

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



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

President Clinton signed wide-ranging REA lending changes into law Monday, November 1, 1993.

President Clinton labeled the measure, HB 3123, a good example of the government doing more with less and promised it will enhance our ability to provide affordable electric and telephone services in rural areas. Describing the measure — one of the most comprehensive REA changes in two decades — as an important first step towards reforming the REA loan programs, President Clinton indicated that more changes are in store.

Under the new legislation, the interest paid by most cooperatives, including Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, for REA borrowing will be tied to the interest rate paid by municipalities on their tax exempt bonds. The law limits REA insured loans for certain borrowers to no more than 7 percent and includes provisions that would allow G&Ts, such as Soyland, to cap up to half of their Federal Financing Bank refinancing at 7 percent, although President Clinton objects to this provision.

In a related matter, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy has proposed a restructuring of the USDA that would combine REA's electric and telephone programs with water and sewer programs into a new Rural Utilities Service.

Espy plans to focus all USDA's rural development work into three services reporting to the Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development. In addition to the new Rural Utilities Service, the other two are:

The Rural Community Development Service, which will include REA and RDA rural community loan programs as well as Farmers Home Administration rural housing programs; and the

Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service, which will include REA and RDA business development programs, the Agriculture Cooperative Service and the Alternative Agriculture Research and Commercialization Center.

REA loan levels and access to water/sewer and community/business/development loans will not change under the proposal.

As we have mentioned before, there is a "change in the air." The role of electric cooperatives will expand beyond providing basic electric service. In the draft plan, electric cooperatives would have access to water and sewer programs and other community and economic development loan services within the reorganized federal agency.

As local communities are faced with more responsibilities to provide for their own well being, we must find new ways of uniting people and resources. We must get rid of the arbitrary political boundaries between cities, towns and rural areas.

800 number

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative has installed a toll-free telephone number for members use.

The number is 800-757-7433.

Please mark this number in your phone book or near your telephone to call the cooperative for outages or other reasons.

Call toll-free 800-757-7433.

Office closed

**Monday, January 3,
in observance of
New Year Holiday**

Protect electric equipment with "Total Home" and "Total Home Protection Plus" surge equipment

Electric equipment has become increasingly sophisticated and more sensitive to even slight variations in electric voltage.

While you might not notice any damage, variations in power can shorten the life of your TV, VCR, stereo system, computer, microwave or other electronic equipment. Although some equipment may have built in surge protection, energy surges frequently surpass internal protection levels.

Lightning, high winds, rain, equipment failure, cars or farm equipment hitting utility poles, trees rubbing against power lines and animals climbing on utility wire and transformers are some things that can cause electric surges.

Even your neighbor using heavy-duty electric equipment can cause sudden "spikes" in electric voltage entering your home or farm buildings. Surges may even originate from electric equipment in your home or farm operation.

To better protect electric appliances and electronic equipment, Monroe County Electric Co-Operative members can now purchase whole house surge protection equipment that minimizes high energy surges (except direct lightning strikes) coming from outside your home.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative employees will deliver and install a meter socket adapter (MSA) whole house surge protection

for only \$173.75.

Combining point of use surge protectors with the whole house protector (MSA) will further enhance surge protection for your electronic



equipment. Point of use plug in surge protectors are also available from the Co-Operative. Prices range from \$50 to \$65.

Please contact us for further information on the Total Home Protection or Total Home Protection Plus program through the Co-Operative.

Heat/cool with electricity

System:GT[®]

Geothermal heating, cooling and water heating

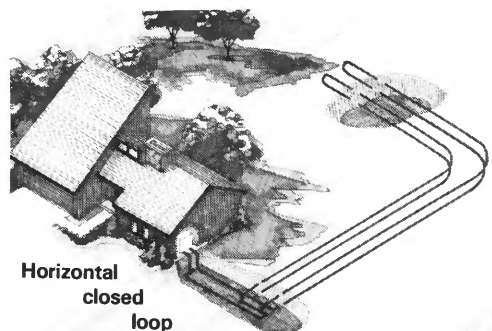
Up to \$850 in rebates

Heat and cool with up to 400% efficiency

MCEC members, now you can get maximum comfort, energy and cost savings from a system designed to use natural energy from the earth. Better than the best gas furnace!

What is a geothermal system?

Geothermal is the safest, most-energy-efficient, pollution-free heating and cooling system available. Basically it looks like a normal furnace, but that's where the similarity ends. Because it burns no fossil fuel, it emits no pollutants, thus, no chimney is required. Therefore, it can be installed almost anywhere, in a basement, crawlspace, attic or closet. Geothermal is a complete home heating system. In the summer, select the cooling mode on the thermostat and the geothermal system is your complete home cooling center. Geothermal can also supply most of your domestic hot water requirements. Customers report savings up to 60 percent heating their homes. Cooling cost reductions of 50 percent are not uncommon with a geothermal system.



Horizontal closed loop

Customers report savings up to 60 percent heating their homes. Cooling cost reductions of 50 percent are not uncommon with a geothermal system.

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.

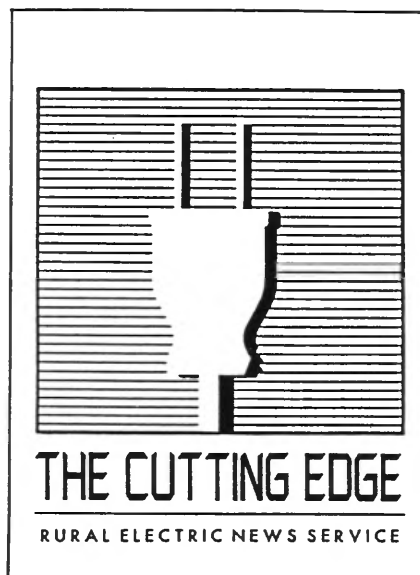
Eventually, Fidler hopes, the technology will be sophisticated enough to make the on-screen newspaper interactive: The tap of a pen on a restaurant ad, for example, would connect the reader's computer with the restaurant's reservation system.

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





Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

We hope you all had a good holiday season, and wish you a prosperous and happy 1994. We know that many of you experienced loss in the flood, and to you folks we extend special thoughts and prayers that you recover your losses and achieve what you once had.

On a more positive note, we are pleased that the Fountain Water District is making progress in its effort to provide water to rural residents. A water tower has been built, water lines are being laid, the wells have been dug and construction has begun on the water treatment plant. It looks as though years of struggle and frustration for the water district will soon pay off. The Fountain Water District officials are looking to serve the first customers in mid-to-late summer. Congratulations to all involved!

We are in the process of re-aligning the current board districts. The Cooperative bylaws state that the territory served shall be divided into nine directorate districts. Each district shall be represented by one director. They further state that the board shall review the composition of the districts and if it should find inequities in representation, the board shall redelineate the districts so that each shall contain as nearly as possible the same number of members.

In the past several years we have seen a tremendous growth of new homes in our service area. The areas around Columbia, Millstadt and Waterloo have had the largest influx of new members. The director districts in these areas have shown the biggest increase in new members and we are out of balance in members per district. Board District Four has the most members (677), and Board District Eight has the least (331).

At their December meeting, the board of direc-

tors approved a redelineation of the districts. Many of you will be in a new district and may have a new board member as your representative on the board. The new board districts are listed on the next page.

It doesn't seem possible, but annual meeting time is rolling around. Mark your calendars. The Cooperative's 56th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 28. It will again be held at the Hecker Community Center.

A Committee on Nominations will meet at the Cooperative office at 7 p.m., Monday, February 14. See related story.

March 1994

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

**56th Annual Meeting
Monday, March 28
Hecker Community Center**

800 number

**We now have an
800 number for
members use.
Call 800-757-7433
for toll free call to
co-op office.**

Nominating Committee named

Meeting set for Monday, February 14

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative's 56th Annual Meeting is set for Monday, March 28, at the Hecker Community Center.

A Committee on Nominations has been named and will meet at the Monroe County Electric office at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 14, to place the names of three persons in nomination to be elected at the annual meeting to serve three-year terms as directors of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.

Directors whose current terms expire and are eligible for re-nomination are:

- Larry A. Haas — 8700 Concordia Rd., Belleville.
- Richard W. Liefer — 2817 Ames Rd., Red Bud.

Clarence Metter, Columbia, Ill., whose term also expires, has chosen not to run for re-election to the Cooperative Board of Directors.

If you have someone you would like to see placed in nomination for election to the board of directors, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee named below prior to their February 14 meeting.

District 1 — William E. Scharf
Gerald Krueger
Richard Zinn
Erwin Hofstetter (Alternate)

District 2 — Homer F. Stemler
Harold Lang
Melvin Veit
Walter Beil (Alternate)

District 9 — Richard C. Moeller
Roger Liefer
Gerald Holmstrom
Gregory Kalmer (Alternate)

New director districts

The following are the new director districts as approved by the Board of Directors at their December meeting.

Your Map Location Number starts with the Map Number, and is followed by the Section Number in which your account is located. To determine in which Board District you are located, look at the first two numbers of your Map Location Number, for example: 01-26, you would be in Board District 1, or if it is 10-31, you would be in Board District 6.

District 1

Map 1 (all) 261
Map 2 (all) 233
494

District 2

Map 4—Sec. 1, 12, 13, 24 82
Map 5 (all) 381
463

District 3

Map 3 (all) 33
Map 4—(all except Sec. 1, 12, 13, 24) 269
Map 8—Sec. 1-17 59
Map 9—Sec. 1-12, 15-18 97
458

District 4

Map 9—Sec. 13, 24, 25 172
Map 10—Sec. 5-8, 16-18, 19-23, 26-30, 33-35 283
455

District 5

Map 6 (all) 213
Map 10—Sec. 1-4, 9-12, 13-15 60
Map 11—Sec. 1-18 191
464

District 6

Map 8—Sec. 19-36 84
Map 9—Sec. 14, 19-23, 26-36 106
Map 10—Sec. 31, 32 21
Map 14—Sec. 1-28 204
Map 15—Sec. 5-8 79
494

District 7

Map 10—Sec. 24, 25, 36 7
Map 11—Sec. 19-36 47
Map 12—(all) 60
Map 15—Sec. 1, 12 20
Map 16—(all) 337
471

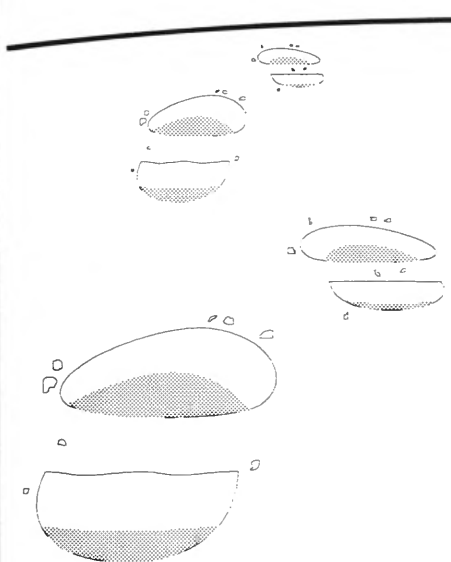
District 8

Map 13—(all) 84
Map 14—Sec. 29-36 58
Map 15—Sec. 29-32 21
Map 17—(all) 52
Map 18—(all) 217
Map 19—Sec. 5-8, 17-20, 29-32 56
Map 21—(all) 15
503

District 9

Map 15—Sec. 13-28, 33-36 315
Map 19—Sec. 1-4, 9-16, 21-28, 33-36 96
Map 20—(all) 76
Map 22—(all) 10
497

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.

