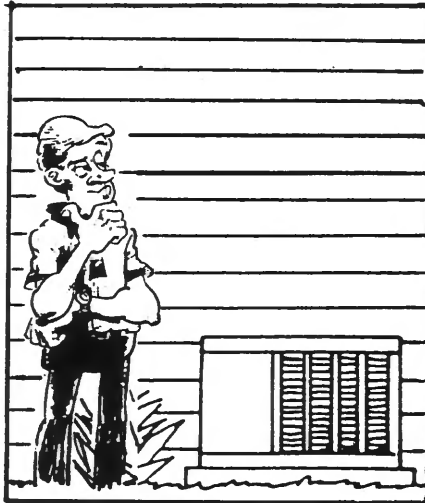
Air leaks are costly

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

Most people think of thermal

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

The amount of insulation your



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

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

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

awnings over windows and doors to provide shade.

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

More cost-saving tips

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

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

Leave your thermostat at one setting.

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

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

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

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Across the Manager's Desk



By Dickson L. Dunsworth

In the near future most members of McDonough Power will receive a survey in the mail. We encourage you to complete this survey and return it as soon as possible.

This survey will be used to determine if we can better serve our members and to bring our records up to date.

As an added incentive to complete the survey, a drawing will be held on June 1 at 4 p.m. from those returned by that time. Prizes to be given away include:



\$ 5 credit on June electric bill (3 prizes)

\$10 credit on June electric bill (3 prizes)

\$15 credit on June electric bill (2 prizes)

\$25 credit on June electric bill (1 prizes)

**We urge you to please cooperate
with us on this survey.**

Celebrate "Electrical Safety Month" in May!



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

*Don't restrict air flow around a TV set. It can overheat without proper ventilation.

*Don't put materials that can burn, such as clothing, curtains, paper and flammable liquids, near lamps, heating appliances and hot surfaces.

*Plug in portable appliances only when you intend to use them. Otherwise, keep them disconnected and stored away. Keep motors or their protective covers

free from lint, dust and dirt so they don't overheat.

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

Help make a lineman's job safer

Being a lineman is no simple task. Climbing poles and stringing electrical wire is a daily job despite weather reports or working conditions. But even if the weather or working conditions weren't problems, the lineman has a very dangerous job.

To work on the electrical lines, a lineman uses a bucket truck or he has to climb the pole using special steel spikes called gaffs, which attach around his boots. These gaffs dig into the pole and give the lineman a solid hold on the pole as he works with the electrical lines. The lineman's livelihood and his life depend on his being able to keep those gaffs in the pole. If he should lose his hold on the pole, he could fall, hurting himself badly or even killing himself.

You can help the linemen at McDonough Power Cooperative by keeping the poles around your property free of any item that might keep them from doing their jobs properly. A few examples of how you can help follow:

Don't hang bird houses or basketball goals on an electrical pole. The lineman who has to climb that pole will have to climb around these. If he does climb around a bird house or basketball goal, there's a good chance he might use them as a handhold. And if the structure isn't secure, the lineman could fall and be hurt badly.

Don't use electrical equipment for your target practice. This can cause nothing but damage to

the equipment and could harm you. Shooting at power lines or the insulators located on the poles could cause the lines to come down and cause outages that affect hundreds of people.

Don't landscape around the bottom of the pole with flower boxes, bird houses, etc. If a lineman should fall on these, he could be injured more seriously. Planting flowers in the soil around the pole doesn't do any harm as long as no wood or sharp objects are used in the bed.

Don't erect a fence or attach a gate to a pole. A fence post made of wood or steel driven into the ground near a power pole is a great hazard to a lineman if he should happen to slip and fall on it. Don't build or attach anything to the pole that could be a hazard.

Don't hang a sign advertising a garage sale or promoting your favorite political candidate on the power pole. The signs themselves aren't hazards but the nails or staples used to hold them up are. If a lineman should hit one of these while climbing, his gaff won't get a strong hold and he could slip off the pole. This goes for any metal object attached to the pole, including spikes, steeples or any kind of nail.

If you follow these simple rules, you'll be making the already dangerous job of the lineman much safer.

Office closing

McDonough Power Cooperative will be closed, Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. We will reopen Tuesday, May 31, at 8 a.m.

Capital credit allocation

The bylaws of the cooperative state that the cooperative pay capital credits to each member on all amounts in excess of that needed to establish general reserves.

Capital credit refunds have been paid to all members through 1973.

The capital credit refund factor for the year

1993 is .043 percent. This percentage factor is multiplied times the amount of revenue you paid the cooperative for electricity during the year 1993. This amount is assignable on the books of the cooperative for the year. If you wish to know what amount is assigned to your account, please contact the cooperative.

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All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400



A home coming

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

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

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



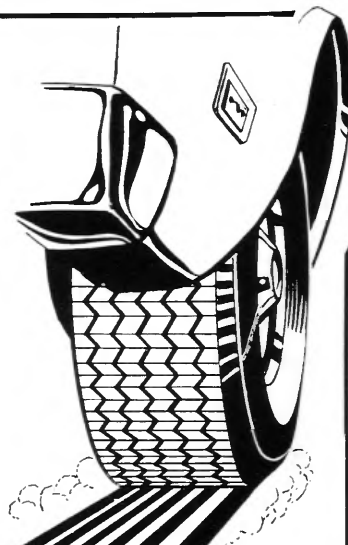
Electricity. A source of comfort.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

STOP!



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

Stop, look and live.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Across the Manager's Desk



By Dickson L. Dunsworth

Again this year, McDonough Power Cooperative suggests that, when the temperature is predicted to be 90 degrees or above, its consumers use major appliance or equipment before 12 noon

or after 8 p.m.

During the period from June 15 through September 15 the Cooperative's peak for the next year will be established. The critical time of day is from noon until 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, weekends are excluded.

The lower our peak demand is, the lower our power cost will be, and this savings directly reflects on the cost of power to our members.

Please remember "PEAK 90." Help us help you.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to complete the member survey and return it to us. If you haven't returned yours, please do so as soon as possible. It is important that we get as much information as possible to update our records and to assist us in future planning.

Nominating Committee will meet June 30

Members of the 1994 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee will meet at the Macomb Dining Co., June 30, 1994, at 7 p.m. to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 1994 annual meeting of members to be held August 29, 1994, at the Fellheimer Auditorium in Macomb.

District 1 (composed of the west half of Scotland Township and east half of Chalmers Township in McDonough County): Donald J. Nelson, 1307 E. Thomas St., Macomb, IL 61455

District 2 (composed of all Lamoine, Bethel and Industry townships in McDonough County and parts of Brooklyn, Littleton and Oakland townships in Schuyler County): Earl Allen, RR 2 Box 35, 2160 N. 450th Rd., Plymouth, IL 62367 and Phillip Hoover, 14975 N. 300th Rd., Industry, IL 61440

District 3 (composed of all Hire, Tennessee, Colchester and the west half of Chalmers townships in McDonough County and parts of Fountain Green and Hancock townships in Hancock County): Charles Seaver, 560 Temple Rd., Tennessee, IL 62374

District 4 (composed of all Blandinsville, Sciota and Emmett townships in McDonough County): Kenneth Waymack, 11571 N. 2100th Rd., Good Hope, IL 61438

District 5 (composed of the east half of Scotland and all of New Salem, Eldorado and Mound townships in McDonough County and part of Harris Farmers and Vermont townships in Fulton County): Steven Pigg, 20320 N. 1700th Rd., Bushnell, IL 61422 and Randy Parks, 8240 2350th St., Adair, IL 61411

District 6 (composed of all Macomb, Walnut Grove, Bushnell and Prairie City townships in McDonough County and part of Lee in Fulton County): Steve Nelson, 22735 E. 1500th St., Good Hope, IL 61438

District 7 (composed of all of Raritan, Point Pleasant, Swan Creek, Greenbush and Media townships in McDonough County): Stuart Mayhew, RR 1, Roseville, IL 61473

