

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



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS



Bill Roth, left, and his son, Mark, with a combine they've modified to make it feed more smoothly.

A better combine

For years, Bill Roth of Stonington fought his combine. For years he threatened to do something about the way it worked in soybeans. Finally, after turning most of his farming operation over to one of his five sons, the Shelby Electric Cooperative member did something about it.

"Every year when I was sitting in my combine cab," he says, "I'd tell myself, 'Before the next harvest season, I'm going to make the reel one-

third larger', and every year that went by, I was more determined to do it."

He finally got the job done, and was so happy with the results that he set out to build kits to enable other farmers to get better results with their combines, too, no matter what make or model they have. So far he's sold some 300 kits in 15 states and Canada and enthusiastic letters are coming in. Many farmers credit Roth with

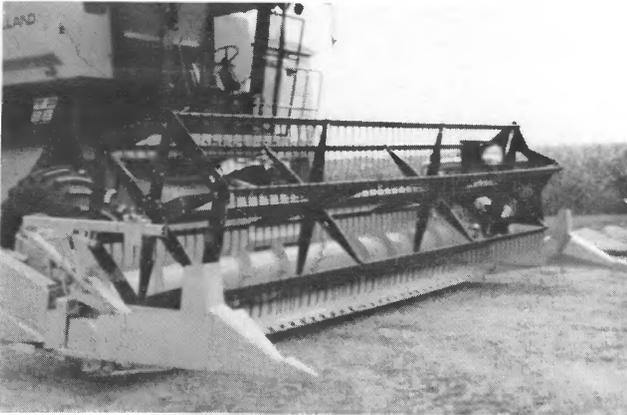
having "saved their bacon" when their crops were down and weedy.

"I sold my first kit to a farmer in Idaho who grows lentils and edible beans," Bill says, "and he'd already had one drought year and was in the middle of another. His crop looked like it might be awfully hard to combine, and he called me to ask if I thought my kit would help. I encouraged him to give it a try. He bought the kit, installed it and went to work. He said later that it saved his crop, and saved him the cost of the kit 'Multiple times over' in just that season."

There is room for improvement in virtually every combine as it comes from the factory, Bill notes, and one is to move the reel closer to the auger. This eliminates the erratic, unsteady flow, he says, that sometimes causes bunching and clogging.

"I decided that if I could make the reel about 30 percent larger in diameter," he adds, "I thought I might be able to smooth out that flow. A larger reel would also come closer to the cutter, with less loss and a smoother feed. This setup give you 85 percent of the benefits of a bean row head for a fraction of the cost."

Bill, who was raised half a mile from his present home, has been living at his present location since he was seven years old. He and his wife Kathryn raised their five sons there. While four have left and taken various jobs, Mark, the oldest, stayed home and took over the main part of the farming operation. "I just kept back 80 acres for my combine experiments," Bill says. He adds that while



Roth is proud of this photo because it shows that his attachment will fit on a Ford/New Holland combine, too. They can be made to fit nearly any combine.

they were growing up, the boys had a band, "The Brotherhood," and played many a gig all over Central Illinois for 10 years.

While Reel Mfg. & Sales, Inc. has many of its parts fabricated in Taylorville and does much of the sales, service and promotion out of the big old farm house, the main part of the operation is housed in a large, modern equipment shed.

The Roths keep track of all their customers



Roth, right, examines a head modified with one of his kits. Don Henry, left, and his son, Don, put the kit on a new combine that had never been in the field.

with their computer, and they have many letters indicating that the kit delivers at least as much as promised, and often more. One farmer wrote, "It's much less stressful to watch the grain going in because the reel's traveling slower, and there's less bunching." Another adds, "The unit works very well in down beans and tall weeds." Yet another carries probably the most significant testimony: "My kit paid for itself early in the first 100 acres I combined. The rest was gravy."

Bill notes that there are several benefits to the unit, one being that the combine can be run about half a mile an hour faster than usual, with the reel turning slower.

"You can sit in the cab during every minute of operation and see all the savings taking place, and you'll feel less stress, too," Bill says, "and if you run the combine 10-14 hours a day, that cuts the stress way back. Since everything runs more smoothly, there's less wear on the belts and machinery, too."

He emphasizes that one of the main benefits of his kit is that it saves grain that is otherwise lost at the front of the header. "The grain has to enter the header before it can be saved," he says, "and it's safe to say on all machines — new and used — that major grain loss takes place at the header. Our tests have shown a savings of 2.9-4.9 bushels of soybeans per acre."

Bill remarks that some farmers are putting kits on brand new machines that have never been in the field. One person can expect to spend the better part of a day installing it, although an air ratchet will cut that time about in half.

"These kits are guaranteed to perform," Bill says. "We encourage people to try them, and if they're not completely satisfied, they should call us. If we can't make it good, we'll refund the purchase price if the kit's returned in usable condition."

Anyone interested can contact Reel Mfg. & Sales at Rt. 1, Box 132, Stonington, IL 62567, or by phone at (217) 325-4066 or (217) 325-4137.

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.

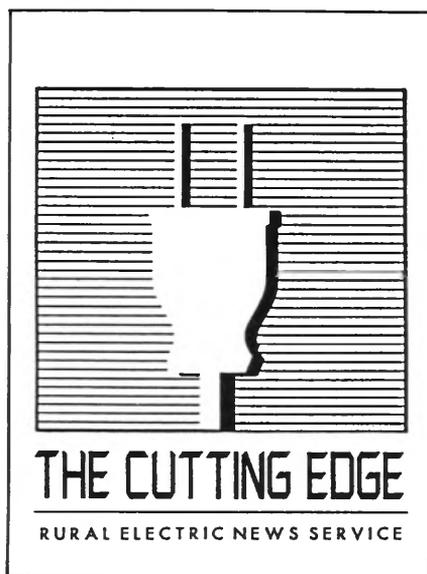
Eventually, Fidler hopes, the technology will be sophisticated enough to make the on-screen newspaper interactive: The tap of a pen on a restaurant ad, for example, would connect the reader's computer with the restaurant's reservation system.

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.

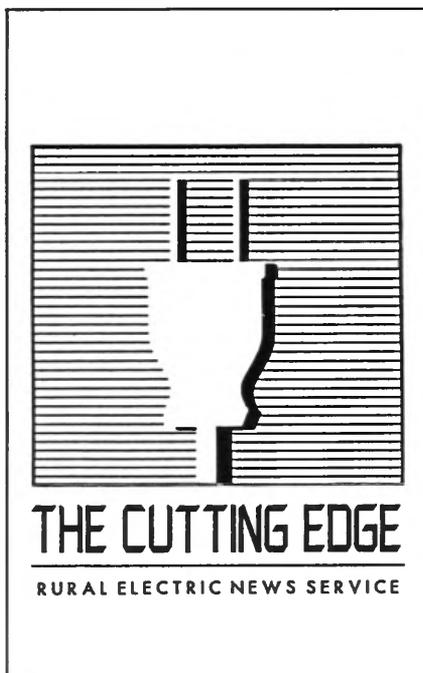
Once the viewer pays for the box, there is no subscription fee. Viewers will pay only if they order merchandise or participate in a for-fee service or game.

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





Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

New essay contest rules

For over 25 years, Shelby Electric Cooperative has sponsored the "Youth to Washington" essay contest. The contest was open to sophomore and junior students enrolled in every high school in our service area. At one time, 19 area high schools were invited to send entries on a topic supplied by the cooperative. In the past few years, participation has fallen to an all-time low. In 1993, entries were received from only three schools.

Every student taking the trip has reported back to the Cooperative that the trip was a "once in a lifetime experience." For that reason, we were very hesitant to cancel the program for lack of interest from high schools and the high school students. We have developed a new format for our competition; and we hope it will be well received by our area schools.

In January, each high school was contacted with a questionnaire to the principal. We asked if the school would be willing to select one student from their junior class to represent the school and at the same time, select one faculty member to act as liaison for the contest. From this selection process, we will have 16 candidates for the Washington trip. Each candidate will fill out a short biographical form and write a paragraph on why he or she would like to take the trip to Washington D.C. An independent judge has been selected who is not from our area; and would have no way of knowing any of the students. This judge will narrow the field from 16 to 6 finalists.

All six finalists will be sponsored to "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day" in Springfield on April 13. On that day, they will have an opportunity to meet with their legislators and tour the famous Lincoln sites in Springfield.

On April 25, the six finalists and their faculty sponsors will have an opportunity to meet with the Cooperative board of directors. The judge will be present, also, at that meeting. After a short interview process, the judge will announce the two winners of the competition.

On June 17, Cooperative personnel will deliver

the two students to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives headquarters in Springfield to begin their week-long tour of the nation's capital. They will join students from across the state on a journey that will encompass meetings with their congressmen and senators, sight-seeing to all the famous Washington landmarks, and activities with other winners from across the United States.

As always, this competition is not expressly for Cooperative members or rural youth, but for any junior enrolled in one of our area high schools. It is Shelby Electric's hope that his new format will be well received; and that we will have a candidate from each of the 16 area high schools.

Cooperative hours

Shelby Electric Cooperative is open every day Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the exception of the holidays listed below. Telephones are answered 24 hours a day. You can report an outage any time by calling (217)774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612.

1994 holiday closings

Good Friday	April 1
Memorial Day	May 30
Fourth of July	July 4
Labor Day	September 5
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving	November 24 & 25
Christmas Eve	December 23
Christmas Day	December 26

Dirty humidifiers may cause health problems

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

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

which bacteria or fungi may grow.

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

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

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

- Use distilled or demineralized water in your room

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

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

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

Coping with a winter outage

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

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

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

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

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

For warmth

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

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

For light

1. Know where the flashlight and fresh batteries are.

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

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

For food

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

butter and crackers.