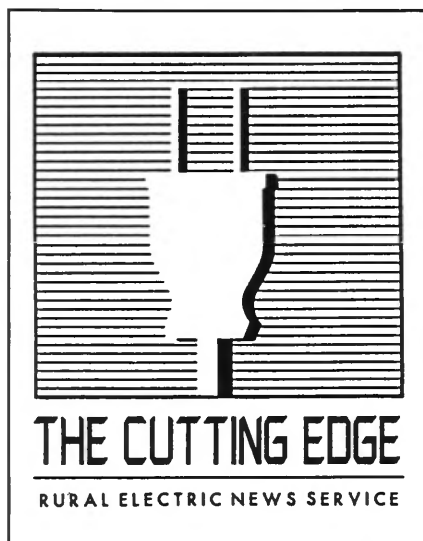
"First there was the telegraph and then the telephone and now we've got personal computers, faxes and video teleconferencing," says Edward Cornish, president of the World Future Society in Bethesda, Maryland. "The prospect of living your life and conducting business without ever being in the same room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

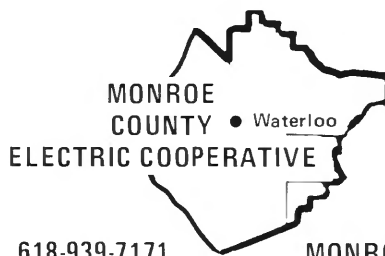
Management gurus such as Tom Peters and Peter Drucker have predicted such a scenario for years, and over the past decade dozens of major corporations, including American Express, AT&T, Time Warner, IBM, Avon, and Hewlett Packard have begun to offer work-at-home options for some of their employees.

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)





Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

The staff and management have been busy preparing the annual work plan and budget for 1994. Considerable study goes into the preparation of the work plan and budget. It is management's recommendation to the board of directors as the most logical, feasible and economic way to accomplish the short-range goals and to progress towards long range plans.

The work plan and budget covers expected work and expenditures of each department as well as anticipated revenue, expenses and sources of funds for 1994.

The year 1994 will be one of rebuilding for the Cooperative. Some of the load lost in the Flood of '93 will come back in other areas of our system, but it will probably be two or three years before we are back to our pre-flood number of services. We will determine what lines and services will be rebuilt and which ones will be retired permanently.

The budget calls for a substantial increase in operation and maintenance expense, as many of these programs were put on hold from August 1st to the end of the year. We do not know whether we will be able to accomplish all of the programs in the 1994 work plan and budget, however, we know it is necessary to get back to our normal maintenance procedures.

The budget calls for an approximate 5 percent increase in retail rates in late spring. A rate increase will be necessary because of some increases in fixed costs over the last three years and because of the loss of revenue due to the Flood of '93. We have a net loss of 215 meters due to the flood. Prior to the flood, we were billing 4,985 consumers and as of December 31st, the number of consumers billed dropped to 4,770. This net loss in accounts amounts to over \$300,000 in revenue on an annual basis.

We will keep you informed of any reassessment

of rates by the board of directors. We assure you that any rate increase will be no more than necessary to meet financial measures required by REA.

Don't forget the 56th Annual Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 28, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Hecker Community Center, Hecker. We hope to see you there!

Blame it on the weather

Experience has shown that extreme temperatures have a definite influence on electrical usage.

January is usually the coldest month in this area. Your March bill is for the electricity used during January. It's probably one of your highest bills.

Increased house heating and water heating are two of the main causes of higher usage during the winter months. Lighting, television and other appliances are used more, too.

Cold weather household and farm activities that contribute to a much larger consumption of electricity include the use of heat lamps, stock waterers, engine heaters, pump house heaters and water beds.

Most of these devices are controlled by thermostats and use electricity automatically without our awareness.

A 250-watt heat lamp left on and forgotten will use six kilowatt-hours per day. At a cost of 30 to 50 cents a day that's cheap water pipe or animal protection in freezing weather, but, an expensive waste if used continuously when not needed.

800 number

We now have an
800 number for
members use.
Call 800-757-7433
for toll free call to
co-op office.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc. rebates and incentive programs for members

Electric heat rebate:

\$350 rebate from Monroe County Electric Co-Operative for new electric heat installations qualifying for Cooperative's Electric Heat Rate 14.

Free water heater:

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative will offer a free 50- or 65-gallon electric water heater with radio control to members who build new electric heated homes.

Soyland rebate:

Soyland Power Cooperative offers a \$500 rebate for a System:GT (geothermal heating and cooling and water heating) installation. Installed unit must be water source ARI 320 or 330 rated. This rebate is in addition to Monroe County Electric's rebate.

Water heater promotion:

Purchase a Craftmaster electric water heater from Monroe County Electric Co-Operative:

50-gallon	\$125 plus tax
65-gallon	\$150 plus tax

Features:

Eight-year warranty — Built-in lime eliminator
Built-in heat trap — R-20 insulation
Heavy-duty armadillo elements

or

Purchase an electric water heater from any other dealer and receive a \$75 rebate from Monroe County Electric Co-Operative. To receive rebate: 1. furnish sales slip with brand name and model. 2. Must be installed on Cooperative lines, subject to verification.

Water heater control:

Free installation! Receive a \$6 per month credit on your electric bill. Allow the Cooperative to install a radio control on your electric water heater. Water heater will be subject to control only a few days, between June 15 and September 15, sometime between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

We have approximately 700 of these controls on members' water heaters and have had very few complaints of running out of hot water.

Air conditioning load leveler:

Free installation! You can save \$30 by enrolling in our Load Leveler Program. Let the Cooperative install a load leveler on air conditioning or heat pump and save \$10 a month for July, August and September. The load leveler is a simple device that regulates the on and off time for the air conditioning cycle when the outside temperature is 90 degrees or higher. During these periods the air conditioner will operate to give a 25 percent reduction in compressor run time which will help reduce our system peak load. Most people report they can't tell when the device is working and when it isn't. You'll save money and help us control our summer electrical peak demand.

For more information regarding these programs, please call Willard Wiggers at 939-7171.

Thanks to our members

We don't often take the time to say "Thanks!" to you — our valued customers.

You are 92% of ALL our members. You pay your bill on time. You don't whine or complain (unless you have a just reason). You take an interest in the cooperative way of business and are an all-around "good guy in a white hat!"

We appreciate you! We just wanted to let you know! Thanks, for being you!

**56th Annual Meeting
Monday, March 28
Hecker Community Center**

(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.

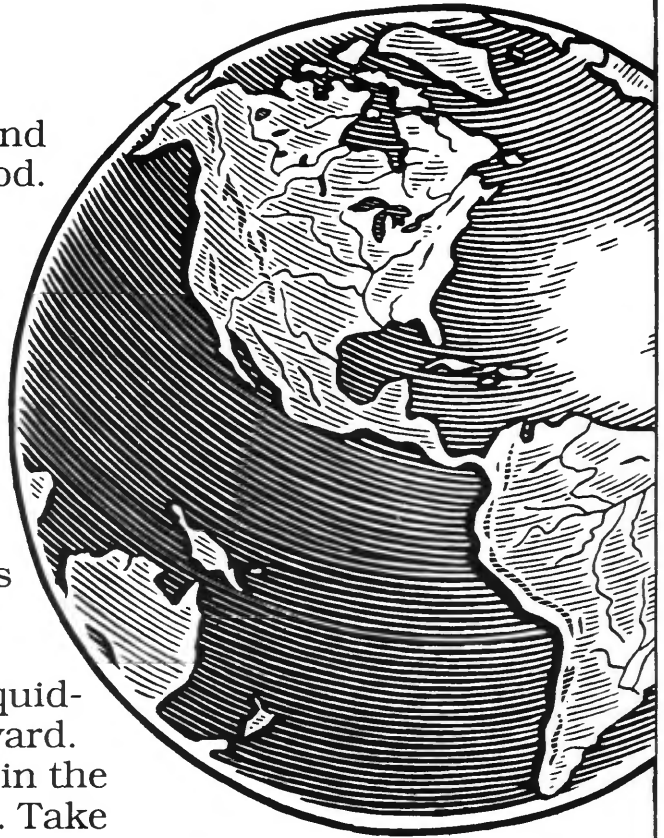


Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

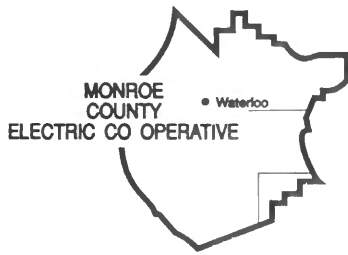
Use the earth to your advantage

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



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

As previously announced by post card, your board of directors has elected to activate the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) clause in our retail rates, which states: The energy charges shall be increased (or decreased) by 1.1 mill (\$0.0011) per kilowatt-hour for each 1.0 mill (\$0.0010) that the average cost of power for the preceding 12 months, excluding interruptible sales, is greater (or less) than 70 mills (\$0.070) per kilowatt-hour. Provided, however, the board of directors in its sole discretion may suspend, repeal or amend the wholesale power adjustment clause at any time without notice.

There are several reasons for the necessity to increase revenue through the WPCA. Our REA mortgage agreement requires the Cooperative to generate enough margins to cover our interest expense by one and one-half times (1.5). This is known as a times interest earned ratio (TIER) and this ratio tells REA and other bankers whether we are able to make our debt service payments and meet other financial obligations of the Cooperative. If we fail to make the ratio, REA considers us in default of our mortgage agreement.