District 8 (composed of all of Biggsville, Tompkins, Ellison, Roseville, Lenox, Monmouth and Spring Grove township in Warren County): William Ault, RR 1, Monmouth, IL 61462 and Tim Phelps, RR 1, Monmouth, IL 61462

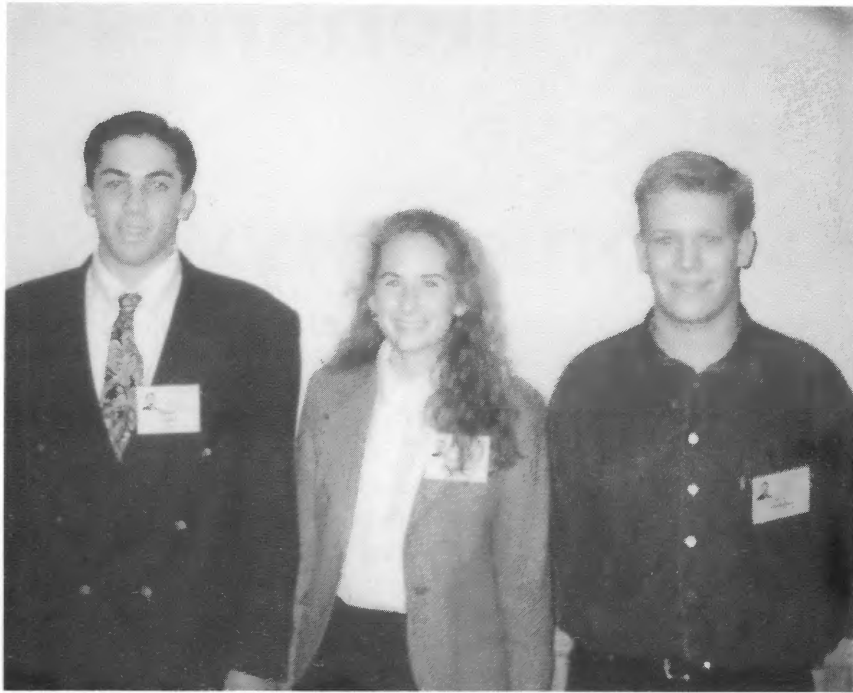
District 9 (composed of Kelly, Coldbrook, Floyd and Berwick townships in Warren County and parts of Galesburg, Cedar and Indian Point townships in Knox County): Sammy J.

Stehling, RR 1 Box 151A, Monmouth, IL 61462

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that nominations to the board of directors may be made by: (1) The Nominating Committee, (2) A petition signed by 15 or more active members, the petition must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the annual meeting or (3) nominations can be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

The terms of directors from Districts 2, 5 and 8 expire this year. Directors presently serving on your board of directors are: District 1, Wade Blansett; District 2, Jerry Riggins; District 3, William Pollock; District 4, Stan Prox; District 5, Lyndall Pigg; District 6, Kenneth Moore; District 7, Harold Anderson; District 8, Howard Butler, and District 9, Thomas Curtis.

Section 5. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than forty days nor more than one hundred twenty days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of two members from each district in which a director is to be elected and one member from each of the other districts served by the cooperative. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative, at least thirty days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, which shall include at least nine or more candidates for each board position to be filled by the election. The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least seven days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations. Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nomination made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petitions, in order to be valid, must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least thirty days before the meeting. Any nomination by petition which meets the requirements of the bylaws, shall be set forth in the annual meeting notice as nominations made by petition and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot. Nothing contained herein shall, however, prevent additional nominations to be made from the floor at the meeting of members.



Katie Kielpinski and Nick Chatterton (right) are the winners in the McDonough Power Cooperative Youth to Washington competition. Raam Jani is the alternate.

Local students represent cooperatives

On April 13 approximately 50 students and chaperones from McDonough Power Cooperative and McDonough Telephone Cooperative traveled to Springfield for the Youth to Springfield Day.

The group joined approximately 275 students and chaperones from throughout Illinois. While there the students met with Gov. Jim Edgar, as well as their local legislators. Guest speaker for the luncheon was Rep. Dan Rutherford of Pontiac. Tours were given through the State Capitol, Lincoln's Neighborhood, and the Old State Capitol.

McDonough Power sponsored students from the following area high schools to participate in the day's activities: Jessica Shaw and Nick Chatterton, Avon; Kristen Poole and Marc Peirce, Warren; Erin Parrish and Dustin Hobby, Abingdon; Raam Jani, Katie Kielpinski, Josh McCall and Lara Lindsay, Macomb; L.C. Coghill and Jackie Haut, Colchester; Alicia Featheringill and Donielle Lester, Northwestern; Cherna Parmer and Dianne Griswold, Roseville; Tara Fowler and Brandon John, Industry; Ryan Owens and Melanie Wright, Bushnell-Prairie City.

From these 22 students, six finalists for the Youth to Washington trip were interviewed upon arriving at Aurelio's Pizza in Macomb.

The winners of the Youth to Washington Tour are Nick Chatterton, Avon High School, and Katie Kielpinski, Macomb High School. Raam Jani, Macomb High, was chosen as the alternate in the event one of the winning students would be unable to attend.

Nick is the son of Greg and Charlotte Chatterton of rural route Avon. He is an officer of his junior class, member of band, chorus, and his local 4-H club, as well as many church-related activities.

Katie is the daughter of Kevin and Maureen Hazell of Macomb. She has been very active in civic and academic-related activities. She is a McDonough District Volunteer and a National Honor Society tutor, as well as most improved player in volleyball her sophomore and junior years.

Nick and Katie have a strong interest in government. With their experience in Washington, they hope to obtain a better understanding of how the government affects our lives every day. Each feels it will be a rewarding experience both personally and educationally.

McDonough Power is very proud to have these two students representing the Cooperative in Washington, D.C., June 17-24.

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Technology visionaries propose communications 'skyway'

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

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

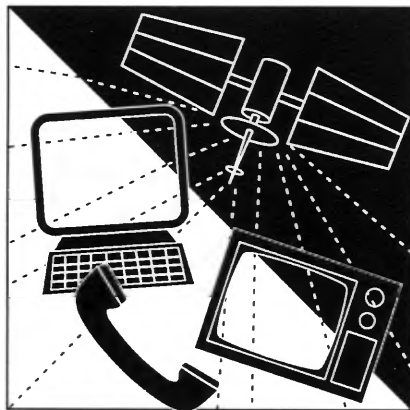
Planned for 2001, the system would form a digital, wireless network to transmit phone calls, interactive TV, computer data, and video anywhere on Earth. It sounds like the land-based information superhighway — but without wires.

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

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

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

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



classrooms.

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

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

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

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

to regular phone or cable TV lines.

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

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

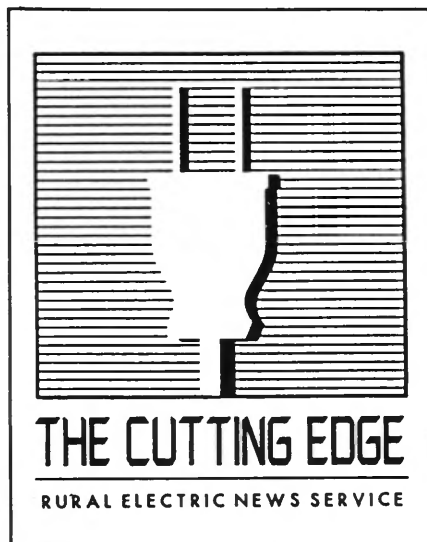
Hughes launched a direct-broadcast satellite in December, and television service for its first customers began in April. Those customers use 18-inch satellite dishes to pick up satellite signals for TV channels. Programming can be purchased through many rural electric and telephone cooperatives that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

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

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

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

—Rural Electric News Service



From here to there



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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Across the Manager's Desk



By Dickson L. Dunsworth

I am happy to announce that your board of directors has adopted two new rates for electric heat, if it is the primary heating source. They also adopted a rate for geothermal heat pumps. Along with the geothermal rate, they have put into place some incentive rebates for both geothermal and air-to-air heat pumps. The period from June 15 through September 15 is when the Cooperative's peak for the next year will be established.