2. Fill plastic jugs with water.

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

During an extended outage

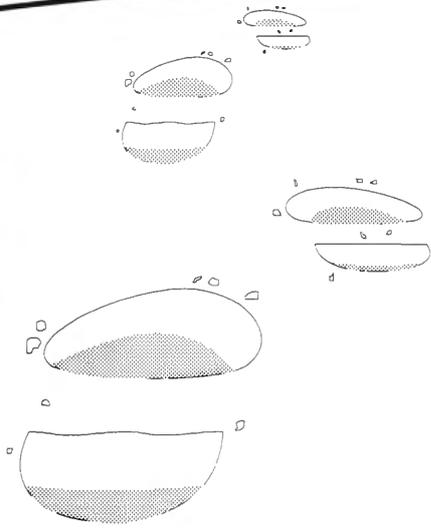
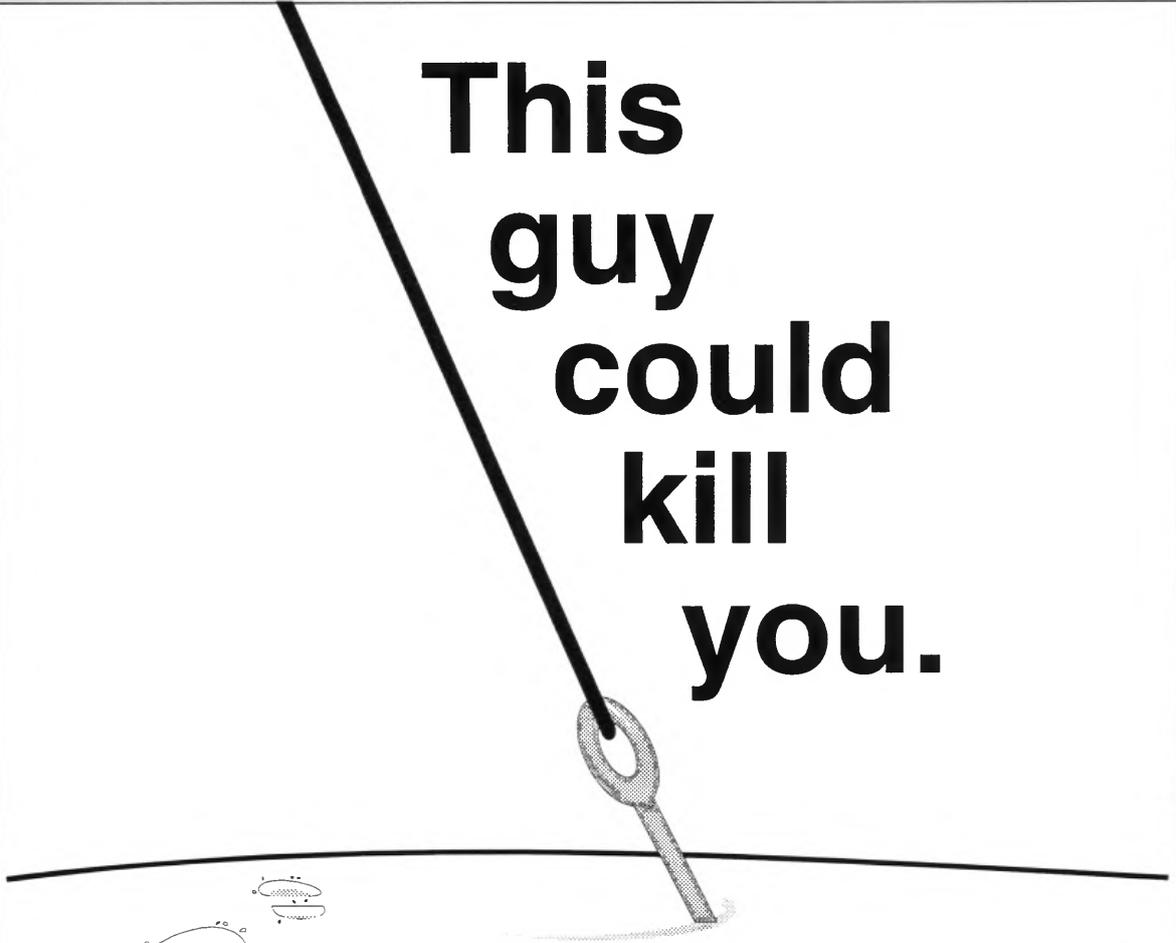
1. Shut off the water supply (and the electricity to the pump, if you have one) and drain the system. Pour antifreeze into the plumbing fixtures in the bathroom and the kitchen.

Have the following general items on hand

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

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

This guy could kill you.



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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

10-pound 'virtual office' goes wherever worker does

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"With new technology the

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

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

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

since 1989.

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

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

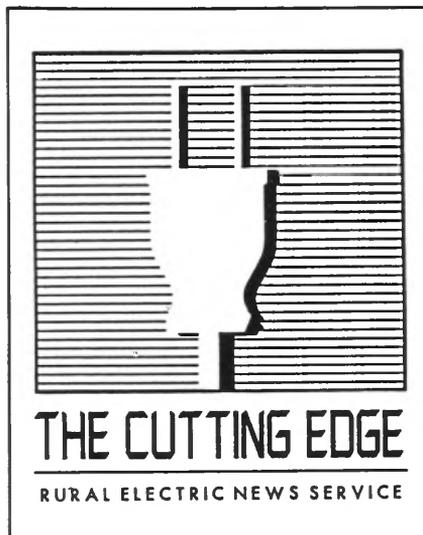
Management gurus such as Tom Peters and Peter Drucker have predicted such a scenario for years, and over the past decade dozens of major corporations, including American Express, AT&T, Time Warner, IBM, Avon, and Hewlett Packard have begun to offer work-at-home options for some of their employees.

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

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

Distance is no longer a hindrance to corporate decision-

(Continued on page 12d)





Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS



James Coleman, manager of Shelby Electric Cooperative and president of the Lincoln Prairie Water Company, addresses the January 19 meeting. From left are: Hank Stephens, attorney; Harry Oswald, Pana; Coleman; Congressman Glenn Poshard; Dean McWard, Owaneco; George Jamison, Taylorville and Paul Van Deursen, Shelbyville.



Congressman Glenn Poshard speaks. He has been active in the search for water since the group first met.

Lincoln Prairie Water Company

In the spring of 1993, need for a rural water district was brought to the attention of your Cooperative. Congressman Glenn Poshard has been a driving force in the formation of a system since the first meeting on April 12, 1993. At the time, the need was determined to be great; and interest high in water transmission and distribution from Lake Shelbyville to outlying areas. The first board meeting was held on July 28, 1993.

The Lincoln Prairie Water Company was formed as a result of these meetings. The LPWC is a not-for-profit corporation with an established board of directors and stated monthly meetings. The board consists of seven members: six appointed, one each from the cities of Shelbyville, Pana, and Taylorville, and one each from the counties of Shelby, Christian, and Moultrie. The seventh is an at large member appointed by the other six members.

Shelby Electric manager, James E. Coleman currently serves as president. Shelby Electric Cooperative is not involved in the LPWC in any way other than providing a meeting room, tech-

nical assistance, etc. Funding for the project will come from the cities and counties served and from various state and federal grants. Shelby Electric will provide no funding for the project.

A public informational meeting was held on Wednesday, January 19. In spite of sub zero weather, a good number of area residents attended to voice their need and support for the water project. Fact sheets were distributed to all attending. Advance connection fees of \$50 are being accepted from parties interested in receiving service in the future. These funds will be used to facilitate a feasibility study.

We have printed here a copy of the questionnaire being distributed. It would be of great help if you would fill it out and return it to the water company at the address shown on the bottom. You may also mail or bring the completed questionnaire to the Cooperative. We will be happy to pass it on. Upon receipt of the completed questionnaire, LPWC will send you information on the project and a User's Contract to return if so desired. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Shelby Electric.

Water quality survey

1. What is your primary source of water at the present time?

2. Would you consider your water quality satisfactory for human consumption?

() Yes () No

3. Is the water clean and satisfactory for laundry and other domestic uses?

() Yes () No

4. Do you have sufficient water from your primary source to supply your needs for household and domestic uses?

() Yes () No

5. Are you at the present time, or have you been in the past, hauling water to be used on your property?

() Yes () No

a. If yes, approximately how much water do you haul each week or month?

_____ gallons per _____

6. What is your alternative source of additional, high quality water should the Lincoln Prairie water system not be built to serve you?

7. What is your anticipated or projected cost if you are forced to provide water through another source, such as drilling a new well or contracting for other types of water service?

8. Do you anticipate that your conditions will worsen if the public water system proposed by the Lincoln Prairie Water Company does not get built?

() Yes () No

9. Do you plan to utilize this service for household use?

() Yes () No

10. Do you plan to utilize this service for livestock?

() Yes () No

11. Please make any comments relative to your water supply and your future needs, and relative to the proposed system.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

**Please complete and return to: Lincoln Prairie Water Company
P.O. Box 554
Shelbyville, IL 62565**

(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.