Our equity position has been slowly decreasing the past several years, now standing at 26.8 percent. REA recommends an equity of 40 percent or better. Additional revenues are necessary to generate sufficient margins to increase the Cooperative's equity. Inadequate equity is an indication that your Cooperative is not creating enough internal funds (margins) for system improvements, to build new services, and to purchase capitalized equipment without borrowing additional funds from REA and CFC.

Because of the loss of revenue caused by the

Flood of '93, we will not meet the above requirements unless we either raise our retail rates or implement our Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA). At one time last year, we had more than 300 accounts permanently out of service because of the flood. The board of directors at its February 15, 1994, board meeting, decided to implement the Wholesale power Cost Adjustment (WPCA), rather than raise our rates. The WPCA will be added for each kilowatt-hour sold when our average cost of wholesale power, less interruptible sales, is over 70 mills or 7 cents per kilowatt-hour purchased.

As some loads are reconnected in the flood area and as other new load comes on the system, we anticipate that the WPCA will gradually be reduced. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or visit us in our office.

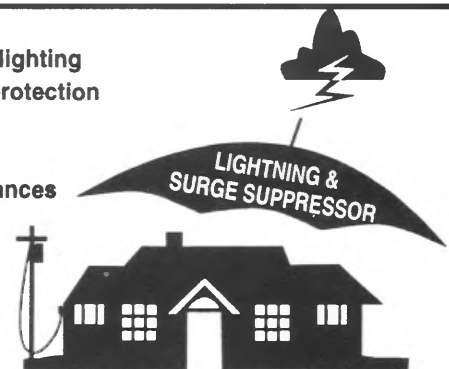
We would like to pay tribute to and express our sympathy to the family of Herman Rosenberg who passed away at the age of 104 on February 10 at St. Clement Hospital, Red Bud.

Mr. Rosenberg was a retired farmer and one of the incorporators of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative. He served on the Cooperative's board of directors for 29 years, from its inception in 1938 until 1967.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Grace, and one son, Thomas Rosenberg, who also served as a board of director for your Cooperative for 15 years, from 1973 to 1988.

Total home lighting
and surge protection

Major appliances
TV
VCR
Computer
Telephone
Fax



Now available from
Monroe County Electric Co-Operative

Cornered by the high cost of heating and cooling?

System:GT is the efficient alternative.

Geothermal Heating, Cooling and Water Heating. We call it System:GT.

In the winter, an underground system of pipes collects heat from the soil and brings it into your home — a method four times more efficient than gas or oil furnaces.

In the summer, the system is reversed, providing a 30 percent gain in air conditioning efficiency compared to other methods.

System:GT can heat your water, too — for significant savings on your year-round energy bill.



In short, System:GT...

- has low operating cost
- provides comfort all year
- uses energy resources wisely ... and its safe, clean, convenient.

**It's the latest in heating and cooling technology.
To find out more about System:GT,
contact Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.**

**FREE
INSTALLATION**

\$4.00 monthly credit

**for members who have control switches
installed on their electric water heaters**

**\$48.00
YEAR**

For installations after April 1, 1994

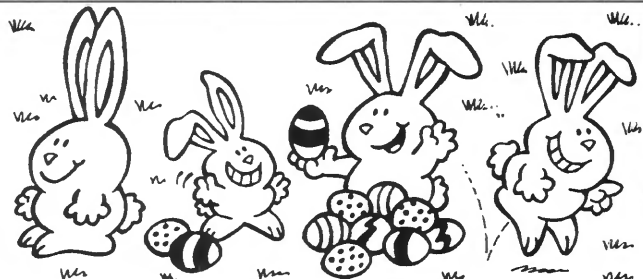
We install the control switch at no cost to members, and will use it to keep water heaters from operating only during our peak energy demand periods. These peaks occur only on a few days during the period June 15 - September 15. Water heaters will be subject to control from 2 to 8 p.m. on peak days during these periods. The water heater will function normally during all other periods.

Get 'switched' now!

Call Monroe County Electric Co-Operative 939-7171

**Office closed
Good Friday, April 1**

Happy Easter!



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.

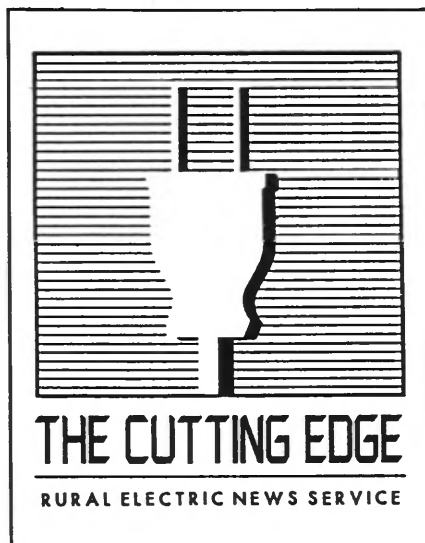
"It's chilling," says author and psychologist Michael Broder. "For a lot of people, it's a fantasy life. No real person can measure up to personalities one sees in computer messages."

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.

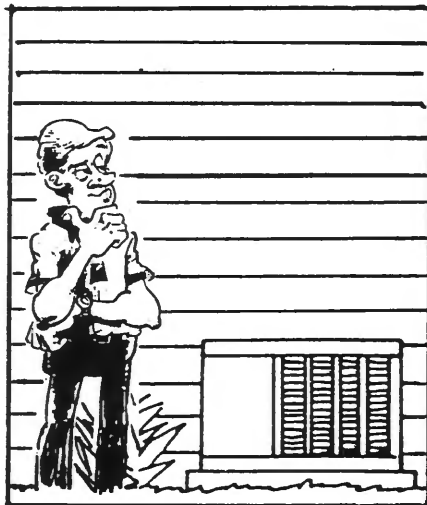
Air leaks are costly

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.

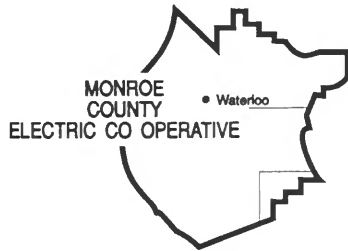
An exhaust fan near an oven or range can help remove not only some of the excess heat but also uncomfortable humidity from cooking. Similarly, make sure your clothes dryer is vented outside.

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.



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Spring is always a busy time at your Cooperative. Last year a record number of new services (202) were added to the Cooperative system. At the current pace it appears that we will meet or exceed the number of new services built this year. That is good for you and the Cooperative, as new kilowatt-hours sold help cover our fixed wholesale power costs. The new load comes on line at a lower rate than existing load.

Our line crews, in addition to constructing new services, are still working in the bottoms removing lines damaged in the flood. As load comes back in the flooded area, we are looking to relocate some lines from fields and trying to place them along roads where possible. We don't know how many services will be reconnected, but most will probably be for storage sheds and grain bins. We don't expect many residences to return.

The transformers at the substations affected by the flood have all been tested and are all OK and energized.

The Maeystown Creek Pumping Station is close to being ready to be energized. Long Slash Creek and Franey Lake Pump Stations need new meter equipment when the levee district is ready for service.

OUTAGES

During 1993, there was a total of 265 outages totaling 10,587 outage hours. This represents an average of 2.17 hours of outage time per member. We realize many of you were without electric power more than 2.17 hours, but many of you did not

experience any or very little outage time during the year.

It is our goal to keep the average outage time per member as low as possible and to keep the momentary blinking and surges to a minimum.

The following chart shows the cause of the outage, total number of outage hours, and the percentage of the outage time per cause:

<u>Cause of Outage</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Power Supply	3,684	34.8
Construction & Maintenance	134	1.2
Equipment	1,324	12.5
Weather	2,975	28.1
Animals	99	1.0
Accidents	354	3.3
Misc./Unknown	<u>2,017</u>	<u>19.1</u>
	10,587	100.0

Power supply, weather and unknown, which is most likely weather related or caused by an animal, snake or bird on a transformer or other equipment, account for 82 percent or 1.78 hours of the total outage time. This leaves .39 hours for construction and maintenance, equipment, animals and accidents.

We place a high priority on system maintenance. Although we had to curtail some maintenance programs last year during the flood, we expect to go back to our normal maintenance program this year.

Service is our most important commodity. We are aware of the importance of keeping our system in excellent working condition. We pledge to continue providing reliable service to our members.

Office closing

The office of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.

Water heater control

With the change in our wholesale power cost structure and the fact that we no longer need to control winter load, the radio control on water heaters will be activated when our power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, is in peak condition from June 15 through September 15. Then, it will only be during the hours of 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For new water heater control installations we have dropped the monthly credit to \$4 for installations after April 1, 1994.

**FREE
INSTALLATION**

\$4.00 monthly credit

**\$48.00
YEAR**

**for members who have control switches
installed on their electric water heaters**

For installations after April 1, 1994

We install the control switch at no cost to members, and will use it to keep water heaters from operating only during our peak energy demand periods. These peaks occur only on a few days during the period June 15-September 15. Water heaters will be subject to control from 2 to 8 p.m. on peak days during these periods. The water heater will function normally during all other periods.

Get 'switched' now!

Call Monroe County Electric Co-Operative 939-7171

**FREE
INSTALLATION**

SAVE \$30.00

**NO COST
TO YOU!**

You can save \$30 by enrolling in our Load Leveler Program. Let the cooperative install a Load Leveler on air conditioning or heat pump unit — Free — and save \$10 a month for July, August and September. The Load Leveler is a simple device that regulates the on and off time for the air conditioning cycle when the outside temperature is 90 degrees or higher. During these periods the air conditioner will operate to give a 25 percent reduction in compressor run time which will help reduce our system peak load. Most people report they can't tell when the device is working or when it isn't. You'll save money and help us control our summer electrical peak demand. Give us a call at 939-7171 today!

Former Monroe County Electric director Preston Mosbacher dies February 25

Preston Mosbacher of Fults, director of Monroe County Electric Co-operative from 1960 to 1986, died February 25 at St. Clement Hospital in Red Bud. He was a retired farmer. He is survived by his wife, Helen, three daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Steven Hoefft of Herman, Missouri; Ann and the Rev. Glenn Davis of Poplar Bluff, Missouri; Paula and Rick Hoefft of

Maeystown; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Andrew Mosbacher of Fults and Thomas and Sharon Mosbacher of Red Bud; two brothers, 12 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and other family members. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Jane Nagel, and parents, George and Lavina Mosbacher.