Anyone who completed and returned our survey indicating that you might be eligible for one of the above new rates, will receive information

Attend your annual meeting

On the outside looking in... Some electric utility customers are bound to feel that way about the company's operation. But that's not the "co-operative way" of doing business. An electric cooperative is something special. The owners are you, the people it serves. It's important that you participate in its operation. That's why your attendance at the Annual Meeting on August 29 at Fellheimer Auditorium is so important. It's a vital part of your role as a McDonough Power Cooperative member. **MARK AUGUST 29 ON YOUR CALENDAR.**

from us in the near future. If you did not complete the survey, but feel you might be eligible, please call the office.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who cooperated and returned the surveys. They have supplied us with very good information.

A list of the winners in the prize drawings, will be in next month's center section.

Office closing

McDonough Power Cooperative will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. The office will reopen Tuesday, July 5, at 8 a.m.

It's America's birthday!

As you prepare for the picnic and fireworks with your neighbors, families and friends, the folks at McDonough Power remind you to use a little caution and some common sense to keep your festivities safe and sound.

Here are a few suggestions to keep in mind while you celebrate.

- Make sure someone experienced with fireworks handles the displays.
- Designate responsible adults or older teenagers to supervise sports activities.
- Make sure there is always someone in charge of grills, barbecues and campfires.
- Keep all perishable foods thoroughly chilled by putting them in a cooler.

A little planning beforehand will make your celebration a success. The folks at McDonough Power want you to have a safe and happy "Fourth."

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All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400

Tee off at Gold Hills Course

Golfers in McDonough County and the surrounding areas will enjoy playing on their first 18-hole public golf course, which is slated to open mid-summer 1994.

The Torrance family has owned the original nine holes since 1962. Dan Torrance, one of the co-owners, is the third generation of the family to work in the golf business.

Co-owners Dan Torrance and Dave Burgess purchased the nine-hole course at the end of 1989. They tore down the old club house and built the present one, which houses their pro shop and relaxing lounge area. In 1991 they purchased a new cart fleet and kept improving the current nine holes.

In the fall of 1992 the extra ground was purchased for the additional nine holes. A driving range, more trees, sand traps and watering system were also added. The course has a total of three lakes and two ponds, which add to the beauty of this natural course. Total acreage is approximately 130 acres.

Daryll Sidwell has been the greenskeeper from the inception with Torrance and Burgess. The facility employs five full-time employees and their part-time employees vary with the season.

Notoriety is reaching outside the region. The nine-hole addition has helped membership grow steadily. Gold Hills has also been getting more tournaments as the popularity increases.

Gold Hills offers season passes for singles, families, juniors, senior citizens and students. Also



Dave Burgess, left, co-owner of Gold Hills Golf Club, with Dick Dunsworth, manager of McDonough Power

offered is a reciprocal card with area golf courses. The course is open 6 a.m. until dusk. Burgess says, "We are never really closed, and in the off season, golfers can play, weather permitting."

Christmas is the peak season for the pro shop. Golfers can try out new clubs on the indoor driving range and can have their swing analyzed.

Torrance and Burgess say membership participation is great and has helped expedite progress and maintain the current golf course. On any given day, individuals will just appear, grab a shovel and help wherever needed.

McDonough Power provides electric service to this location and wishes them the best with their exciting future.

Nine winners in survey drawing

Congratulations to these winners whose surveys were drawn on June 1. All surveys returned by this date were eligible for the drawing.

- \$5 Energy Credit:** Jerry Davis, Macomb
Steve Flanagan, Colchester
Thomas Pratt, Macomb
- \$10 Energy Credit:** Robert Hughes, Macomb
Roy Thomas, Bushnell
Mitchell Welsh, Blandinsville
- \$15 Energy Credit:** David and Kerry Massey, Macomb
Louise Mayhew, Roseville
- \$25 Energy Credit:** Gene Youngquist, Cameron

Electric cooperatives volunteer to cut pollution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The strategies include:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Rural Electric News Service.

Light sleeper

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

Most important is the feeling of security. Today's homeowner can find comfort in a dusk-to-dawn electric security light.

Ask your electric cooperative about installing one. It costs just pennies a

day. And, a strong light shining over your property

during the dark hours has been known to lead to hours of carefree, pleasant dreams. A big pillow doesn't hurt, either.

Electricity. A source of comfort.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

McDonough Power Cooperative's Annual Meeting Monday, August 29, 1994 Fellheimer Auditorium, Macomb High School: 7:30 p.m.

*Election of directors

*Report of officers and manager

*\$5 will be credited to September bill for registering

*Drawing for \$10 credit on September bill

*\$25 name-a-minute drawing

*Drawing for an electric lawnmower and other prizes

Fellheimer Auditorium, in Macomb High School is located at 1525 South Johnson St., Macomb.

Your official notice will list the names of the members nominated for your cooperative board of directors. These nominees were selected by the Nominating Committee, which met June 30, 1994. Additional nominations may be made by petition or from the floor at your annual meeting.

A name a minute will be drawn during the official meeting. For those who are present and name is drawn, a \$25 credit toward your September energy bill will be given.

There will be three drawings, 10 names each time, or a total of 30 names drawn from those registered to receive \$10 credit on their September energy bill. Each member who registers will receive a \$5 credit on their September energy bill.

A drawing will also be held for a Black and Decker electric lawnmower and other electrical appliances and tools. You must be present to win for all prize drawings.



Ms. Cindy Robinson

Cindy Robinson is featured entertainment

Cindy Robinson is a small town country girl who grew up listening to Country Western and Bluegrass music. "My parents took me to various shows, and I draw my musical talent from my dad's side of the family", she says.

She likes Patsy Cline's style of music and says she follows Cline's thoughts, "You need to feel the music, and live each word as if it were your own."

Nominating Committee report

Pursuant to the bylaws, the members of the Nominating Committee met at the Macomb Dining Company, Macomb, June 30, 1994, at 7 p.m. to nominate candidates for election as directors at the McDonough Power Cooperative's next annual meeting of members to be held at 7:30 p.m., Monday, August 29, 1994.

The following members were present:

Stuart Mayhew

William Ault

Steve Nelson

Randy Parks

Charles Seaver

Don Nelson

Tim Phelps

Robert Bland

Earl Allen

Phillip Hoover

The committee selected the following nominees to be candidates for directors to serve for a three year term and be elected at the annual meeting.

District 8

District 2

District 5

Arthur H. Butler

Jerry Riggins

Steve Lynn

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition. Additional nominations for directors may be made from the floor at the meeting.

Phil Hoover

Dated: June 30, 1994, Chairman

Money-saving programs

The following is a list of programs the Cooperative has developed to help improve the quality of your life. Should you need other information or have questions about them, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office. Remember, it is our job to help and we are just a phone call away.

Geothermal Rate — Members who have an all-electric home and use a geothermal heating and cooling system are eligible for our geothermal rate. All kilowatt-hours, if separately metered, will be billed at 6 cents per kilowatt-hour. There will be a \$2.50 facility charge for the separate meter.

Electric Heat Rate — Members using an electric heating system as their primary source of heat are eligible for our new electric heat rate. Under this rate,

all kilowatt-hours, if separately metered and used during the months of October through April, will be billed at 6 cents per kilowatt-hour. There will be a \$2.50 facility charge for the separate meter.