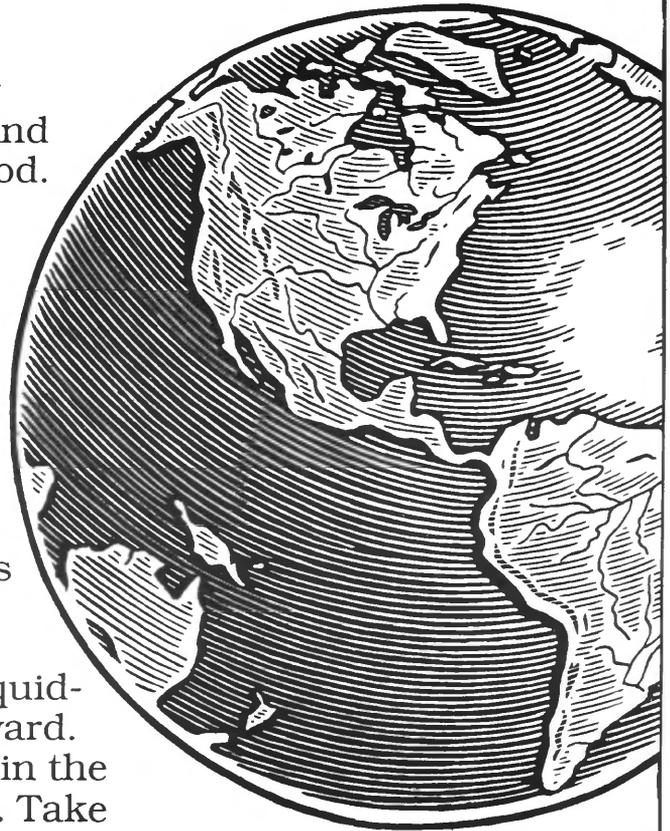


Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

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.



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Your total energy supplier

We want to be your total energy supplier!

That is the principle that is guiding Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) into the propane gas distribution business.

With only one locally owned propane gas distributor to service the rural areas around Shelbyville, Shelby Electric Cooperative manager Jim Coleman and the Shelby Electric board of directors have launched Shelby Energy Company to supply the propane gas needs of SEC members. "We've been studying the propane supply needs of our area for more than two years," Coleman said, "and we feel we can provide a real service to our members and at the same time help dilute costs for the electric cooperative."

Shelby Energy Company will begin its propane operations this spring following completion of all regulatory requirements and installation of a 30,000-gallon bulk tank in the Shelbyville area. The location of future bulk supply tanks will depend on where gas customers are located, Coleman said.

"We have met with the local FS manager and board president prior to launching Shelby Energy Company, and they did not oppose our plan," Coleman said. "In fact, they asked us to consider working together to meet the needs of the rural areas."

Coleman said there is some competition in retail propane in the cooperative's service



Shelby Energy Company

territory, but very little competition in the gas appliance and service business. The board of directors has set a goal for the Shelby Energy Company staff to operate at a profit, yet provide a needed service at a competitive price. Coleman said that no government subsidies are involved in Shelby Energy Company, and in fact, Shelby Electric Cooperative has paid off its loans from the Rural Electrification Administration. Shelby Electric Cooperative's sole lender when needed is the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, one of the largest banks based in Washington, D.C., and is owned by Shelby Electric and nearly 1,000 other electric cooperatives across the country.

In addition to the lack of locally owned competition, Coleman cited other solid reasons for an electric cooperative to own a gas distribution and service company. The most important factor is the potential tie-in to Shelby Electric's dual fuel rate.

"A dual fuel system allows a household to use electricity for heating a home, such as with an

air-to-air heat pump, and then switch over to propane gas during bitter cold spells," Coleman said. "That way members get the greatest benefit from both fuels."

Any profits that are earned by Shelby Energy Company will flow through to Shelby Electric Cooperative and will be assigned to Shelby Electric members as capital credits. "We will supply propane gas to customers located in the cities as well as to Shelby Electric Cooperative members," Coleman said. "We will have one rate structure for all customers, but profits will flow through to benefit Shelby Electric Cooperative members. We can make profit margins, but we can't keep them. We must return profits to the membership."

Coleman sees few problems in establishing Shelby Energy Company in the propane gas business and meeting an ambitious schedule to begin contract sales this summer. Coleman said he expects to have the bulk plant operating in April and begin deliveries early in the summer.

"Members tell us they are tired of seeing outside businesses buy out local companies,

leaving employees without jobs," Coleman said. "That's what got us started looking into the propane gas business, and that's what will give us an experienced staff of certified people as soon as we can complete all the regulatory requirements."

"We will be working with the state fire marshal to secure a site that meets their requirements and we are working with the Illinois Gas Association on meeting all other regulatory requirements to get our facility started," Coleman said. "We already have certified people working with us who are experienced in the gas business in

this area but who are currently unemployed due to other gas businesses closing."

Shelby Electric Cooperative already has safety equipment to test members' homes for carbon monoxide build-up and other potential hazards associated with gas equipment.

Mike Espy, secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has urged electric cooperatives to provide expanded services in electric cooperative service areas. "It's a natural for us," Coleman said. Members would be able to pay their gas and electric bills at the same office, and they will have one common supplier if they choose. They will be

backed by the 56-year history of Shelby Electric Cooperative to provide 24-hour service to rural residents.

"Regardless of my personal feelings about gas as an electric cooperative manager, I know it is a needed service in our area, and we need to support those members who choose gas for their heating or cooking fuel," Coleman said. The electric cooperative manager said he intends to make Shelby Energy Company a viable business and he promised to keep two hats handy in his office. "One will be my electric hat and one will be my gas hat," Coleman said.

Time to think about levelized billing

Levelized billing is available to members of the Cooperative who are served under Rate Schedule A or Rate Schedule B.

The Cooperative, when requested, will bill a fixed amount each month for qualifying members. The following conditions and procedures will apply:

1. The member must pay monthly for one year before qualifying for levelized billing.
2. The member's first payment on levelized billing must be in the March billing. Starting date later than this will be permitted providing the member makes all payments due since the March 1 starting date. The Cooperative will determine the amount of the monthly payment.
3. Levelized billing accounts shall be adjusted each March 1 to reflect previous or anticipated billing. The amount of this adjustment will be determined by the Cooperative.
4. The member will read his meter monthly

and send in a reading. There will be a meter reading charge of \$10 should it become necessary to read the meter.

5. If the member has a credit balance as of March 1, the monthly payment will be suspended until the credit is used.

6. If at any time the balance due exceeds three months' payment, the monthly payment shall be adjusted to reflect increased usage. The amount of this adjustment will be determined by the Cooperative.

Any member who does not meet all of these conditions will be notified that unless he complies with the conditions of levelized billing, he will be placed on monthly billing immediately.

Non-payment of a levelized billing account monthly will cause the account to fall under the established rules and regulations for unpaid monthly bills.

Cooperative hours

Shelby Electric Cooperative is open every day Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the exception of the holidays listed below. Telephones are answered 24 hours a day. You can report an outage any time by calling (217)774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612.

1994 holiday closings

Good Friday	April 1
Memorial Day	May 30
Fourth of July	July 4
Labor Day	September 5
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving	November 24 & 25
Christmas Eve	December 23
Christmas Day	December 26

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.

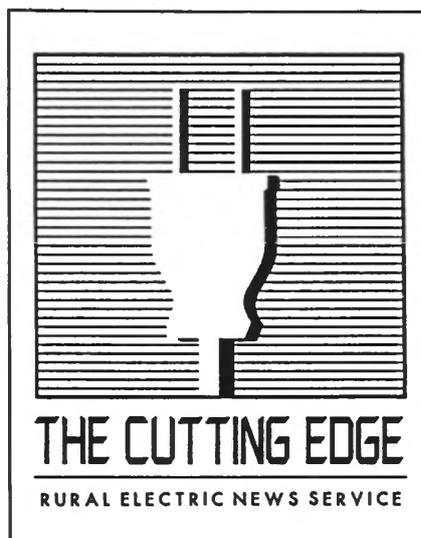
"It's chilling," says author and psychologist Michael Broder. "For a lot of people, it's a fantasy life. No real person can measure up to personalities one sees in computer messages."

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.

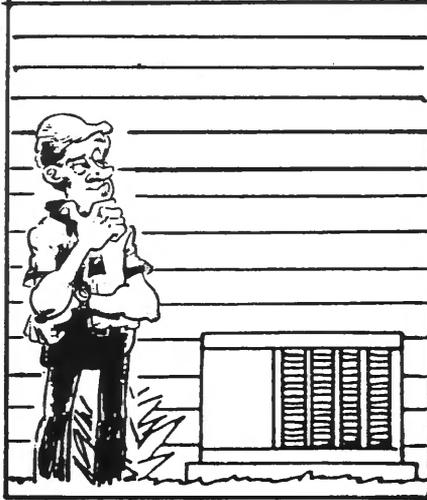
Air leaks are costly

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.



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 217-774-3986 SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS 62565

DBS satellite now in operation

On Friday evening, December 17, a new satellite was launched into orbit around the earth. It was appropriately named DBS-1. With the launch of that satellite, direct broadcast satellite television programming was no longer a dream for the future.

This spring, DBS-1 began beaming digital television pictures directly to customers' 18-inch fixed dishes. By the end of summer, the new television service will offer up to 150 channels of programming including the most popular cable programs, sports telecasts, pay per view movies, news, and family programming. Of interest to our farm members will be up-to-date market reports and Weather Channel reports.

Electric cooperatives were formed over 50 years ago to provide electric power to rural areas that the large power companies did not want to serve.

In 1993, Shelby Electric Cooperative became involved with DBS in an effort to bring a lower cost television service to rural areas where cable television is not available.

The basic system, priced at around \$700, is available from your Cooperative on a first come-first served basis. Since the fall of 1993, members have been signing up and making their \$35 deposit to be placed on a waiting list for a satellite system. Each person making a deposit is assigned a number.

When that system is received, the customer is notified that his system is available. To date, more than 400 names are on that list. We will be happy to add your name to that list. Simply stop by the office, call us for more information, or fill out the blank in this article and return it to the Cooperative.

C Band programming still available

Shelby Electric still offers programming for owners of large dishes. New prices and packages became available on April 1. Please call, stop by the office, or fill out the form in this article for more information.