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.



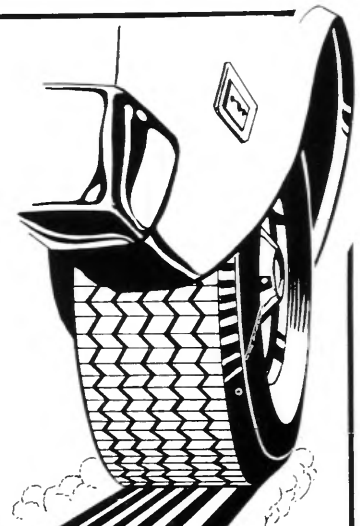
Electricity. A source of comfort.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

STOP!



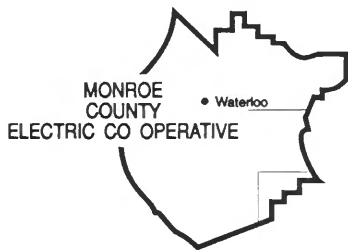
Lots of things to do. Winter was hard on the roof. And there are tree limbs to cut. But before you start, STOP! Stop and look up to make sure there are no electric lines above your work area. When you're moving the grain auger, raising an antenna, cleaning the pool...anytime you are using tall equipment, 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



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

The Cooperative's 56th Annual Meeting was held March 28 at the Hecker Community Center. The meeting was well attended and we want to thank all members and guests who helped make the meeting a success.

In addition to hearing reports of officers and management, Monroe County Electric members re-elected two members, Larry Haas of Belleville and Richard Liefer of Red Bud, to three-year terms as directors. Another member, Larry Kraft of rural Smithton, was elected to his first three-year term on the board. We welcome Larry and his wife Sandra to the Cooperative family.

Kraft replaces Clarence Metter of Columbia who retired from the board after 27 years of service, the past 10 years as secretary-treasurer. We wish Clarence and Myrtle well in Clarence's retirement.

STORM

A wind storm, (some called it a tornado), passed through our service area early in the morning of April 15. High winds, which sounded like a jet plane directly overhead, caused quite a bit of damage to homes and farm buildings.

The Cooperative's system sustained some damage, with broken poles and downed lines from the force of the wind. Felled trees, limbs and branches broke electric lines and pulled services from houses and other buildings. Cooperative linemen worked throughout the day restoring service.

PEAK DEMAND

We are approaching the hot, sizzling days of summer. That means we all will be using our air

conditioning and contributing to our Summer Peak. We no longer are concerned about winter peak demand. However, it is imperative that we, as members of the Cooperative, have peak awareness during the summer period June 15th through September 15th.

We ask that you curtail electric usage on the hottest days of the summer months (June 15 through September 15) between the hours of 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you do not already have a radio-control switch on your electric water heater or an air conditioner load leveler, we strongly urge you to consider having either or both of these devices installed at no cost to you. You will receive credit on your electric bill with these controls. Call the Cooperative office for details of these programs.

Under our wholesale power cost agreement with Soyland, we only have to control peak demand on days that the Soyland/Illinois Power pools are in a peak situation between June 15 and September 15. Soyland will call us and advise that a peak condition exists. We then will monitor our loads and activate the radio-control switches on water heater loads when the Cooperative's load is approaching peak. We are subject to control between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays. However, we will only activate control when we reach peaking conditions during the 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. period.

Interruption loads, those with standby power or those who can shut their operation down during peak conditions, will be notified to interrupt or shut down their loads on the days that we are requested to control peak by Soyland.

By keeping our KW demand at or below our base load helps keep our wholesale power cost down. Therefore, it is to the members, as well as the Cooperative's, advantage to practice peak awareness.

800 number
We now have an 800 number
for members' use.
Call 800-757-7433 for
toll free call to co-op office.

Meter testing

Lowell Kerans Meter Testing service will be testing meters in areas with Map Location Numbers starting with 16 or 17.

Mr. Kerans is an independent contractor and

state licensed to test electric meters. We have been using his services for a number of years. He will have Cooperative signs on his vehicle for easy identification.

Water heater control

With the change in our wholesale power cost structure and the fact that we no longer need to control winter load, the radio control on water heaters will be activated when our power supplier, Soyland power Cooperative, is in peak condition from June 15 through September 15. Then, it will only be during the hours of 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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**FREE
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\$4.00

**\$48.00
YEAR**

MONTHLY CREDIT

**for members who have control switches
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Get 'switched' now!

**Call Monroe County Electric Co-Operative
939-7171 or 800-757-7433**

**FREE
INSTALLATION**

**Air conditioner
load leveler**

**NO COST
TO YOU!**

SAVE \$30.00

You can save \$30 by enrolling in our Load Leveler Program. Let the cooperative install a Load Leveler on air conditioning or heat pump unit — Free — and save \$10 a month for July, August and September. The Load Leveler is a simple device that regulates the on and off time for the air conditioning cycle when the outside temperature is 90 degrees or higher. During these periods the air conditioner will operate to give a 25 percent reduction in compressor run time which will help reduce our system peak load. Most people report they can't tell when the device is working or when it isn't. You'll save money and help us control our summer electrical peak demand. Give us a call at 939-7171 or 800-757-7433 today!

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.

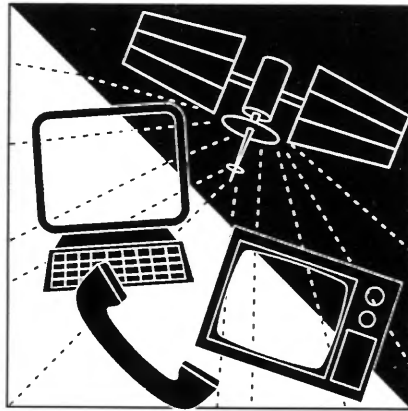
Planned for 2001, the system would form a digital, wireless network to transmit phone calls, interactive TV, computer data, and video anywhere on Earth. It sounds like the land-based information superhighway — but without wires.

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.

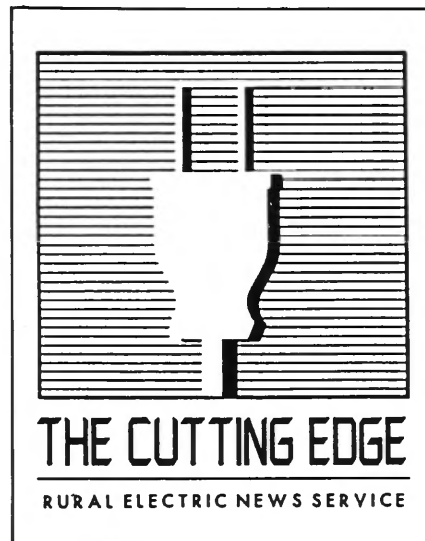
Hughes launched a direct-broadcast satellite in December, and television service for its first customers began in April. Those customers use 18-inch satellite dishes to pick up satellite signals for TV channels. Programming can be purchased through many rural electric and telephone cooperatives that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

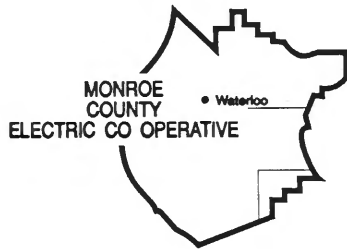


The average Illinois electric cooperative has more than 1,000 miles of power line — a distance farther than from here to Mount Rushmore. That's a lot of miles to take care of, replacing old line, clearing tree branches, putting up what nature tears down. And that's why our employees both outside and 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



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Over the years we have received calls from members asking about insurance companies who have either mailed information or advertised in the REN or other publications offering insurance coverage to cooperative members. We have not and do not endorse any of these insurance companies. Some may be legitimate, some may not.

Although we do not necessarily endorse any insurance coverage, we want to make you aware that the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) makes available a number of group health and life insurance plans exclusively to rural electric consumers.

These insurance plans are designed to meet the needs of rural electric cooperative members. As you probably know, there are many different policies out there. That is why it is important to be backed by a name you can trust. NRECA is committed to earning your trust by offering the finest products and services.

Each NRECA sponsored insurance plan offers:

- Competitive and affordable rates
- Personalized customer service
- Guarantee against individual cancellations

With all NRECA plans, no agent will visit and all plans are offered through the mail on a voluntary basis.

Each NRECA insurance plan is underwritten by a major, financially proven insurance company.

The NRECA-sponsored group health and life insurance plans exclusively for rural electric cooperative members, are:

- RE Member Group Major Medical Plan
- RE Member Basic Care Hospital Plan
- RE Member Group Hospital Plan
- RE Member Group Medicare Supplemental

Plan

- RE Member Group Term Life Plan
- RE Member Group Permanent Life Plan

The above insurance plans are available to rural electric cooperative members through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. For more information, call toll free 1-800-543-9213 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Central Time. An RE Member Group Representative will be happy to answer any questions. If you so desire, you can mail in the coupon below.

Do not call the Cooperative office about these insurance plans, we will not be able to answer your questions.

Clip and Mail or Call Now!



Member Group Insurance

Please Print

Yes, Mail me no obligation information
I understand no agent will visit or call.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Male Female Date of Birth _____

Name of Rural Electric Cooperative _____

I am interested in the following RE Member Group Insurance Plans.

Major Medical _____	Hospital Plan _____
Basic Care Hospital _____	Medicare Supplement _____
Term Life _____	Permanent Life _____

Sent To:
RE Group Insurance Plans
600 Princeton Parkway
Kentland, Indiana 47951

Or Call Toll-Free
1-800-543-9213 Ext. 94
9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Central Time

Install System:GT Now and earn Up to \$1,150 Cash Rebates

- **Rebate of \$500 paid by Soyland Power Cooperative**
- **Rebate of \$300 paid by WaterFurnace International (WaterFurnace brand)**
- **Rebate of \$350 from Monroe County Electric Co-Operative**
- **Rebate offers expire December 31, 1994**

**For more details, contact the MCEC office at
939-7171 or 800-757-7433.**

System:GT[®]

Geothermal heating, cooling & water heating

The sure way to cut your energy bill!

Attends last board meeting

Clarence W. Metter, who has served on the Cooperative board of directors since 1967, sat in on his final meeting on April 26, 1994. In Clarence's final official action, he turned over the reins of secretary of the board to Richard Liefer, a position Clarence has served since 1984. We express our appreciation to Clarence for his distinguished career of service to the rural electrification program as a director of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.



Clarence Metter attends final board meeting.

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.