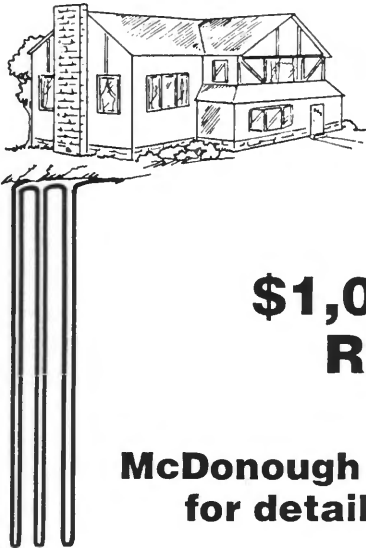
If it is not possible to install a separate meter, the rate is as follows: the first 1,000 kilowatt-hours will be billed at 10.5 cents, the next 4,000 kilowatt-hours will be billed at 6 cents, and all kilowatt-hours over 5,000 will be billed at 8 cents. This rate is for the usage during the months of October through April.

Geothermal Rebate — Members installing a geothermal heating and cooling system will be eligible for a \$500 rebate from the Cooperative. If the system is installed before December 31, 1994, the member will also be

eligible to receive a one-time rebate from Soyland Power Cooperative in the amount of \$500.

Air-to-Air Heat Pump Rebate — Members installing an air-to-air heat pump with electric back up are eligible for a \$350 rebate. If the air-to-air heat pump back up is gas, they will be eligible for a \$200 rebate.

Low-Interest Loans for the Installation of Heat Pumps — Members may be eligible for low-interest loans for the installation of a geothermal system or an air-to-air heat pump. A member must have a good payment record with the Cooperative and provide evidence of a good credit rating. Loans will be secured by a satisfactory security agreement.



The answer to a comfortable home is at your feet.

It's a Geothermal System

Install System:GT before December 31, 1994 and earn

\$1,000 CASH REBATE

call

McDonough Power Cooperative for details (309)833-2101

Contact Us About Our 5% Loan Program For Geothermal System

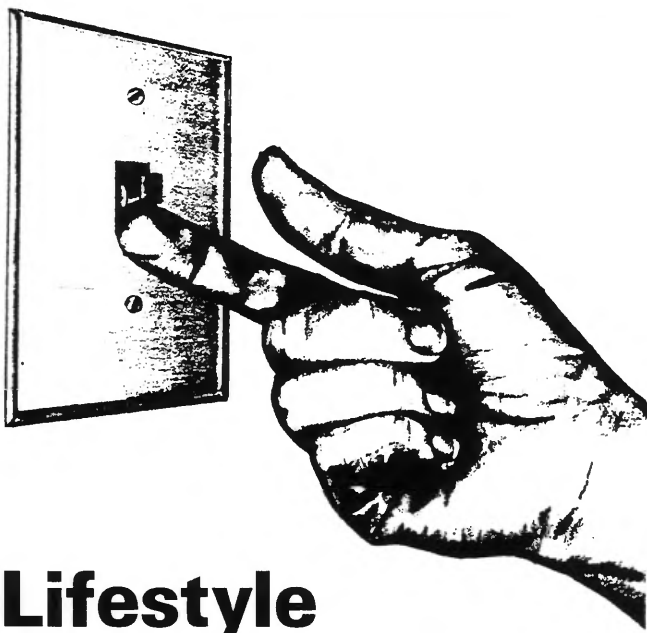
'Peak 90'

McDonough Power Cooperative suggests that when the temperature is predicted to be 90 or above, its consumers use major appliances or equipment before 12 noon or after 8 p.m. This helps control our peak demand and allows us to pass that savings on to you.

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All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400



Lifestyle makes a difference

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

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

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

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

Family size

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

Space heating and cooling

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

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

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

Water heating

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

Ask yourself some of the following questions:

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

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

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

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

Appliance use

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

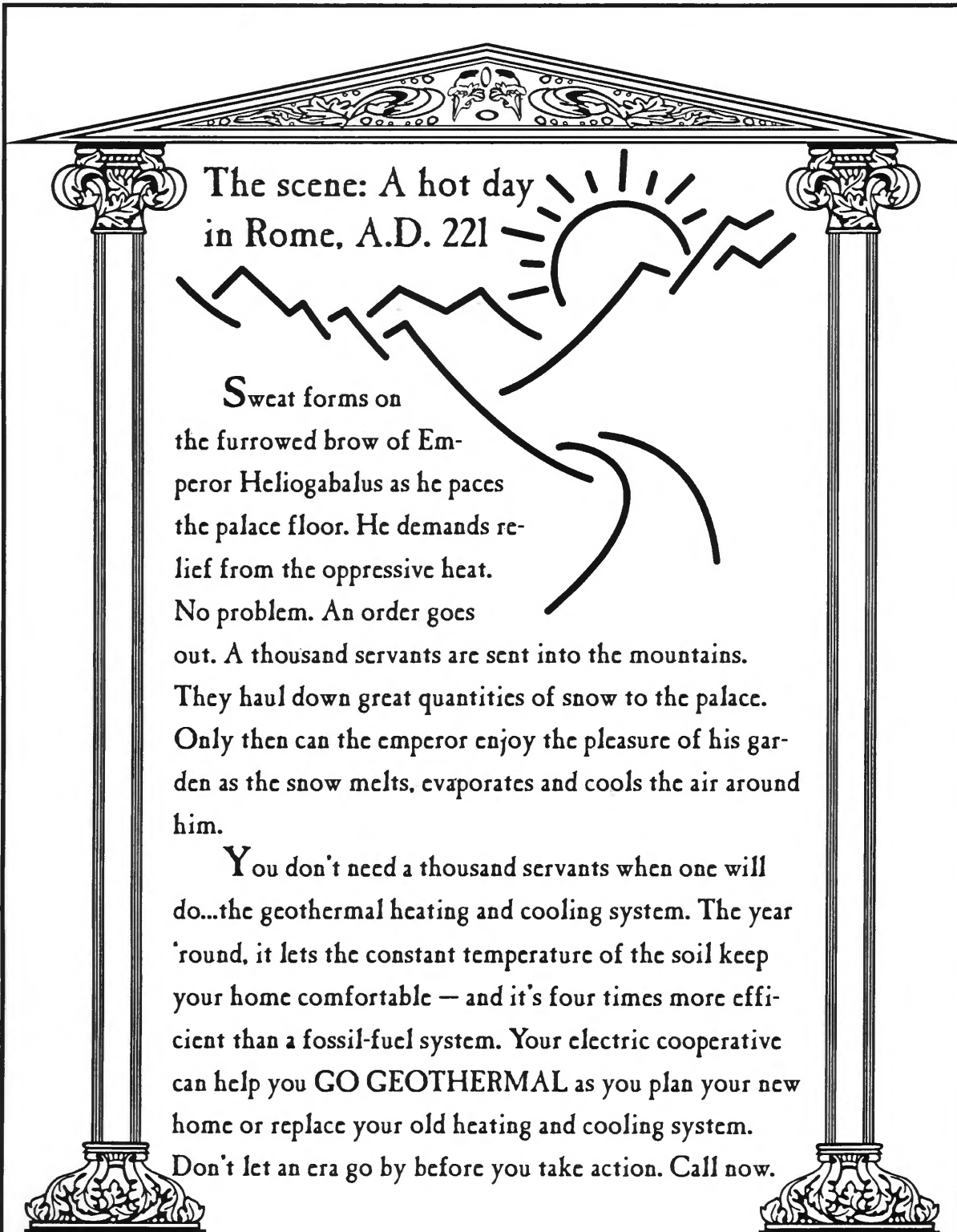
For example, ask yourself questions like these:

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

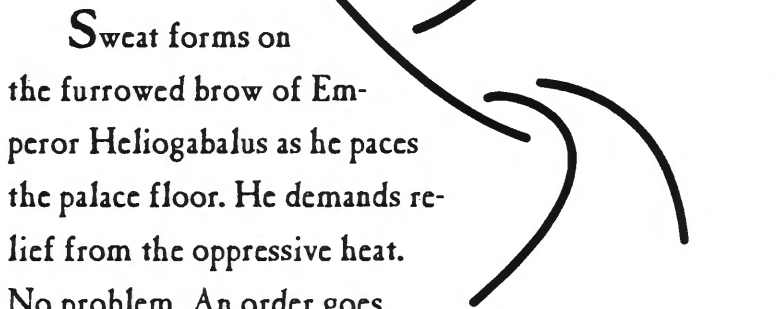
"Do I leave the oven on 'warm' for an extended period of time, or do I cook many dishes at once and then turn the oven off?"