DBS offers flexible programming, competitive prices

DirecTV, Inc. a division of GM Hughes Electronics began offering the following packages in April of this year. Offering convenience, flexibility, and great value to the customer, these packages are attractively priced; and will allow you to personalize your programming.

**Mark your calendar for
annual meeting 1994 -
Friday, June 24 -
Shelby County 4-H
Fairgrounds - Pork chop
lunch being served from
11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**



DIRECTV Programming Packages and Pricing

***Economy Basic
without Networks
\$14.95 per month**

***Personal Choice 1
\$21.95 per month**

A&E
The Cartoon Network
Country Music Television
CNBC
CNN
The Discovery Channel
The Disney Channel
ESPN
The Family Channel
Headline News
Turner Classic Movies
The Nashville Network
TNT
The Weather Channel
USA Network
Superstation TBS

ESPN
The Cartoon Network
CNN
USA Network
The Weather Channel
The Discovery Channel
Country Music Television
TNT
Superstation TBS
The Sci-Fi Channel
Turner Classic Movies
Encore
The Family Channel
EI Entertainment Television
C-SPAN
A&E
The Nashville Network

CNBC
Headline News
Court TV
The Learning Channel
Bloomberg Direct

Plus: A La Carte Subscription Services like Playboy TV at up to \$9.95/month and access to Direct Ticket

And At No Extra Cost: A comparative value of \$125 a year.

* The Disney Channel
* A \$3.95/month pay-per-view credit on Direct Ticket.

Plus: A La Carte Subscription Services like Playboy TV at up to \$9.95/month and access to Direct Ticket

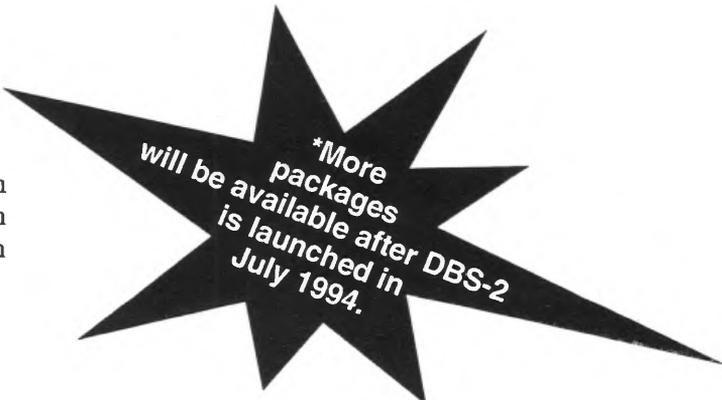
A la Carte Pricing

Monthly Services

PrimeTime 24 Networks \$3.95/month
The Disney Channel \$9.95/month
Playboy TV \$9.95/month

Direct Ticket Pay Per View Services

Movies \$1.95-\$3.95
Playboy TV \$5.95/night
Sports & Special Events \$12.95-\$39.95



Clip and return to: Shelby Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 560, Shelbyville, Illinois 62565

Please send me more information on:

- DBS — Direct Broadcast Satellite Service
- C-Band Programming for Big Dishes

Name _____

(please print)

Address _____

Phone _____



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.



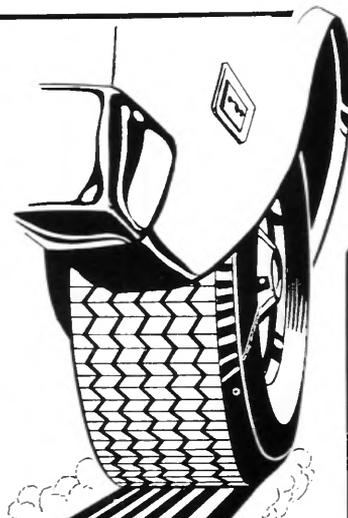
Electricity. A source of comfort.



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



Shelby Electric News



Wednesday, April 13th was "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day," a chance for 275 down-state Illinois students and chaperones to get a close-up look at state government in action. Six area students representing Shelby Electric Cooperative met with Representative Duane Noland at the State Capitol in Springfield. Also during the day, the group toured the Capitol and met with Governor Jim Edgar. Guest speaker during a noon luncheon for the group was State Representative Dan Rutherford of Pontiac. In the afternoon the students also toured the Old State Capitol, the Illinois Supreme Court and Lincoln's home and neighborhood. Representing Shelby Electric Cooperative were, front from left: Don Pinkston, chaperone from Shelby Electric, Nikki Dowland of Shelbyville, Christina Roley of Shumway, Robert Swinger of Edinburg, Representative Noland, Eric Riley of Tower Hill, Tenille Hite of Gays, Suzanne Tate, chaperone from Shelby Electric, and Matt Duez of Pana. The day-long activities were sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois.

**Attend your
annual meeting**

**Friday, June 24
at the Shelby County
4-H Fairgrounds at 1 p.m.
Free pork chop dinner served
from 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**



Annual meeting highlights

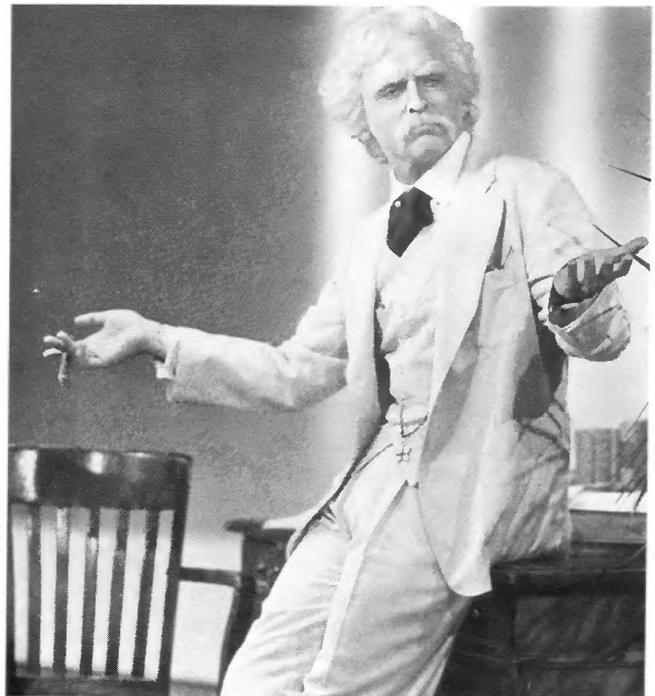


Shelby County Pork Producers will prepare our pork chop dinner.



Childrens' ID program from the Shelby County Sheriff's Department

- **Bargain Corner**
Reduced prices on appliances
- **Free Health Care**
 - *Glaucoma testing*
 - *Blood pressure checks*
- **Information Booths**
 - *DBS satellite programming*
 - *Rural TV for big satellite dishes*
 - *Radio controls for water heaters*
 - *Special rates and programs from your cooperative*
- **Entertainment by Gene Trimble's Clown Band**



An afternoon with Mark Twain

- * *Free attendance prize for each member registering*
- * *Drawing for prizes at end of meeting*

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.

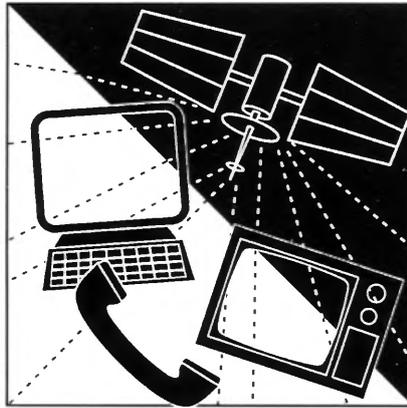
Planned for 2001, the system would form a digital, wireless network to transmit phone calls, interactive TV, computer data, and video anywhere on Earth. It sounds like the land-based information superhighway — but without wires.

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.

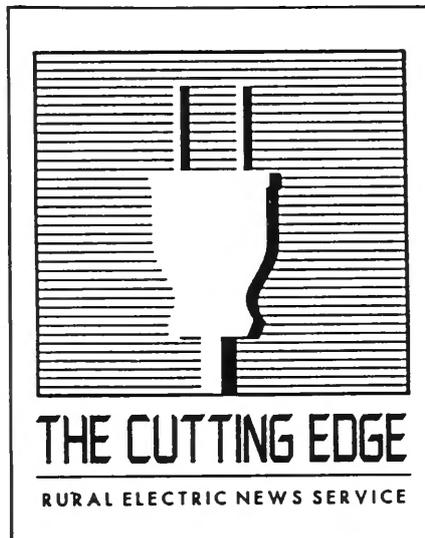
Hughes launched a direct-broadcast satellite in December, and television service for its first customers began in April. Those customers use 18-inch satellite dishes to pick up satellite signals for TV channels. Programming can be purchased through many rural electric and telephone cooperatives that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



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS



Max Hutchens displays a Handi-Pak containing popcorn, oil and seasoning.

'What's a movie without popcorn?'

What is the first thing you notice when you walk into the movie theatre lobby? Ninety-nine out of 100 answers probably would be "the aroma of fresh-popped corn." Max Hutchens of rural Assumption recently treated us to a tour of the Sunglo Products Company facility that he and his wife Carol manage. From this site, popcorn is grown, processed, packaged and shipped all over the world.