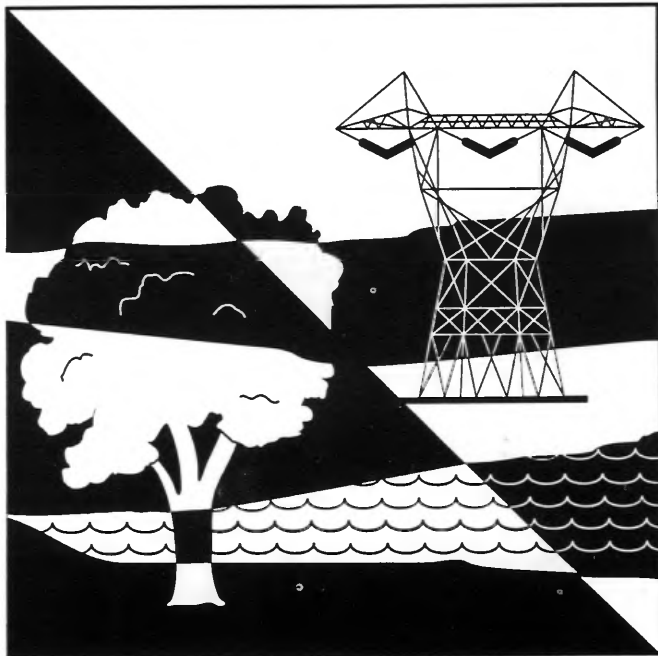
As part of that effort, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy that says the cooperatives will voluntarily cut emissions of the carbon gases that have been blamed for the Earth's warming.

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...

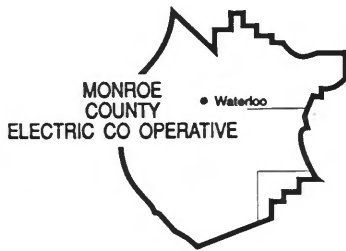
Most important is the feeling of security. Today's homeowner can find comfort in a dusk-to-dawn electric security light. Ask your electric cooperative about installing one. It costs just pennies a day. And, a strong light shining over your property during the dark hours has been known to lead to hours 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



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Summer has arrived with a bang. The temperatures were in the mid to high 90s, which is above normal for this early in the summer. As of June 20, Soyland Power Cooperative has already issued two Peak Alert notices. The IP/Soyland Pool set a demand of 3,705 megawatts on June 20, which is higher than the peak in August last year.

What happens when we receive a Peak Alert notice from Soyland. We first notify all interruptible accounts that a peak condition exists and request that they control or turn off their loads for a specified length of time. We then monitor the loads on our substations. When the Cooperative system approaches our target peak, we activate load management to control the load on our system. If the target peak is exceeded, a new target is established.

With control of air conditioners, water heaters and other load management, along with the interruptible loads, we have the potential to drop 4,500 to 5,000 KW of demand. Not all of this load may be on during peak conditions, but it potentially could be.

Since we started our load management program several years ago, we have saved thousands of dollars on wholesale power costs. We estimate that we are saving more than \$500,000 per year in power costs by reducing demand during peak conditions.

Therefore, members who install water heater control switches or air conditioning load levelers are not only helping themselves by receiving credits on their electric bill, but they are also helping all members save on their electric costs. So, why don't you have a control switch installed on your electric water heater or central air conditioner or heat pump. Give us a call to schedule installation.

Outages

With the advent of hot weather and additional loads placed on electric transmission and distribution lines, we have experienced a number of outages. Most of the outages have been a result of Illinois Power Company transmission outages.

The major outage, for some Cooperative members, on Memorial Day, was 11 hours in duration. In several other outages of shorter duration and dimming of lights were the results of overload on the City of Waterloo's electric system that fed back on Illinois Power's transmission system.

This is not to say that the Cooperative does not have outages caused by high winds and lightning storms or isolated equipment failure. However, most of the problems the early part of summer were not a result of problems with the Cooperative's system.

Total home lightning and surge protection



- Major appliances
- TV
- VCR
- Computer
- Telephone
- Fax

Now available from
**Monroe County Electric
Co-Operative**

A guide to

Energy Efficient

Construction Standards



Your guide to building an energy-efficient home

Providing our members with information to live comfortable and economically in your home has always been an objective of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.

With this objective in mind, MCEC now has available to Cooperative members a booklet: "A Guide to Energy Efficient Construction Standards." This guidebook was compiled by the Electric Cooperatives of Illinois. The booklet and construction techniques and recommendations it covers is designed to relieve the anxiety of what monthly heating and cooling costs might be. Houses that meet the standards of the guidebook earn the designation as being a "Certified Comfort Home," assuring you that your energy consumption will be at the lowest possible level and your home comfort will be at the highest level.

The "Guide to Energy Efficient Construction Standards" and the "Certified Comfort Home" are available to Cooperative members only.

Although the guide is aimed at new home construction, many of the standards and methods covered can easily apply to retrofitting older homes.

For details about this program or to receive a free "Guide to Energy Efficient Construction Standards," contact Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.

Hot weather alert

Temperatures are going to soar this summer. On the hottest days of the summer, our power supplier will notify us of Peak Alert conditions. We will be subject to these Peak Alert notices between the hours of 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. excluding Saturday, Sunday or weekends. We ask that you put off use of major heat-producing appliances during these periods, during the hottest days of summer.

Help us lower the peak demand on our system and lower the cost of electric energy year around.

Install System:GT Now and earn up to \$1,150 Cash Rebates

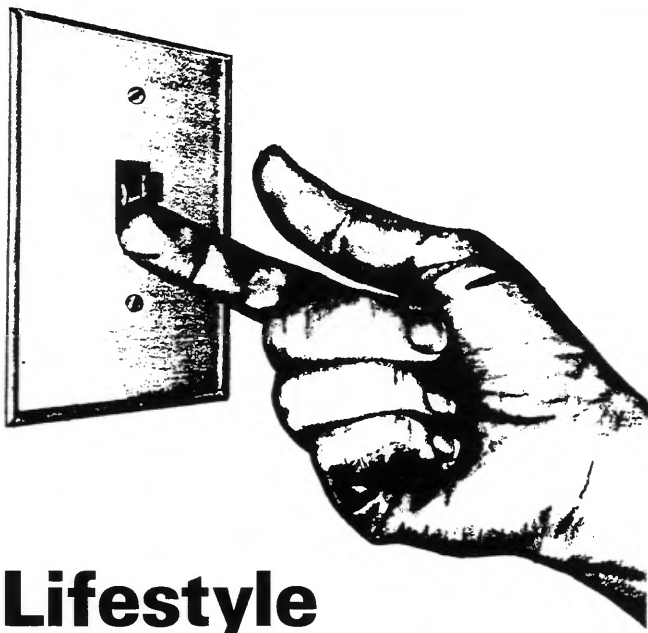
- Rebate of \$500.00 paid by Soyland Power Cooperative
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- Rebate of \$350.00 from Monroe County Electric Co-Operative
- Rebate offers expire Dec. 31, 1994

**For more details, contact the MCEC office at
939-7171 or 800-757-7433.**

System:GT

Geothermal heating, cooling & water heating

The sure way to cut your energy bill!



Lifestyle makes a difference

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

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

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

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

Family size

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

Space heating and cooling

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

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

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

Water heating

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

Ask yourself some of the following questions:

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

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

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

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

Appliance use

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

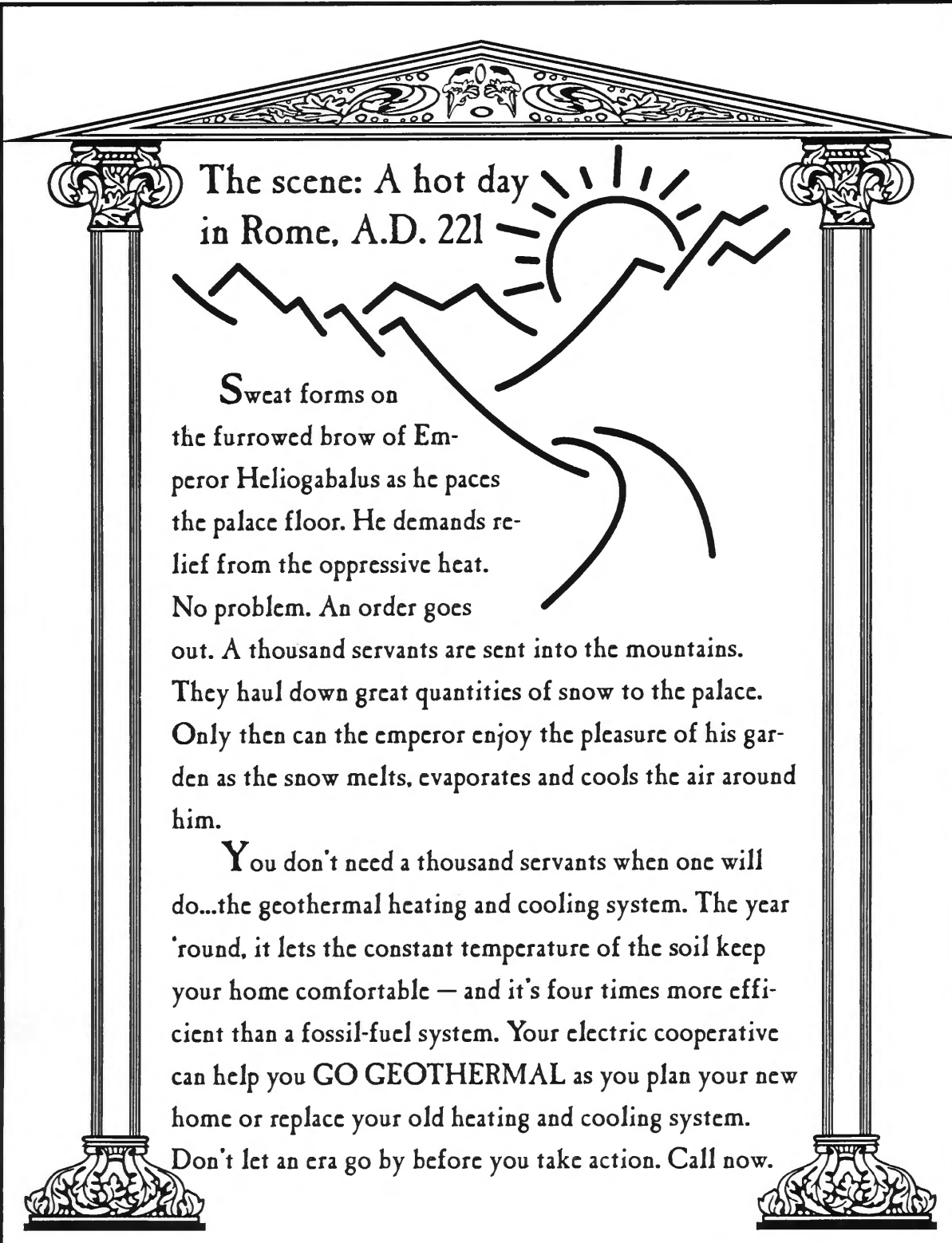
For example, ask yourself questions like these:

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

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

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

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



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

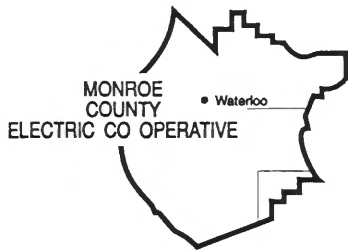
Sweat forms on the furrowed brow of Emperor Heliogabalus as he paces the palace floor. He demands relief from the oppressive heat. No problem. An order goes out. A thousand servants are sent into the mountains. They haul down great quantities of snow to the palace. Only then can the emperor enjoy the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

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER



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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Along with other Illinois electric cooperatives, Monroe County Electric Co-Operative has initiated an energy-saving concept that may remind the older cooperative members of the "Gold Medallion Home" program popularized by the electric cooperatives in the 1950s and 1960s.