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

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



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



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

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Across the Manager's Desk



By Dickson L. Dunsworth

Lucas is new co-op employee



Lucas

On May 16, McDonough Power welcomed Steve "Pete" Lucas to the staff. Pete will assume the duties of Wayne Evans upon his retirement in late summer. Pete and wife, Linda, have a 10-month old daughter, Katherine. He enjoys fishing and golf and is a member of the Elks.

Prior to coming to McDonough Power,

Pete was an engineer for Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative in Princeton for four years. He also worked in the same capacity for Stanley Consultants and Soyland Power Cooperative.

Wayne Evans retiring after 46 years



Evans

Wayne Evans, engineer for McDonough Power Cooperative, will retire after 46 years of service. Wayne began with McDonough Power in September 1948 as an engineer's assistant. Holding this position for only six months, he began training as apprentice lineman until drafted into the Army June 29, 1952.

Wayne served in Germany and France

and was discharged January 1954.

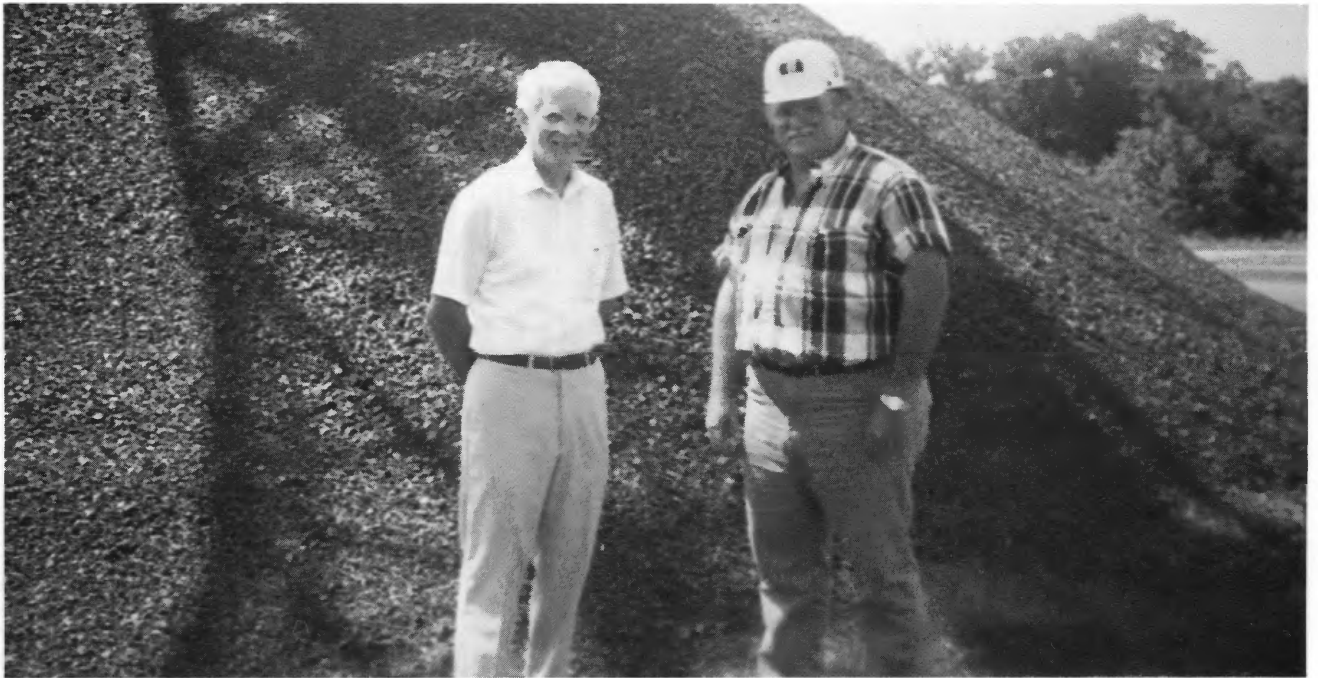
After returning to McDonough Power, he was located in Roseville as area serviceman until August 1962. He and his family moved to Macomb where he was serviceman and linework foreman until 1979. He has held the position of engineer since then with the Cooperative.

Wayne and wife, Patricia (Pat), live south of Good Hope on Highway 67. Pat is retired from Haeger Pottery in Macomb. The Evanses have three daughters, Gwynne, Tonna and Kimberly. Wayne is a member of the American Legion and the Elks Club.

McDonough Power directors and employees salute Wayne for his 46 years of dedicated service to this company and to the hundreds of consumers he has assisted.

Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed on Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.



Dick Dunsworth, manager of McDonough Power Cooperative, left, is with Larry Hudson, superintendent of the mine.

Freeman United in full operation

Freeman United Coal Mining Company's Industry Mine began operation south and west of Industry in 1980, when the major equipment was moved from Banner. Freeman operates three other Illinois mines: Crown II in Virden, Crown III in Farmersville, and Orient 6 in Waltonville. Freeman's corporate office is located in Marion.

Coal mining is an extremely competitive, labor- and capital-intensive business requiring large earth-moving equipment, a highly trained work force and a reliable, competitive power supplier. The mine operates three shifts, seven days a week, 330 days a year.

Freeman employs approximately 90 employees, who drive from as far as Victoria (83 miles) and as close as Industry, where the mine is located. Larry Hudson, superintendent of the mine, says "Freeman prides itself on its excellent work force." This is reflected in Industry Mine's outstanding safety record: In 1993, the mine received the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals State Safety Award by recording the lowest injury frequency for large Illinois surface mines.

Mining, in its simplest terms, consists of removing the overburden by creating a long open pit a mile long, extracting the coal and refilling

the pit. "The coal extraction is the easiest step of the whole process," says Hudson, an 18-year employee. In reclaiming, rock is placed on the bottom, followed by the unconsolidated material (clay and subsoil), and then the final cover of topsoil completes the process. Reclaimed land meets or exceeds stringent state and federal regulations. Freeman's reclamation is outstanding and has won a national reclamation award from the Federal Office of Surface Mining, in addition to state awards.

After the coal is extracted, it is placed on 100-ton dump trucks, brought to a preparation plant, loaded into hoppers, crushed, washed, further crushed, then sorted. Stoker, (larger-sized coal), and steam, (smaller-sized coal), are the types produced by the mine. Industry Mine's coal is of good quality for Illinois, high in BTUs and low in ash. Several industrial companies in the area are large consumers of Industry's coal.

At this time, Freeman is limited to truck transportation to distribute the coal. Approximately one-half million tons is produced each year at this mine.

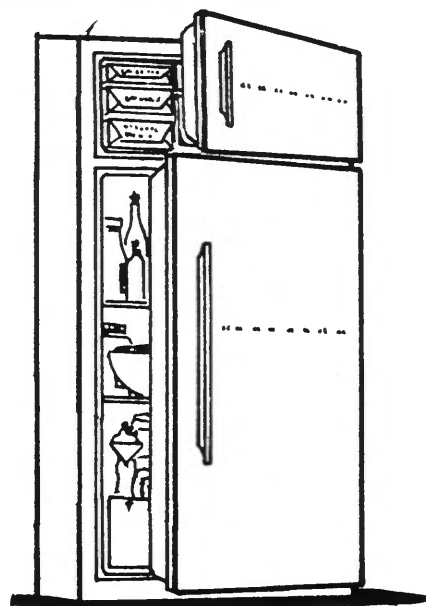
Freeman United Coal is the largest power user supplied by McDonough Power Cooperative.