The Hutchens began Hutch Big Puffs popcorn at their farm in 1981. At that time, they grew the popcorn and built their processing plant. In 1989, they sold their business to Blevins Con-

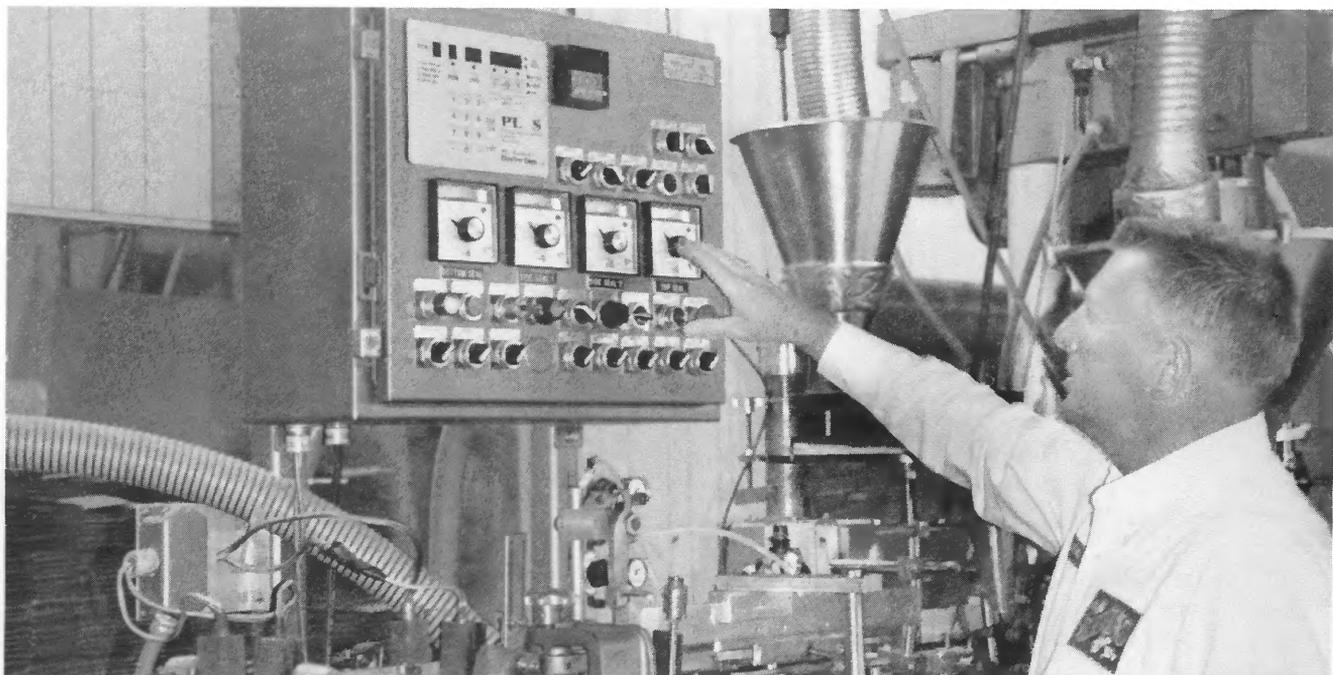
cession Supply Company of Florida.

Having been in the business since 1945, Blevins supplies approximately 60 percent of the nation's theatres with not only popcorn, but all of their concession stand products.

It's easy to see why a large corporation decided to locate in Central Illinois. They are proud to advertise that their popcorn "is grown in organic nutrient-laden black soil which was deposited by glacier encroachment during the ice age." We Central Illinois natives are well aware of our land's production of fine field corn crops. We are not perhaps,

so much aware of the production of popcorn in our area.

Max Hutchens explains that you can drive down the road and not be aware that you are passing a popcorn field. "Last year, the popcorn was extremely tall." This year, 10,000-20,000 acres of our fields will be planted in popcorn. Sunglo signs contracts with area farmers in January and February. Price per pound is guaranteed to the farmer. Always on guard for quality control, Sunglo has their own hybrid popcorn seed. In 1993, Shelby Electric members Dale and Ronnie Sloan were Sunglo's top farmers. they produced 5,742



Hutchens explains some of the controls for the packaging assembly line. The factory employs approximately 20; and runs two shifts during the busy season. They will process 40-50 million pounds of popcorn during a season.

pounds of popcorn per acre at \$574.20 per acre. Hutchens says that the average farmer makes \$500 per acre. He added that several area farmers plant only popcorn and soybeans.

What do they do with that much corn during harvest season? Hutchens has on-site storage for much of the crop, but bins are also leased from area farmers. In all, they utilize 25-30 million pounds of storage. Of course, storage is only temporary until the popcorn is delivered to the Assumption plant for processing. When the corn comes in, it is weighed and tested by computer for moisture content. It will go to dryers if necessary. Corn from the field is run through a process of scalping to remove impurities and cobs, grading, sorting, and even polishing before it is packaged.

All sizes of packages of popcorn are produced at the Assumption facility. There are family sized Handi-Paks that contain the corn, oil, and seasoning for a serving. There are Handi-Paks for the large theatre popcorn machines; 2,500 pound



Carol Hutchens oversees all phases of the office operation from her office. A new computer system tied into the main office has lightened her work load "a little."

totes are processed and shipped at the factory to destinations all over the world. Customers for the large totes include other companies who market the popcorn under their own brand names.

Hutchens explains that Blevins, the parent company, is

very diversified. Their main field is in supplying everything necessary to the concession industry. They provide the popcorn, the machines to pop the corn, the oil, containers, seasoning, and everything but the consumer. They also provide any other product a concessionaire might require from pickles to paper products. A great many of these articles are warehoused and shipped from Hutchens' Assumption facility. There are huge trucks rolling in and back out loaded with products destined to put a smile on the face of some future purchaser. Remember, the next time you enter that theatre lobby — the welcome aroma greeting you may come from popcorn produced in your own "back yard."

**Effective
Tuesday, July 5,
office hours will
be 7:30 a.m. to
4:30 p.m.**

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



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 217-774-3986 SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS



Three members of Shelby Electric Cooperative were reelected to the board of directors during the member-owned utility's annual meeting Friday, June 24, in Shelbyville. With manager James E. Coleman (standing) are, from left, reelected directors Lawrence D. Oller of Taylorville, Richard Boggs of Macon and Neil E. Pistorius of Blue Mound.

Three members reelected to board

Members of Shelby Electric Cooperative reelected three directors to the co-op's governing board at the organization's 56th annual meeting Friday, June 24, at the Shelby County 4-H Club Fairgrounds and were told that they were in a new business.

The reelected directors are Neil Pistorius of Blue Mound, Richard Boggs of Macon and Lawrence D. Oller of Taylorville.

Manager James E. Coleman told his audience that the new business is Shelby Energy Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Shelby Electric. Part of the new venture, Shelby Propane Supply, is intended to provide complete propane service to area farms, homes and businesses, both members and non-members of Shelby Electric. The gas business is coordinated with the

electric side to promote dual-fuel applications, which are beneficial to all co-op members.

Energy Specialist, another division, provides home energy audits and insulates and seals homes utilizing wet-blown insulation and associated caulks and foams. It also coordinates the co-op's geothermal heating and air conditioning program to help members and non-members



Top photo: Manager Jim Coleman (right) demonstrates the direct broadcast satellite television service. Bottom photo: Lineman Bennie Clawson explains safety hazards, using a special farm-and-home demonstration exhibit.



save energy in their homes. Coleman announced that Wayne Bunch, Janet Orr and Steve Shoaff had been hired to staff the operation.

Coleman noted that Shelby's direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television programming business, kicked off at last year's annual meeting under the direction of Pana native Marla Berner, was up and running well.

"The electric co-ops were set up in the 1930s to provide power when nobody else would," Coleman said, "but electricity is only part of what they were about. They were really about improving life in rural America, and electricity was the first major step. Since then, we've gotten into other activities. We got into satellite TV, and into the propane business.

"We also got involved in another venture," he continued, "but just in a helpful sort of way. When the people who were interested in a rural water system came to us, we set out to help them, and now Lincoln Prairie Water District is well under way. We helped pass legislation that would enable Lincoln Prairie get water from Lake Shelbyville, too. That legislation has passed both houses, and is now on the Governor's desk. We expect that he'll sign it before long."

Pistorius, president, expanded on the idea of rural economic development. "Some crit-

**Shelby Energy Company
drawing winners:**

Irene McDonald	20-pound cylinder
Leo Adams	Camp stove
Wilbur Cress	Lantern

ics have misunderstood what electric and telephone cooperatives are all about," he said, "in their assumption that they were about electricity and telephones. They argue that everyone has electricity and telephones now, so why not drop the program. That's like saying the highways have been built, so we don't need highway departments any more.

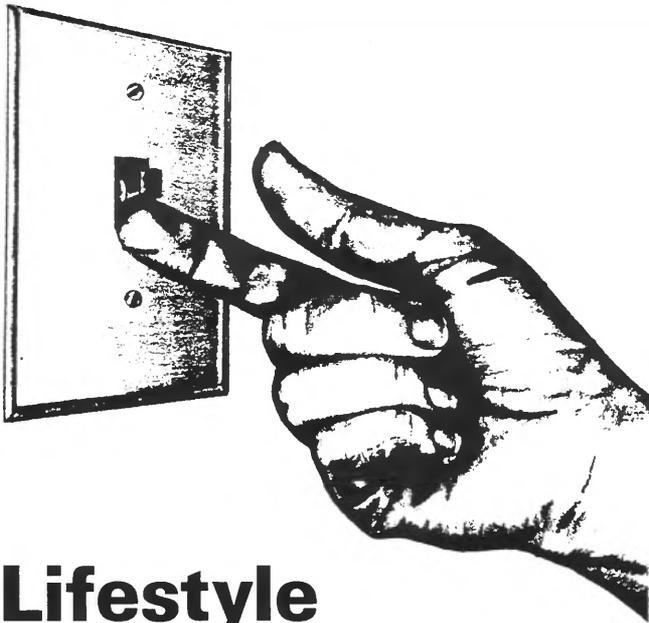
"Those people are missing the point. Your cooperative was created to make life more comfortable and more fulfilling for you, your family and friends. As long as there are people living in areas like this, there will be a need for an organization like this one."