By meeting standards set forth in a new guidebook, a member's new home may be designated as "Certified Comfort Home." The guidebook, "A Guide to Energy Efficient Construction Standards," was compiled by the member services section of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives so homeowners could design a new house with the accent on economic energy use and comfort.

The guidebook is available at no charge to Monroe County Electric Co-Operative members who are planning on building a new home. Please come in or call and ask for your free copy.

The most obvious advantages of building a "Certified Comfort Home" are savings in heating and cooling costs, a higher level of comfort in the home, and higher resale value.

The detailed book covers such areas as moisture control; construction standards for walls, ceilings, and floors, including crawl spaces, slab floors and floors over basements; windows and doors; heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; hot water, lighting and insulation recommendations.

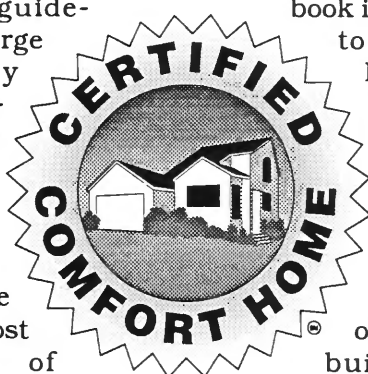
Cooperative members can use a score sheet to record guide standards followed by their contractor, with plus and minus point values being assigned to various features. By meeting a zero or better point value, a new home earns the "Certified Comfort Home" designation.

The point system allows for personal touches that make a home attractive. For example, a fireplace, even though it isn't a particularly efficient feature, may be permissible.

If you are planning a new home, you should get the guidebook before you make key decisions on construction and heating and cooling systems. Even though your new home may not meet the total standards, any of the recommendations incorporated in your new home will enhance comfort and lower utility costs.

The "Certified Comfort Home" concept is being endorsed by the Illinois Home Builder Association, Farmers Home Administration and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Contact us about a free "Guide to Energy Efficient Construction Standards."



WaterFurnace rebate

WaterFurnace International is offering a \$300 rebate for Cooperative members who install a WaterFurnace brand geothermal heating and cooling system between now and January 31, 1995.

This \$300 WaterFurnace rebate is in addition to Soyland Power Cooperative's \$500 rebate and Monroe County Electric's \$350 rebate.

So, if you have been giving thought to a System:GT heating and cooling system, don't delay to take advantage of the \$1,150 in rebates.

Install System:GT Now and earn Up to \$1,150 in Cash Rebates*

- **Rebate of \$500 paid by Soyland Power Cooperative**
- **Rebate of \$300 paid by WaterFurnace International (WaterFurnace brand)**
- **Rebate of \$350 from Monroe County Electric Co-Operative**
- **Rebate offers expire December 31, 1994**

For more details, contact the MCEC office at 939-7171 or 800-757-7433.

Don't get too close

Although you may have no power lines whatsoever in your fields, you certainly have them present in equipment storage areas and grain storage areas. Be sure the paths from equipment storage areas to the fields and from the fields to the grain storage areas are safe routes.

There should be ample clearance for combines, pickers, bailers, front end loaders, stackers or any other equipment you're moving about your farm. If there is some question about whether equipment will clear a power conductor, assume that it won't and take measures to avoid possible contact.

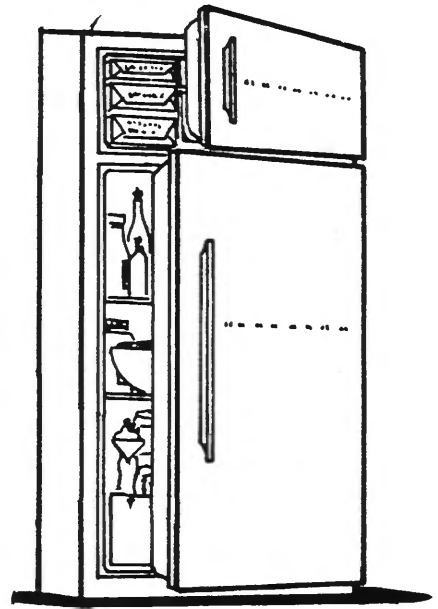
More often than not, power lines follow property lines. When you reach the end of your field

and turn your equipment, there's a very good chance power lines will be nearby. Always be alert to power lines on your property lines. They may even be hidden by trees or brush, so you must take precautions to ensure your equipment doesn't make contact.

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

Before you begin to build your next grain bin, shop or storage building, give us a call. Let us come out and look over the site to make sure you are in the clear.

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

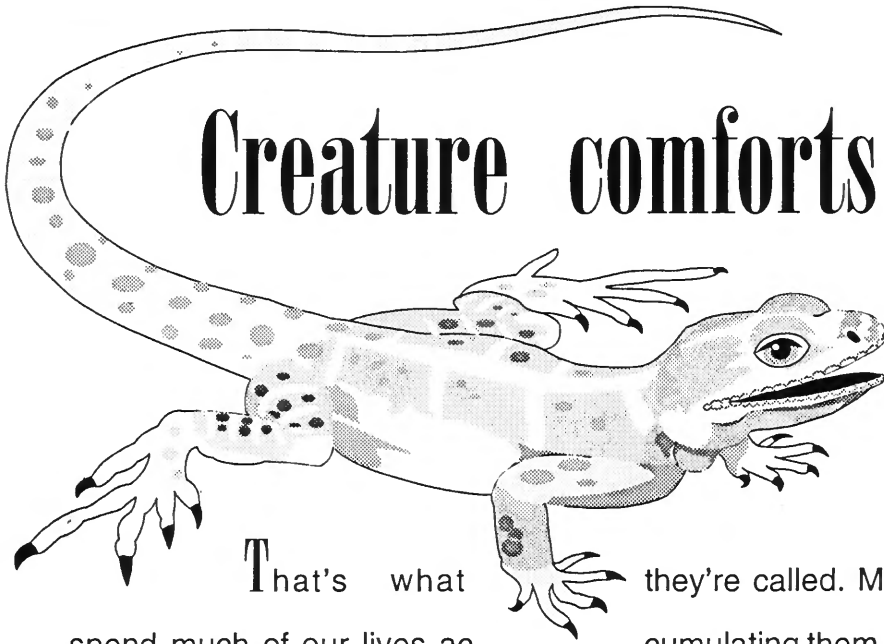
dial by one number can make a 10 degree F difference in temperature.

- **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

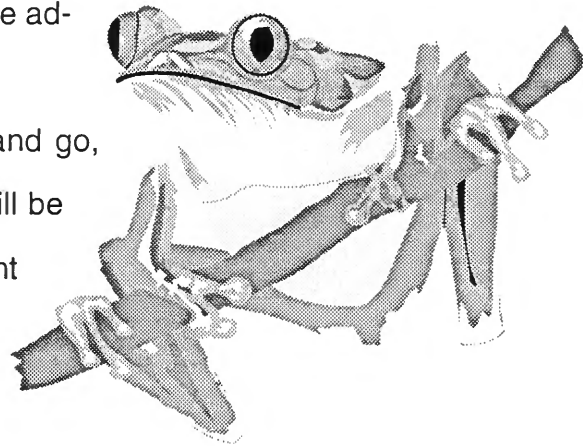


That's what they're called. Most of us spend much of our lives accumulating them. A lounge chair, a great stereo, a soft shag carpet beneath your feet.

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.

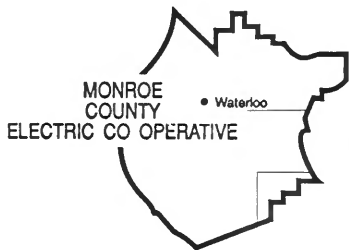
Wisely, families are turning to electric heating and cooling when they build their new homes. It means efficient comfort all four seasons, and it's clean and safe. Your electric cooperative has special rates that make these advantages low-cost for you.

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



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Electricity. A source of comfort.



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October Cooperative Month

You may not realize it, but the story of this cooperative — of which you're a vital part — really began 150 years ago, not in Illinois or even in the United States. It began at a plain three-story brick building in Rochdale, England, on a gas-lit cobblestone road with a colorful name, Toad Lane.

History is often referred to as a book, and the story of Toad Lane makes up the opening pages of your cooperative's tale. In 1844 some 28 tradespeople gathered at 13 Toad Lane. Their occupations ranged from shoemaker to flannel weaver. Hard times in England prompted their meeting. They met to arrange a system in which they would purchase supplies and consumer goods from each other. It was a cooperative.

Their system proved successful. In 50 years membership grew to 12,000, and the Rochdale cooperative was doing an annual business of \$1.5 million. The practices that evolved from their organization became known as Rochdale Principles. Those principles, born while horses' hooves and wagon wheels clattered over the cobblestones outside, are still bringing success today though cooperatives are now making use of satellites, fiber optics and microchips.

The Rochdale Co-op pioneers united to improve their lives, just as the pioneers of rural electrification did in this century here in Illinois. Among those principles we share:

- Control by a board of directors, elected by

- the members,
- Each member has one vote in the cooperative's elections,
- Profits made by the cooperative are returned to members as capital credits,
- Money will be spent to inform members and improve their quality of life,
- The product is sold at the cooperative's true cost.