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All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400

Control your refrigerator's appetite



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

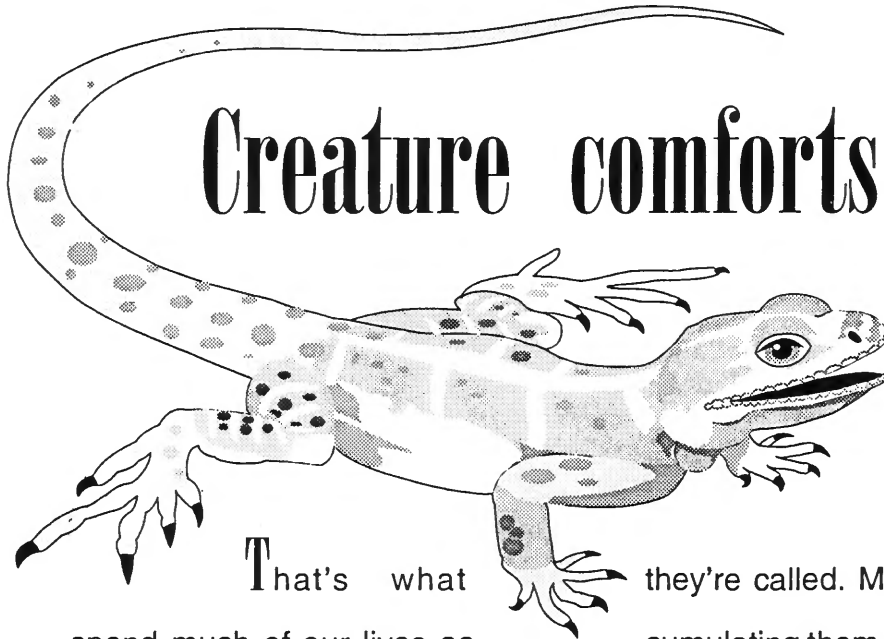
dial by one number can make a 10 degree F difference in temperature.

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

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

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

Creature comforts

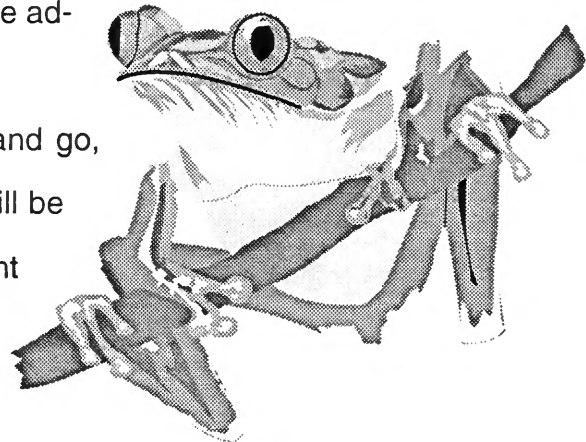


That's what they're called. Most of us spend much of our lives accumulating them. A lounge chair, a great stereo, a soft shag carpet beneath your feet.

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

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

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Electricity. A source of comfort.

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Across the Manager's Desk



By Dickson L. Dunsworth

Leaving for the winter?

The time is drawing near when many McDonough Power members leave for the winter months. Please contact the cooperative to make arrangements for your electric accounts when away from home for an extended period.

The first thing to do is to secure someone to

read your meter. This person will be sent a meter reading card. They can read the meter around the 5th and return it to the cooperative.

There are two ways to handle the payment of your electric statement. The first is to prepay a lump sum on your account. Your statement will show a credit amount on each statement. You may pay on your account later as the credits deplete. Upon your return, any additional credits will be carried to your next statement.

The cooperative office can also forward your electric statement to your winter residence. Payments must be postmarked by the 10th of the month. This procedure allows plenty of time for payments to be returned to our office.

If you will be leaving during the winter months, contact the cooperative office. We will set up a monthly statement arrangement that best fits your needs.

Steven Lynn is new director

McDonough Power Cooperative members re-elected two incumbent directors and elected one new director during the cooperative's 57th annual meeting August 29 in Macomb. A. Howard Butler of rural Monmouth and Jerry Riggins of rural Macomb are the reelected members of the board, and Steven Lynn of rural Macomb is the new director. All were elected to three-year terms.

Reports of officers during the meeting reflected the cooperative's success in 1993. President Wade R. "Bob" Blansett of Macomb said the cooperative operation in 1993 was marked by financial stability and another outstanding safety record by employees. "Holding down costs and expense is a constant challenge in our effort to maintain fairly stable and equitable electric rates. Approximately 75 percent of our revenue goes each year to pay our direct power costs," he said.

"McDonough Power's board, management and

employees are very proud of our safety record," Blansett said, adding, "No lost time accidents occurred in 1993. Our last lost time accident was in 1983."

Manager Dickson L. Dunsworth said the cooperative had margins of \$275,373 in 1993. "Margins are necessary, even in a non-profit cooperative, to maintain equity and reserve levels necessary to meet the financial requirements of our lenders, REA and CFC. Margins, which are revenues in excess of expenses, are allocated back to the membership and prorated according to use through capital credits. If financial conditions allow, the board may elect to return a portion of the capital credits allowed," he said.

Dunsworth also pointed out the cooperative's various money-saving programs, including the geothermal heating and cooling rate, metered and block electric heat rates, geothermal rebates, air-

DIRECTORS

Wade R. Blansett, President • Bill Pollock, Vice President • Kenneth Moore, Secretary • Harold Anderson, Treasurer
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to-air heat pump rebates and low-interest loans.

Dunsworth reported on the cooperative's recent member survey. "The information we received was very helpful in bringing our records up to date and was also used for analysis on the new rates. We are really grateful for the response. I personally thought I'd be satisfied if we got 35 percent returned. Believe it or not, we had over 67 percent returned. Thanks again to everyone who took the time to complete it," he added.

Blansett went back in time to the beginning of the cooperative movement. "In 1844 a group of people gathered in a building at 13 Toad Lane in Rochdale, England. They were having hard times in England, and this group of 28 people came together to find a way to help each other by buying or trading supplies and consumer goods from each other. Their system proved so successful that in only 50 years the membership had grown to 12,000, and the Rochdale cooperative became known as the Rochdale Principles," Blansett said.

He added, "Each member had an equal vote in an election of board of directors. The products were to be sold at cooperative cost, with any profits returned to members as capital credits. In the mid-1930s, the principle was used to help our rural areas form cooperatives to bring electricity to our homes and farms. A few years later, many telephone cooperatives were organized and brought communications along with electricity. President Roosevelt signed papers on May 11, 1935, to establish the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Today about 1,000 electrical co-ops are operating successfully in the United States. Each one is a locally independent, member-owned, business enterprise.

"Again in 1993 a new law was signed to encourage our cooperatives to help our communities in other ways. So we are constantly looking for opportunities that will benefit a majority of our co-op members through economic development and



Steven L. Lynn (second from right) is the newest member of the board of McDonough Power Cooperative. Lynn, of rural Macomb, was elected during the cooperative's annual meeting August 29 in Macomb. With Lynn are, from left, A. Howard Butler of rural Monmouth and Jerry Riggins of rural Macomb, incumbent directors who were re-elected during the meeting, and Dickson L.

rural growth in our area. I believe that electricity will continue to be the leading source of energy and power in the foreseeable future."

Blansett noted the retirement from the board of Lyndall Pigg of rural Bushnell, who served 24 years as a director. "He has certainly been a good example for the rest of us to live up to," Blansett said. Newly elected director Lynn replaces Pigg on the board. Lynn and his wife, Rose Marie, farm 630 acres of row crops and operate a confinement hog operation.

Treasurer Harold Anderson of rural Roseville reported that cooperative revenue for 1993 was \$6,599,424 and that wholesale power cost was \$4,944,252. He added that the cooperative sales exceeded 65 million kilowatt-hours.

Lyndall Pigg retires from board after 24 years

Lyndall E. Pigg, who served on the Cooperative's board of directors since 1970, chose not to run for re-election at the annual meeting. During his tenure on the board, he served in the capacity of secretary two years and president five terms. Lyndall was elected to the Soyland board in 1978 and served as assistant secretary 1982-92. He also served as chairman of the Soyland Farm Committee.