Kenneth E. Kensil of Tower Hill, treasurer, reported that Shelby Electric had ended 1993 with kilowatt-hour sales some 12-million higher than the previous year. Total operating revenues were up, too. "We had operating revenues of \$16,799,636," he said, "and that's some \$1.8-million from the year before, when we had revenues of \$14,952,314."

He also reported that the cost of purchased power had increased very slightly, going from \$11,683,125 in 1992 to \$11,997,543 last year.

Michael Mauldin, who does a nationally recognized Mark Twain impersonation, was the featured speaker, and the Gene Trimble Clown band provided entertainment.

After the meeting the board met in reorganizational session and reelected Pistorius as president; Robert H. Primmer of Findlay, vice president; Oller, secretary; and Boggs, treasurer.



Lifestyle makes a difference

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

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

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

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

Family size

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

Space heating and cooling

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

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

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

Water heating

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

Ask yourself some of the following questions:

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

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

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

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

Appliance use

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

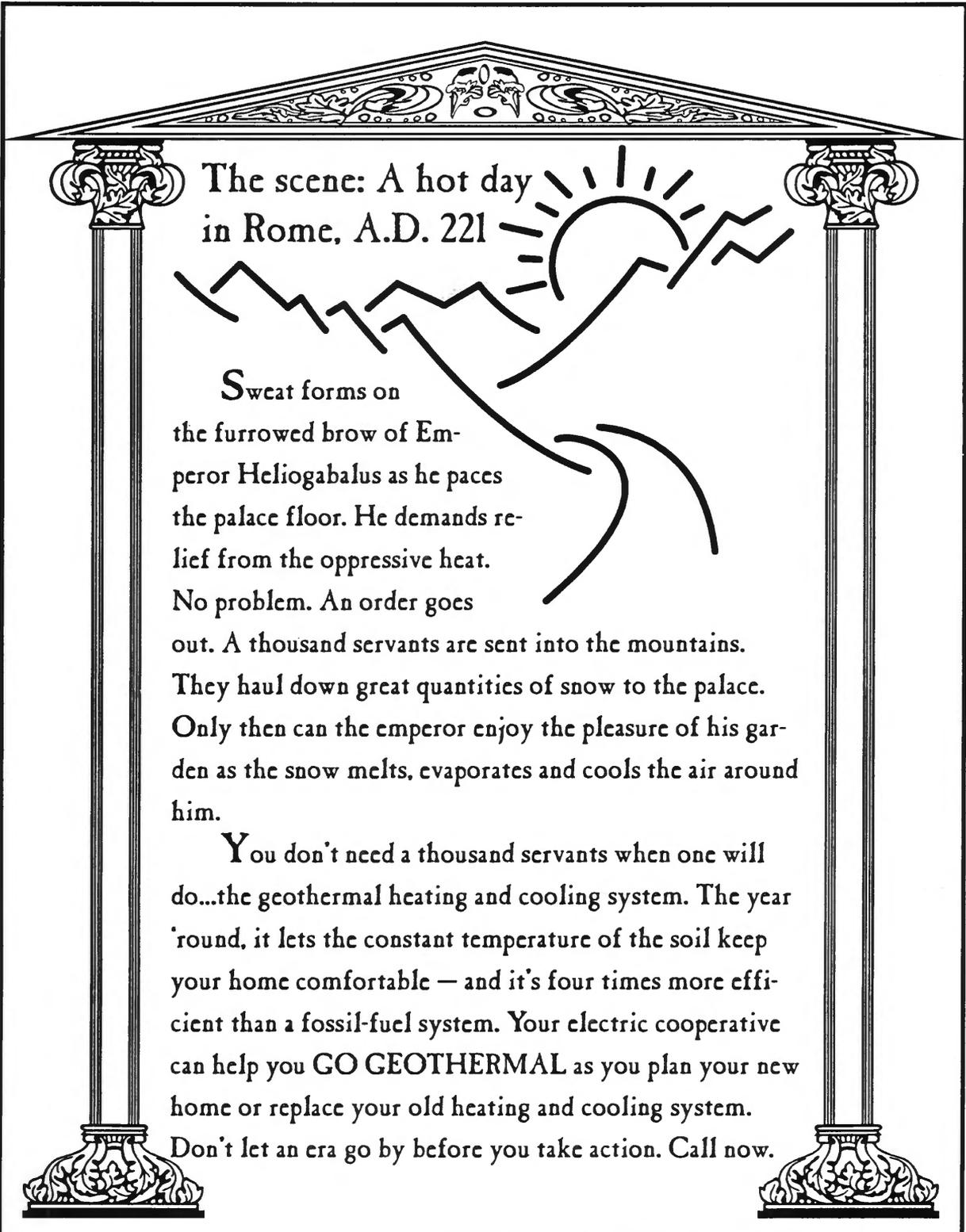
For example, ask yourself questions like these:

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

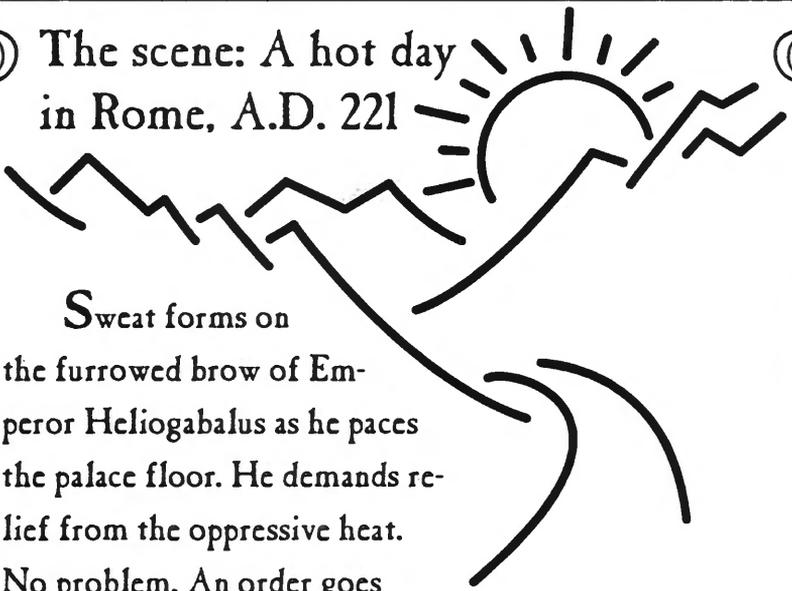
"Do I leave the oven on 'warm' for an extended period of time, or do I cook many dishes at once and then turn the oven off?"

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

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



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



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

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS



This fine Civil War display showcases Cruitt's artillery and uniform replica collection.

Grandpa's Barn Museum and Gift Shop full of memories

Memories: Most of us enjoy recalling the happy ones. Often times, if we are lucky, an item will bring back that special feeling we had long ago. For a fleeting instant, we almost feel we can recapture that past moment. Wayne Cruitt of rural Findlay is capturing memories and sharing them with us all in the form of his newly opened Grandpa's Barn Museum and Gift Shop.

Indeed, the museum is located on the farm where Cruitt

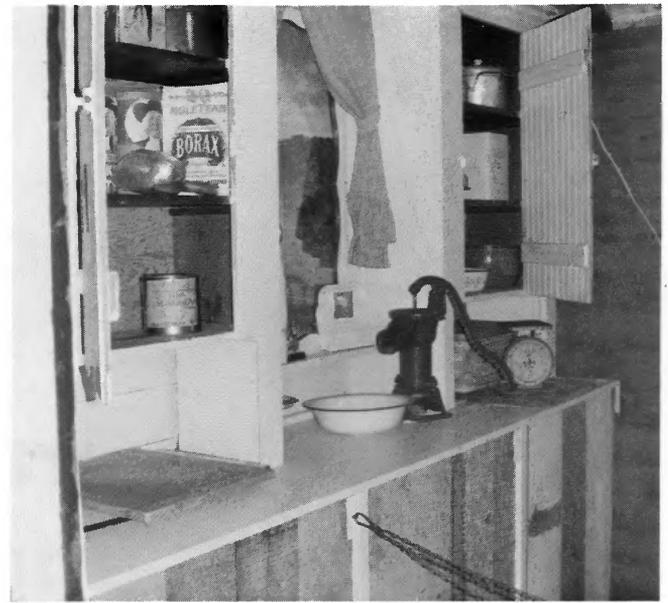
and his wife, Lois, live — the farm the Cruitt family has owned since 1918. Wayne explains that he "liked old stuff all my life; and I've been collecting my entire adult life." In the fall of 1993, he began organizing his collections in the barn. Daughter Leanne Crouch encouraged her father and mentioned that his collection would be a great tourist attraction. Leanne told her father that she felt tourists as well as area residents would enjoy visiting the

barn's displays. The area tourism experts agreed with Leanne; and several bus tours have already been treated to guided tours by Mr. Cruitt.

When you enter the barn, you are immediately greeted by treasures of every sort. Cruitt will wind up a beautiful old Victrola and play the selections a rural Findlay family enjoyed generations ago. He will gladly demonstrate one of the first electric washing machines — still in per-



Cruitt's daughters plan to operate a small gift and souvenir shop in one corner of the barn museum, located near Findley.



One former grain bin houses a rural farm kitchen display. Another bin/room houses a display Cruitt guarantees will "Surprise and delight you!"

fect working order. Cruitt, a retired Civil War reenactor, will show the visitors his cannons — there are two of them — and a Gatling gun replica, also. Many area residents will remember Cruitt for displaying and firing his cannon in area parades and celebrations. Not wanting to brag about his past accomplishments, Cruitt is quick to stress that he has retired from the Civil War; and his museum is not dedicated to that era.