In the mid-1930s, your cooperative's story leaps across the Atlantic Ocean to the United States. Farmers and other rural residents knew that their city relatives were enjoying the comfort and convenience of electricity. They got together, not on Toad Lane, but in the local school gymnasium and the nearby church sanctuary. New chapters in your cooperative's story were added as growing strings of pole and wire illustrated its successes. The deep black of the rural nighttime was punctuated by spots of light. Behind the lighted



windows of farmhouses was the warmth of dependable heat on winter nights.

A little later in the story, telephone cooperatives made their appearance, linking their members to neighbors and to the rest of the world.

Through five decades the electric and telephone cooperatives served as dependable members of the

You are invited – Area member meetings scheduled

A series of area member meetings have been scheduled for four locations in the Cooperative's service area during mid October. These meetings give you the opportunity to learn more about your Cooperative and gives us a chance to become acquainted with you, and visit with friends and neighbors.

At the area meetings we will bring you up to date on Cooperative activities and operations. We will set aside a few minutes to answer questions you may have concerning Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.

Each member or family attending these meetings will receive a 1995 Saturday Evening Post appointment calendar. There will be a drawing for five \$10 credits on your electric bill at each of the four meetings.

There will be refreshments and a fellowship period at the conclusion of the meetings.

You will receive a post card announcement of the meeting in your area. If you cannot attend the meeting in your district, please feel free to attend one of the other scheduled meetings.

A bright idea!!



Attend one of the area meetings

We hope to see you at these meetings! Meeting dates and locations are:

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, 1994
Hecker Community Center
Hecker, Illinois

7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 13, 1994
VFW Hall
Millstadt, Illinois

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 19, 1994
Hoeffft's Village Inn
Maeystown, Illinois

7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 20, 1994
Monroe County Electric Co-Operative
Waterloo, Illinois

community, quietly providing a better rural lifestyle as youngsters grew up and raised new families in the countryside.

The End?

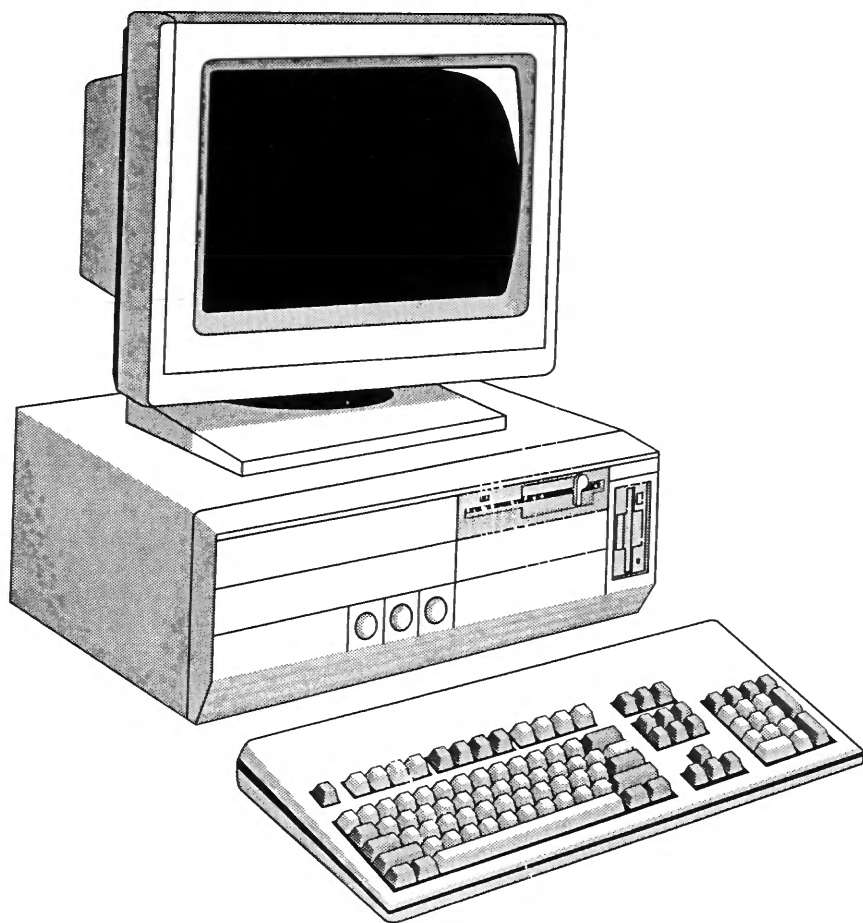
Some critics have misread this story. They thought it was about electricity or telephones. Everyone has electricity now, they said, so it's time to close the cooperative's book. This is like saying that highways have been built, so we don't need a highway department any more. The critics miss the point. Your cooperative was created to make life more comfortable and more fulfilling for you, your family and friends. As long as there are people living in regions such as this, there will be a need for an organization like this one.

Fortunately, the federal government has recognized this. The Rural Electrification Administration, which has long provided loans to help build

and maintain the cooperatives, has been given new assignments. A law signed by President Clinton in November 1993 encourages rural electric utilities to help their communities beyond providing electricity. They are now eligible for loans to help improve water supplies and wastewater treatment.

Cooperatives are also allowed to help rural economic development in other ways. Throughout Illinois, these utilities are already looking at other important rural issues — health care, communications, education, crime. But they haven't forgotten the primary need for safe, dependable efficient electricity at affordable prices.

As you can see, the story of your cooperative is far from over. You and your cooperative are adding pages every day as you live and work. With the new responsibilities that your cooperative is addressing, we are seeing the start of the next chapter.



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

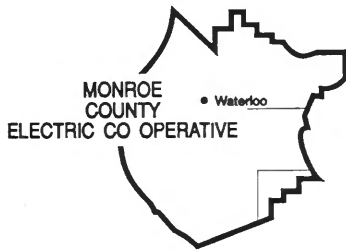
It's closer than you realize.

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



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Growth in Monroe County

Monroe County, which has long been the undeveloped region of the St. Louis SMA, is already in transition, and will change and grow if we like it or not.

There are several factors that have or will open up Monroe County to growth, both commercial and residential.

Transportation is a key to the growth of an area. We first started seeing an influx of new homes in the northern portion of the Cooperative's service area when the I-255 bypass was completed. The conversion of Illinois Route 3 to a four-lane highway from Columbia to Waterloo, scheduled for completion next summer, will further open up the Route 3 corridor to commercial growth and intensify residential growth in the southern portion of the county.

An adequate supply of potable water is essential for the growth and development of a community. Illinois American Water Company and the City of Waterloo are in the process of laying a new water line from Millstadt to Waterloo, which will provide an adequate supply of water for Waterloo for years to come.

The Fountain Water District is now operational and is serving an adequate supply of potable water to approximately 250 users west from Waterloo to Valmeyer. The water district is already making plans for extension of water lines into the Madonnaville area to the south and to the New Hanover area to the north. We can't see it stopping there. We project that the growth of the Fountain Water District will mushroom and will expand, much as the Monroe County Electric Co-Operative did some 50 years ago.

With the advent of a safe, adequate supply of water in the County, we foresee an acceleration of residential growth throughout our service area.

Another factor to enhance growth in the area is the new expansion of Scott Air Force Base into a civilian joint-use airport. The overspill of growth created by this new development will flow into our service area in St. Clair County and into Monroe County.

As we mentioned, we are going to see growth and change whether we like it or not. Some of the key elements are now, or soon will be, in place to intensify growth. But highways and water are not the only infrastructure to support growth in an area. Increased water usage places an additional burden on sewage and waste. We cannot overlook the need for sewage treatment, gas and electric utilities which must be expanded and adequate to handle the growth. Secondary streets and roads will be needed, as well as increased fire and police protection.

It will not be an easy task for local governments, planning commissions, et al, to orchestrate orderly growth. They need to establish and keep long range plans in focus. Yes, it is coming and it must be orderly.

New Soyland manager

Joseph F. Firlit, a senior executive at Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, has been named general manager and chief executive officer of Soyland Power Cooperative.

Firlit, who has more than 27 years of electric and gas utility experience in both investor-owned and municipally operated systems, assumed his new duties October 1. Firlit brings to Soyland a wealth of utility experience and firsthand knowledge of power generation. His managerial and technical experience will enhance Soyland Power Cooperative's position in the rapidly changing electric utility market.

We welcome Mr. Firlit to the cooperative family.

Sizing up satellite TV

Any dish bigger than 18 inches probably won't deliver the latest in high-tech television.

Cable television without the cable? Satellite TV using a 10-inch dish? C-band, Ku-band, wireless?

You've probably seen these terms in newspaper ads and on flyers filling your mailbox. You may have also read the claims about the "clearest pictures, the most channels and the smallest dish." So now do you know who to believe and where to go for affordable, quality television programming?

There is no doubt that the choices are confusing. Unraveling the confusion starts with understanding the basic differences of the technology that delivers television service to areas unserved or under served by cable systems.

"The last thing a person should do is jump into a decision about buying a dish or signing up for a particular service until they know exactly what they are getting," says Bob Phillips, who heads the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative.

Consumers are getting more confused about the difference between one satellite service and another, Phillips adds, because "small dish service," for example, does mean different things depending on who is selling the service.

So, to help you master the techno-buzz words (and to make sure you are up to speed on the latest technology) before you make your satellite dish decision, here is a brief review of the different technologies available:

C-band — These are larger dishes most often seen across the countryside, measuring 6-12 feet across. These dishes receive uncompressed analog signals operating within the frequency range we know as the C-band. For years, C-band satellites helped open the door to cable programming for many people in non-cabled areas. Today, some 1.6 million consumers receive programming services over C-band dishes.

Medium power Ku-band — There are a number of satellite services that use a different frequency band width called the Ku-band. As a rule, these services use a 3- to 5-foot dish and primarily provide highly specialized business services, such as teleconferencing. One service, however, is using a 4-foot dish to provide limited selection of television to rural households.

While C-band and Ku-band services are used to deliver direct-to-home television programming, they were not originally designed for this purpose.

DBS — A new service called DirecTv tm, uses a technology called direct broadcast satellite (DBS). Unlike C-band and medium power Ku-band, high-power DBS is licensed by the FCC for the specific purpose of delivering television to the home.