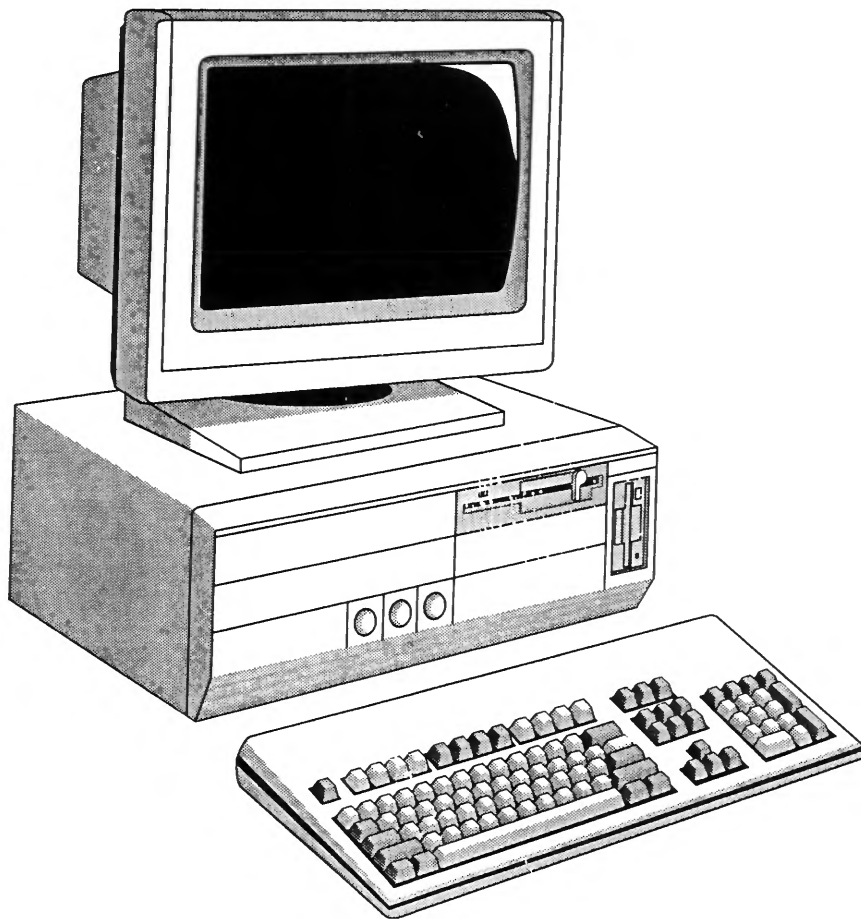
Pigg

Lyndall grew up in the Adair area and gradu-

ated from Adair Community High School. He and his wife, Norma Jean, currently live on Route 1, Bushnell. They have two children, Barbara Turner and Steven Pigg, and four grandchildren.

Lyndall is currently a member of the board of directors of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Bushnell, Bushnell Methodist Church, Bushnell Odd Fellows Lodge No. 322, and presently serves the Grand lodge of Illinois IOOF as treasurer.

We express our appreciation to Lyndall for 24 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the rural electrification program as a director of McDonough Power Cooperative.



Power outages can frustrate personal computer users

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

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

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

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

Protector or suppressor de-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Geothermal

It's closer than you realize.

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

McDonough's newest director

Steve Lynn, McDonough Power's newest director, lives where he was born and raised in the Macomb/Bardolph area. Steve was elected to the board in August, replacing retiring director Lyndall Pigg. He is a member of McDonough County Pork Producers, current member and former trustee of Scotland Trinity Church, and is an Asgrow seed bean/corn dealer. His hobby is fishing.

Steve's wife, Rose Marie (O'Hern), grew up in the Vermont area in southern McDonough County. She is the owner of Dough Delights, a home-based company that custom makes dough



Steve Lynn

ornaments and items for resale throughout the United States.

The Lynns farm 630 acres of row crops and raise approximately 1,500 head of hogs in a confinement facility.

Steve and Rose Marie have four children: Angela, 24, a business teacher at Abingdon High School; Georgianna, 21, a nursing student at Culver Stockton College in Canton, Mo.; Mitchell, 18, recently out of the Marine Corp Reserves and a student at WIU; and Curtis, 11, a student at Edison Junior High School in Macomb.

McDonough Power welcomes Steve and looks forward to him serving in the capacity of director.

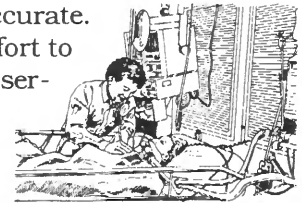
If you depend on life-support equipment, we need to know

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

Your cooperative needs to know the names and location of cooperative members who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of members on life-support equipment, and it is important that this informa-

tion be current and accurate.

We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life-support systems. If you or a member of your family depend on life-support equipment, please fill out the form below and mail to us as quickly as possible.



Name _____

Phone No. _____

Address _____

McDonough Power Service No. _____

Type of support equipment _____ Days and time of use _____

Do you have an emergency stand-by generator to operate this equipment? yes no

Mail this form to: McDonough Power Cooperative, 1210 W. Jackson, P.O. Box 352, Macomb, IL 61455.



Wesley Village Retirement Center

Wesley Village

A quality lifestyle for older persons

Wesley Village began as a dream of a group of members of the Wesley United Methodist Church in Macomb. Their dream was to provide a home for older persons in the Macomb area.

In 1973, substantial money became available through the Fellheimer trust of the church where Mrs. Lulu Fellheimer had been a member for over 50 years. The dream became a reality February 1, 1980, when the retirement center opened its doors, with the Health Care Center following on April 15 of that year.

Several entrance and floor plans are available to persons interested in being residents of Wesley Village. Main features of the independent living apartments include wall-to-wall carpeting, controlled heat and air conditioning, 24-hour emergency call system, full electric kitchenette, tub-shower combination, private telephone line, and cable TV. The residents' own prized possessions lend distinction and warmth to the apartments. The companionship of old and new friends adds another dimension.

The residents enjoy a vast array of services including: delicious and beautifully prepared meals served in the dining room, recreational areas, van transportation, a beauty/barber shop, a beautiful chapel, weekly housekeeping, laundry of flat linens, and paid utilities, except telephone.

Although Wesley Village operates through affiliation with the United Methodist Church, it serves residents of all races, denominations or national

origin.

Wesley Village's adjoining Health Care Center is a 58-bed facility served around the clock by a caring nursing staff. A wide variety of activities are designed to challenge and stimulate residents physically and mentally. Two dining rooms offer those with similar levels of ability the chance to enjoy food and fellowship together. Physical and occupational therapists from McDonough District Hospital provide on-site services and a full time social services director oversees each resident's needs closely. The Health Care Center is an excellent facility for residents when living independently becomes too challenging.

Wesley Village has served more than a thousand persons with a commitment and compassion, which are as important as the high level of professional care extended. The dream has become both a reality and a helpful outreach of its Christian mission to older persons.

Wesley Village is one of McDonough Power's largest power consumers, and we are proud to serve the facility and its residents.

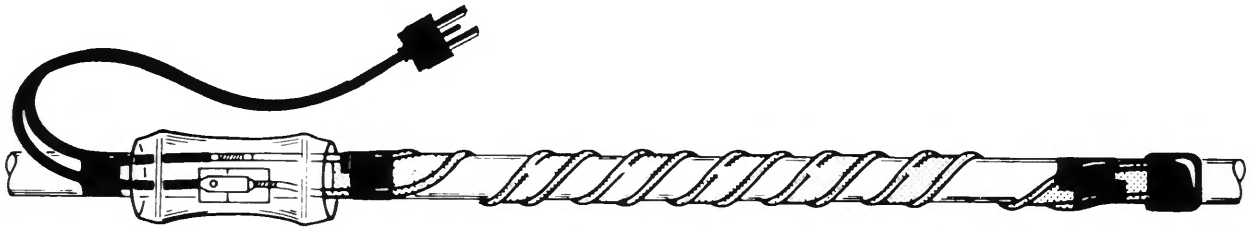
Office closing

McDonough Power Cooperative will be closed November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day and November 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving. We will re-open on Monday at 8 a.m. following each holiday.