As a matter of fact, the Barn Museum is dedicated. Cruitt explains that the museum is dedicated to his parents, Leverett and Lucille Cruitt. A display is also dedicated to Cruitt's life-long friend, Wayne Parr, and his late wife, Mabel. The sentiment and respect he feels for Parr is evident when Cruitt explains the display. "They were real fine people — our neighbors. For the first 13 years of my life, I spent an awful lot of time with them."

Obviously an avid collector, Cruitt recently returned from a 4,300-mile trip to Canada. "I didn't really intend to bring anything back for the museum, BUT ... there is the Findlay Oval stove (purchased and restored because the name "Findlay" caught his

eye from under a tarp). Then there's the beautiful set of wood-working tools he had to have; and the Canadian list goes on and on. All wonderful assets for public viewing.

Luckily for area residents and tourists, Cruitt has decided to share his treasures with the public. Beginning Labor Day weekend, the Barn Museum will be open on weekends: On Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. They will maintain these hours and be on hand to greet visitors from Labor Day through Christmas.

When asked about the price of admission, Cruitt says: "I want people to come here, see, and enjoy what I've collected. If they care to make a donation of money, that's fine. OR — I'd really love a handful of marbles for my trouble. I'm dead serious about that!" Ed. note: Cruitt is a real marble collector. His favorites were manufactured from the 1930s to 1950s.

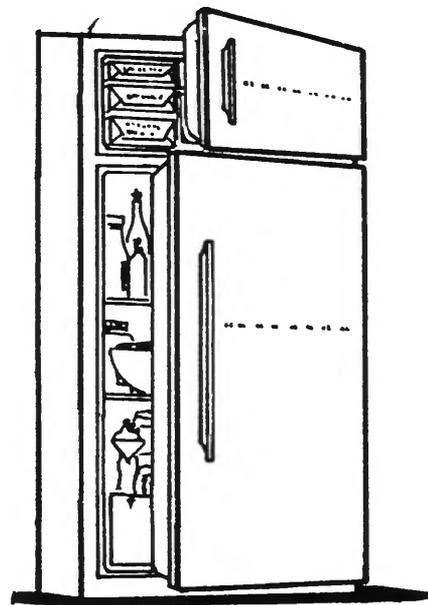
If you tell Wayne Cruitt that he has a wonderful museum full of antiques, he will quickly correct you, "not antiques — they are a piece of a memory." The Cruitts love sharing their memo-

ries with you. Perhaps you'll catch one of those rare moments when you recapture a little piece of your past. If you do, treasure it the way Wayne Cruitt treasures all his memories.



Although Cruitt has a parking meter at the entrance to the museum, he stresses that it's just another piece of his collection.

Control your refrigerator's appetite



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

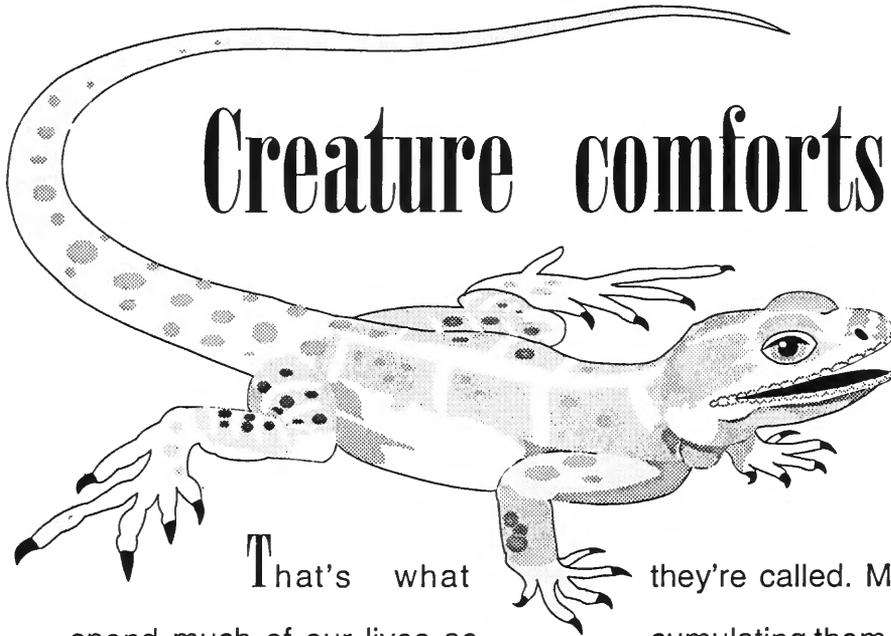
dial by one number can make a 10 degree F difference in temperature.

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

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

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

Creature comforts

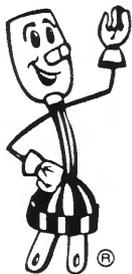
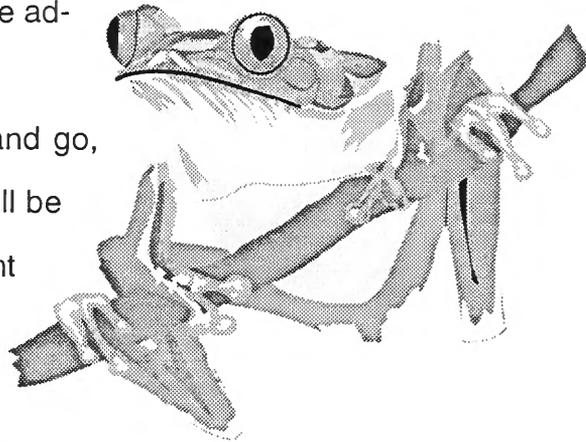


That's what they're called. Most of us spend much of our lives accumulating them. A lounge chair, a great stereo, a soft shag carpet beneath your feet.

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

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

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Electricity. A source of comfort.



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Questions from our members

In a recent IREN center section, we had a question and answer session. It was very well received. As we are asked many questions daily, your manager, Jim Coleman, has taken this opportunity to personally address some of the most frequently asked questions in the following space.

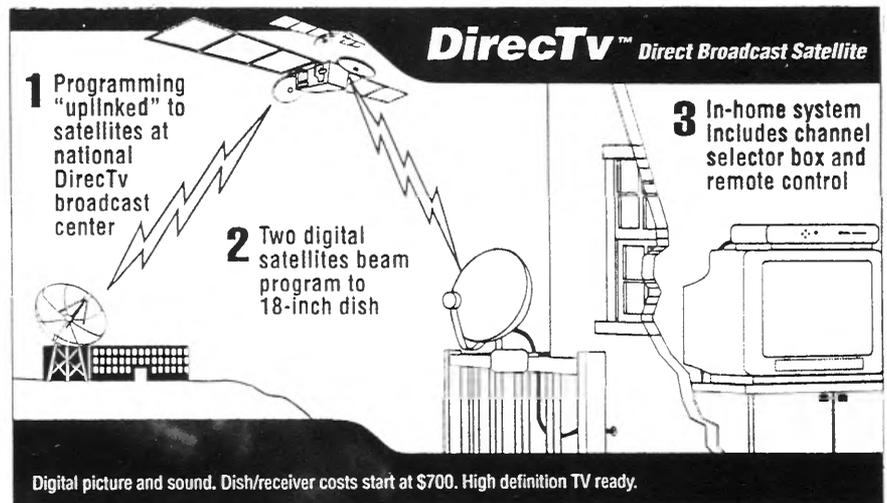
Q. We hear a lot about your new propane business. Why have you chosen to sell propane in an area where there are existing suppliers?

A. We had been looking at the possibilities of adding propane as an outside source of revenue for the past couple of years. The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) has been urging the co-ops to provide more services to their members like water, communications, gas, sewer, etc. The area around Shelbyville has seen a number of gas companies come and go. The last independent propane supplier in Shelbyville was bought out by a major company just a year and a half ago. Then the major companies started buying each other out. When, this past spring, one supplier bought out another and put the local employees out of work, we took the opportunity the situation offered by acquiring three experienced propane employees, thus making an outside source of revenue for our electric members, and providing a stable total energy provider in the area. The bottom line is to provide an additional source of revenue to the cooperative thereby reducing some of the need for additional funds that would normally be generated by rate increases to the members.

Q. We see a new building going up next to the Cooperative office. Is that all for the propane business?

A. The new building being built is multi-purpose facility. The structure will be a Lester building constructed by York Bin Company of Strasburg. A

metal building was the most conservative structure we could find that would meet the needs of the co-op. This new facility will be divided into three areas: two-thirds for warehousing and vehicle storage. The Cooperative has not added any warehouse space in Shelbyville since 1972. We have had a great need for material storage for several years. Approximately 1,200 square feet will be devoted to the propane company for office space, bill payments, and a small display area. The rest of the building, approximately 600-800 square feet, will be for the new DirecTV small dish Direct Broad-



SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

cast Satellite program.

Q. Is Shelby Energy going to sell appliances?

A. Shelby Energy does not have any immediate plans for selling appliances. The showroom area in the new building will display a home theatre setting for the small (18 inch) dish program, some water heaters, grills — both electric and gas. What the future holds, I can't guess. We wanted the new facility to be as flexible as possible.

Q. Can anyone — members and non-members — buy propane from Shelby Energy?

A. Absolutely. Anyone can buy propane from us if they choose to. For the benefit of our electric cus-

tomers, the more non-members who buy the better. All of the revenue from Shelby Energy comes back to the electric cooperative.

Q. Are you supplying propane in areas other than around Shelbyville?

A. We are currently staying fairly close to Shelbyville. I felt like we should get a good start locally before considering other possibilities that might lead to expansion. There have been some members we have served electrically for many years who have called and requested gas service as well. It's really hard to explain to them that we can't get there right away, but who knows about the future? Some of our members take our gas service, some take our radio service, or satellite services. We will make every effort to provide additional service to the members.