With the development of new high-power DBS satellites and digital compression technology,

DirecTv will operate in the Ku-band, but will be unlike anything ever transmitted over this frequency band. While KU-band satellites usually generate signal strength of only 45 watts per transponder, the DBS satellites will broadcast at 120 watts each. The higher power translates into a smaller receiving dish — 18 inches or less. In December 1993, America's first digital DBS satellite was launched into space, opening the door to this new kind of high-quality, direct-to-home satellite service.

Part of the confusion surrounding alternative systems, Phillips says, is the fact that some satellite dish sales personnel might be taking advantage of people's lack of knowledge about DBS or — even worse — could be suggesting that they are providing DBS when in fact it is something quite different.

Phillips says three technological "firsts" make DirecTv different — and highly appealing — especially to rural residents:

- The satellite's signal is digital, which means it will produce crystal-clear TV pictures and compact disc quality sound.

- The signal is compressed, meaning each satellite (and there will be two in orbit) can carry many more channels than ever before possible. DirecTv promises to deliver approximately 150 channels of entertainment and information programming.

- The signal's strength eliminates the need for a large, motorized dish to bring in the satellite's signal. In fact, the 18-inch dish used to capture the DirecTv signal is so small, says Phillips, it can mount under an eave, on a porch railing or any other convenient location. In addition, the dish is virtually maintenance-free, and it may never need adjustment.

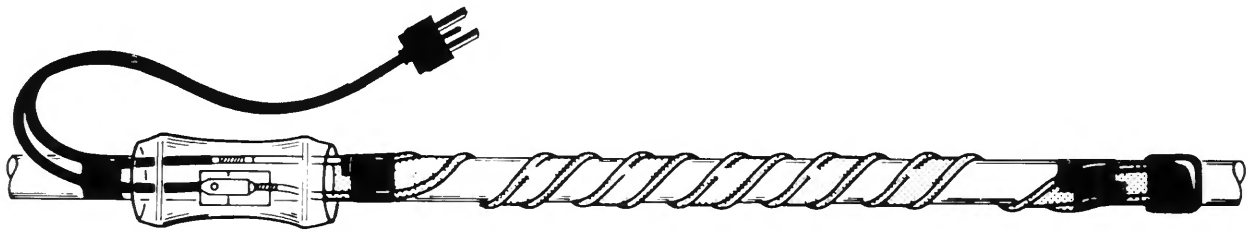
"The service is truly on the cutting edge of technology. Nothing on the market today comes close to the convenience, programming variety, picture and sound quality and affordability of DirecTv," says Phillips. "It's the wave of the future and, unlike other services, rural Americans will have access to it at the same time that urban consumers do."

Where to get DBS service

Harrisonville Telephone Company, Waterloo, has purchased the exclusive rights to offer the DirecTv service to Monroe County Electric Co-Operative members.

The 18-inch dish and receiving system is priced at about \$700, excluding installation.

For more information, call 939-2000, or toll free 1-800-220-8844:



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.

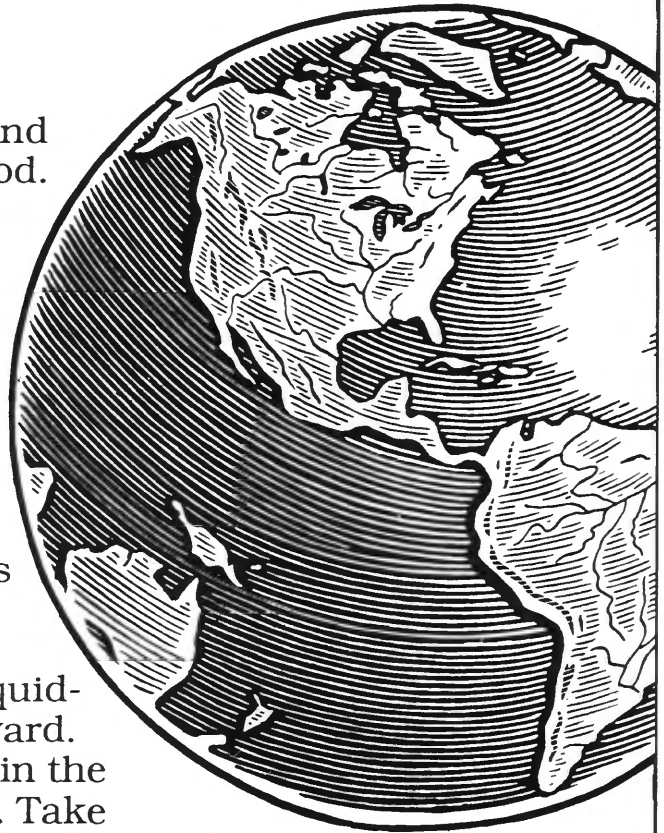
- Keep the end cap sealed and off the ground to prevent water from getting in. Moisture can lead to a fire.

- 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

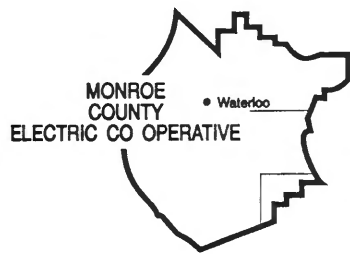
Your most efficient energy source for home heating and cooling isn't oil, gas or wood. It's the Earth. Your most efficient heating and cooling system is the geothermal system. It gets its energy from the sun's heat stored within the soil around your house — a constant energy supply. In the winter, the 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

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Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

A series of Area Member Meetings was held in mid October at Hecker, Millstadt, Maeystown and Waterloo. The meetings started at 7 p.m. The attendance at the meetings this year was not as good as expected. There was some comment that 7 p.m. was too early, or would it be better to schedule the meetings in late October or in November. If you have any thoughts about the dates or starting times for next year's area meetings, please let us know.

Following is a recap of the topics covered at the meetings:

- Most of the main feeder lines lost in the flood are rebuilt. One exception is a three-phase line near the ring levee south of Fountain. This line cannot be rebuilt until the levee is permanently repaired and the ring levee removed. We are hopeful that the levee work is completed soon, as this three-phase line is the only way we can provide back-up power to members fed off of the Fountain Substation in case of an emergency.

Most of the loads reconnected in the flooded area, with a few exceptions, are seasonal in nature (machine sheds, grain dryers, cabins). A few members are repairing and rebuilding their homes. For the most part, not many are moving back. We are pleased that Gateway FS has consolidated its operation to a new facility at Chalfin Bridge.

- We will continue planned maintenance programs as in the past. Preventative maintenance is the key to holding outages to a minimum. Following are some of the maintenance programs:

We have nearly 16,000 electric poles on the Cooperative system. We will initiate a pole inspection and treatment program starting later this fall and into next year. We plan on testing and treating approximately 1,600 poles a year and expect this program to take 10 years to complete. Treat-

ment is projected to add more than 10 years to the life of a pole.

Meter testing is another program performed annually. We expect to test 600 to 700 meters a year on a continuing basis.

Other annual maintenance programs include testing of oil circuit reclosures (OCRs), which are similar to breakers in your home to protect lines and circuits from damage in overload situations or lightning strikes, etc. Line voltage regulators and substation transformers are tested annually.

- Trees and power lines do not mix. A large portion of our maintenance costs goes for right-of-way maintenance, which includes tree trimming. There are several reasons we need to eliminate or keep trees under power lines trimmed. Trees growing into lines cause outages, contribute to system line loss and we need to keep trees from high-voltage lines for safety reasons.

- We will continue to promote and offer load management programs to our members. It is essential that we control our load during summer peak conditions, but still encourage electric usage. Increasing kilowatt-hour sales help spread fixed power costs, and consequently the cost per kilowatt-hour is less.

Current load management and marketing programs include water heater and air conditioner control, discounted prices on electric water heaters, rebates and special rates for members building an all-electric home.

- The conversion of Illinois Route 3 to a four-lane highway will take more than four acres of highway frontage from the Cooperative. Your board of directors has refused the offer from the State of Illinois and the State has filed for condemnation of the land needed. We hope to get this problem worked out soon.

- Soyland has recently completed the second restructuring of its debt with REA, which will help stabilize wholesale power costs. However, the Soyland board is not pleased with 70 mill, or seven cents, a kilowatt wholesale power.

Soyland's executive committee and staff are looking at alternatives and options to create lower power costs to make local cooperatives, i.e., MCEC, more competitive. At this time it is too early to

Heating assistance available

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) aids low income, elderly or handicapped households as well as others whose power has been disconnected because of inability to pay winter heating costs. Although the program cannot pay the entire cost of heating bills, it can be an important source of assistance to individuals and families struggling to make ends meet.

The program provides a one time payment to eligible households or their utility company, to be used in meeting winter energy bills. The amount of payment is determined by household size, income, fuel type and geographic location.

To apply for energy assistance, please contact the local administering agency for your county as shown below.

Eligibility Income Standards

Maximum gross income for 30 days prior to application

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>30-Day Income</u>
1	\$767.00
2	\$1,025.00
3	\$1,283.00
4	\$1,541.00
5	\$1,799.00
6	\$2,057.00
7	\$2,315.00
8	\$2,573.00

Monroe County

Western Egyptian Economic
Opportunity Council
509 W. Mill Street
Waterloo, Illinois 62298
Phone: 618-939-8715

Randolph County

Western Egyptian Economic
Opportunity Council
P.O. Box 7
Steeleville, Illinois 62288
Phone: 618-965-9031
Contact: Janey Willis

St. Clair County

St. Clair County Intergovern-
mental Grants Dept.
512 E. Main Street
P.O. Box 321
Belleville, Illinois 62222
Phone: 618-965-9031

Holiday Office Closings

**Monday, December 26,
for Christmas
and
Monday, January 2,
for New Year's Day**

Have a Safe Holiday



Attention: Cooperative customers in St. Clair County

St. Clair County has adopted an ordinance requiring inspections for all new building construction, as well as an application for electrical service upgrades in the unincorporated areas of St. Clair County.

Please call St. Clair County, Department of Zoning, at 277-6600, Ext. 330, for the necessary inspections at least 48 hours in advance. Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

An inspection is required prior to the final hookup of the electric service by Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.

project what, if anything, may be done to alleviate power costs.

• We also discussed the annexation of cooperative service areas around the state and nation. It is becoming a bigger and bigger problem. Federal and state governments are starting to get involved. The City of Waterloo has annexed approximately 1,000 acres of land adjacent to its current

city limits. Much of the acreage is, or would be, in the Cooperative's service area. We are trying to get the City to meet with us to work out an agreement we could both live with.

Many of the above issues are too involved to write about here. If you have interest in any of these issues, give us a call or come in and discuss them with us.

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