DIRECTORS

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Harold Anderson • Wade R. Blansett • Thomas Curtis • Steve Lynn • Kenneth Moore • Bill Pollock • John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric Outages 837-1400



Heat tapes must be used properly

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

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

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

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

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

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

CPSC offers these safety tips for electric heat tapes:

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

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

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

- Use a ground fault circuit

interrupter (GFCI) wherever heat tapes are plugged in.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Use the earth to your advantage

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois

Watts New

McDonough Power Cooperative

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Holiday Greetings

Directors:

Bill Pollock, President

Howard Butler,

Vice President

Jerry Riggins, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Harold Anderson

Bob Blansett

Thomas Curtis

Steve Lynn

Kenny Moore

Employees:

Dick Dunsworth, Mgr.

Doug Bear

Dawn Beck

Gary Budreau

Bill Downey

Frank Fay

Jill Guarin

Royce Headley

Babs Lawyer

Mike Lucas

Pete Lucas

Elmer Nelson

Tim Norton

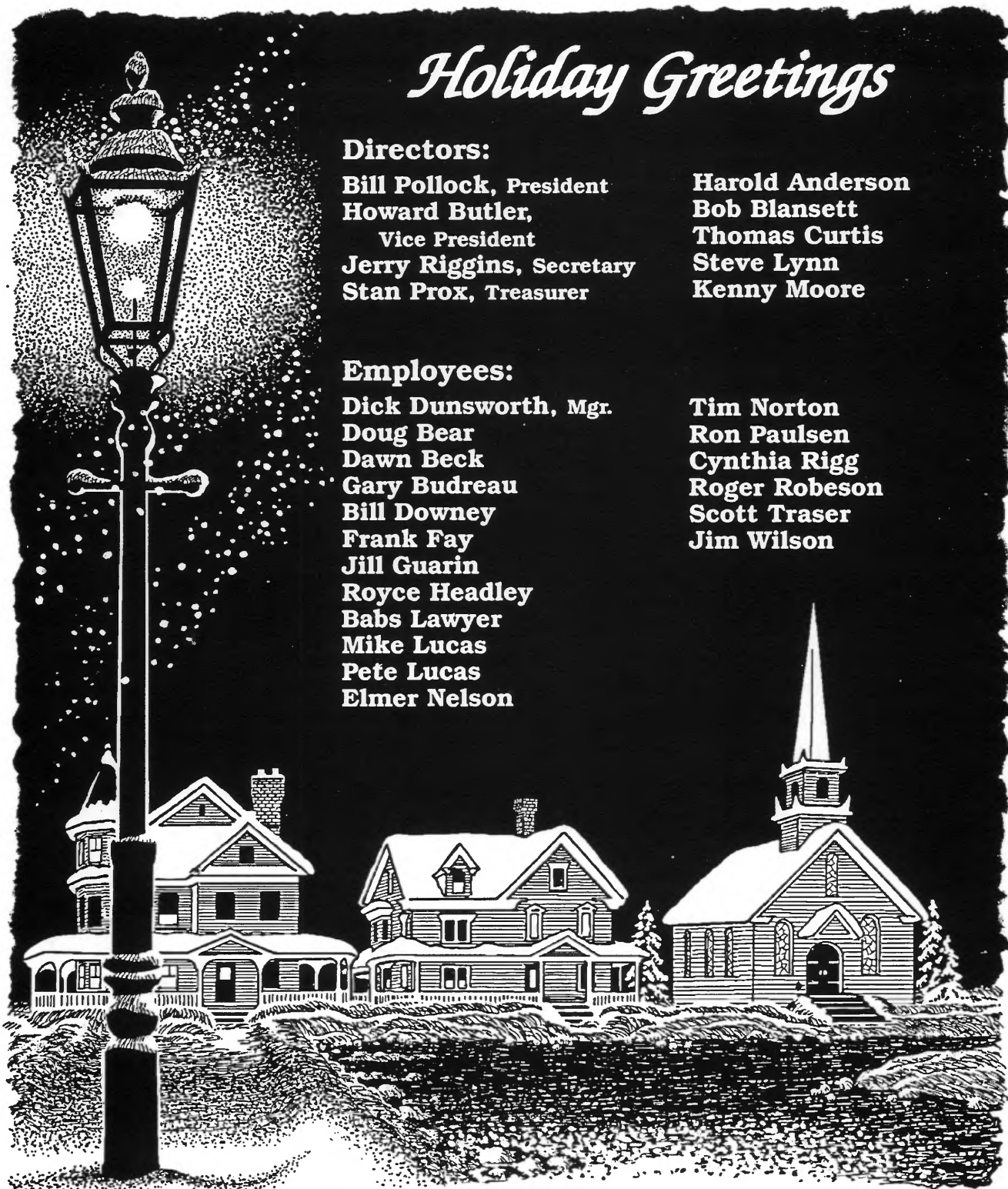
Ron Paulsen

Cynthia Rigg

Roger Robeson

Scott Traser

Jim Wilson



Be alert for carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that has no color, no odor and no taste. It forms when fuels are burned without a good supply of air for complete combustion. It can come from auto exhaust, a wood-burning fireplace or any gas- or oil-burning heater or appliance.

Be wary of persistent nausea, headaches, vomiting or drowsiness. These symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often mistaken for flu or other illness.

Be suspicious if everyone in your household shares the same symptoms, especially if they clear up when you leave the house.

If you discover someone overcome by carbon monoxide, get him or her to fresh air QUICKLY. If that's not possible, open nearby doors and windows. Then call for medical help. Have conscious victims lie down. Keep them warm and calm. If they're not breathing give artificial respiration. Tell emergency personnel that you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide's warning signs are easy to spot. Be alert to soot buildup on or near a fireplace or furnace chimney, yellow instead of blue gas flames, or a pilot light that keeps going out. Other warning signs include sick pets, dying house plants, or excessive moisture buildup on walls or windows where moisture was never noticed before.

You can also use detectors that alert you to

dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

Don't let carbon monoxide build up in your home. Ask your repairman to check the furnace and appliances when you turn on gas service at your new address and continue to make annual inspections.

- Make sure exhaust ducts on gas water heaters and clothes dryers are not blocked.
- Check flue pipes for rust or deteriorated areas that could let combustion fumes escape into your home.
- Replace corroded pipes immediately.
- Check the chimney. Make sure it isn't clogged by nests or other debris.
- When you use an unvented gas or kerosene heater, open a window an inch or more to ensure plenty of oxygen. Make sure the heater has a sensor that will shut off the heater if the oxygen level drops too low.

Within the last few months a couple in rural Astoria were found dead at their home. Their deaths are believed to have been caused by carbon monoxide poisoning from a faulty furnace flue. Don't be a statistic.

If you are interested in a safe electric heating/geothermal system for your home, please contact McDonough Power. Rebates are available for these types of systems. Call today for more information.

Winter months can produce higher bills

Is your electric bill higher during the winter months? If so, here are a few reasons why from the folks at McDonough Power Cooperative.

There's more cooking and baking around the holidays.

Shorter daylight hours mean you keep lights

on longer.

Clothes dryers run more often.

Space heaters are in frequent use.

Give the folks at McDonough Power Cooperative a call for advice on keeping energy costs down.

Office closing

McDonough Power Cooperative will be closed Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2, in observance of Christmas day and New Years Day. We will reopen each day following at 8 a.m.

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Kitchen and cooking energy savers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Energy savers

In the kitchen, laundry and bath



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

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

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

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

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

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

Dishwashing energy savers

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

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

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

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

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

—U.S. Dept. of Energy