Q. What is the status of the small dish television service?

A. The DBS/DSS system is up and running. Our national communications cooperative, NRTC, working with Hughes and DirecTV have succeeded in providing the most exciting breakthrough since color TV. An 18 inch direct broadcast satellite system utilizing digital signals to provide astounding picture quality and audio. Shelby is receiving good quantities of hardware from RCA; and equipment is available now. If you want information, call Marla at our office. She can give you equipment and program information.

Q. Is it too late to place an order for the DBS system?

A. Anyone can sign up for the DBS program. We have had a waiting list, but our shipments from RCA have nearly cleaned up the backlog. If someone wants high quality affordable satellite programming in town or in the country, just call the office.

Q. Why do you give away free water heaters?

A. It is to every member's benefit to have a successful load management system. Our billing from our power supplier is based on our peak demand. When called, we take as much demand (load) off our system as possible. By shutting down interruptible services, air conditioning, and water heaters, we keep our demand at the lowest possible level. Every water heater given to members is radio controlled for this purpose. We give units to members in need of replacement water heaters; we do not replace fully operational units.

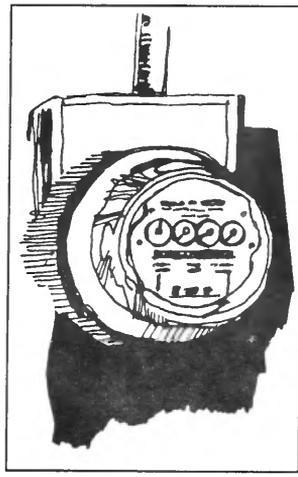
Q. I already have an electric water heater. How can I help with the load management

program?

A. We would be happy to install a radio control on your existing electric water heater. In return, we will agree to replace your unit when needed. If you would like to help, call Suzanne at the office. She will send a form for your signature and arrange for the installation of the control.

Q. Is there any way I can pay for the Cooperative's service by credit card?

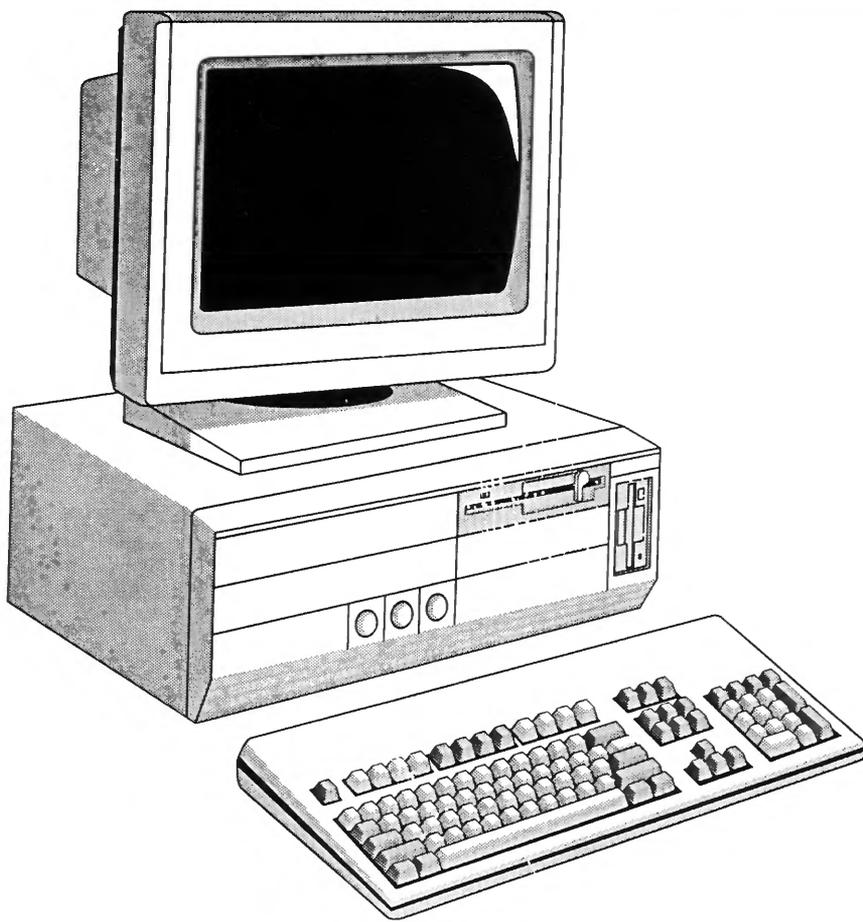
A. Yes. Any billing From Shelby Electric Cooperative, whether it be for utility service for the purchase of direct broadcast satellite equipment or services can be paid with Visa, MasterCard, or the Discover Card. Unfortunately, due to the smaller sizes of our two subsidiary companies, we cannot currently accept credit cards for billings from Shelby Energy Company or KASCOM, Inc.



Q. Are there any changes in your billing and collection procedures coming in the future?

A. We will have one major change in our collection procedure beginning in October. We currently read the meter of any member we have not heard from by the 11th of the month. This is a major expense for the cooperative and its members. Therefore, there is an associated \$30 trip charge assessed to the members whose meters we read. In October, we will estimate these readings and mail the member a delinquent notice stating an estimated amount due. This will save the Cooperative the cost of reading the meter and will save the member the \$30 trip charge. We wish to emphasize that if payment is not received, or other arrangements are not made by the date printed on the notice, service will be subject to disconnection without further notice.

We hope this space has answered some of your questions. If there is something you wish us to address, please feel free to contact the office.



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



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS



Frank Werner of Shelbyville says, "I can't believe how clear the picture is!"

DBS — small dish television service deemed a big success

Customers of the Cooperative's newest venture — DBS (Direct Broadcast Satellite) are singing the praises of their new television service. The new technology of the 18-inch dishes is providing crystal clear television reception to homes never before served by cable television. Programming packages provide the customers a wide variety of channels and stations.

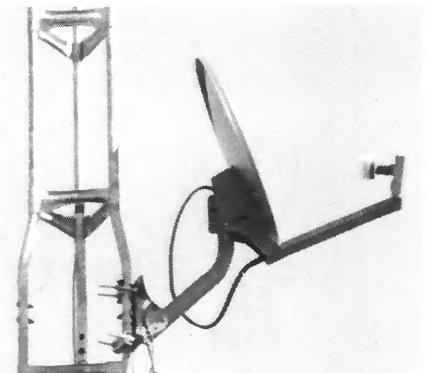
The Cooperative had over 400 customers on a waiting list to purchase the small dish systems. To date, equipment has been received to supply these homes. Systems are now on sale to the public as the cooperative receives the equipment.

Starting at \$699 per system, the customer receives a dish and receiver. Self installation kits are available from the Cooperative, or professional installation can be arranged for at the office.

The dish may be installed in a number of convenient places such as on an existing television tower, on the chimney, deck rail, or on the house itself. Some have chosen to have the dish mounted in their yard. At only 18 inches in diameter, the dish causes very little inconvenience wherever mounted.

If you are interested in this revolutionary new television system, call Marla Berner or stop by the office for more information.

Better yet — talk to one of our many satisfied customers. They will be glad to tell you about their system — all you have to do is ask!



Television towers make an ideal location to mount the small dish.

New electric heat rate announced

At the recent board of directors meeting of Shelby Electric, a new electric heat rate was approved. It will become effective November 26, 1994. Following is an explanation of that rate. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office for further information.

Availability

Available to members of the Cooperative for residential uses, service under this rate is limited to members whose load requirements do not exceed 150 KVA of transformer capacity.

Net rate

Facilities charge

\$13.50 per month for service requiring 50 KVA or less of transformer capacity. This charge will be increased by \$1.00 per KVA for every KVA

or fraction thereof required.

Energy charge

First 500 kwh/month @ 11.02¢/kwh

Next 500 kwh/month @ 9.82¢/kwh

Over 1,000 kwh/month @ 6.22¢/kwh

Note: The first two rates above are the same as rates in your Schedule A rate chart. What this rate means is that all kwh over 1,000 will be billed at 6.22¢ per kwh.

Time period for electric heat rate

During the following billing periods, the electric heat rate will be applied:

November 26 through December 26

December 26 through January 26

January 26 through February 26

You will read your meter as you have been and send or bring the payment to the office. The Billing Department will then calculate your usage of over 1,000

kwh on the new rate; and you will receive a card with the credit indicated. That credit will be applied to your following month's bill. This means you will have a credit to apply to your March 26 bill.

You must inform the office

If you are using electric heat, you need to call Suzanne Tate at the office (1-800-677-2612) to register for the rate. Please do not tie up the Billing Department's lines with these requests. You must do this before November 26.

Inspection of facilities

Please note that if you apply for and receive this rate, the Cooperative may inspect your facility to assure us that you do, indeed, use electricity for heating.

Coping with a winter outage

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

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

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

And, if the lights go dim and stay that way, disconnect those circuits that serve motor operated appliances. Dim lights mean that the voltage coming into the home is not high enough to adequately serve motors—a low voltage situation. Operating mo-

tors at low voltage may damage them.

For warmth

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

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

3. During an extended outage, use one room (preferably one on the sunny side of the house with few windows) in the house to conserve as much heat as possible. Open curtains during the day and close them at night.

For light

1. Know where the flashlight and fresh batteries are.

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

3. Have extra lantern fuel on hand if lanterns are used for light. Refill the lanterns outdoors.

For food

1. Stock supplies of food such

as canned meat, tuna, powdered milk and juices, cereal, peanut butter and crackers.

2. Fill plastic jugs with water.

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

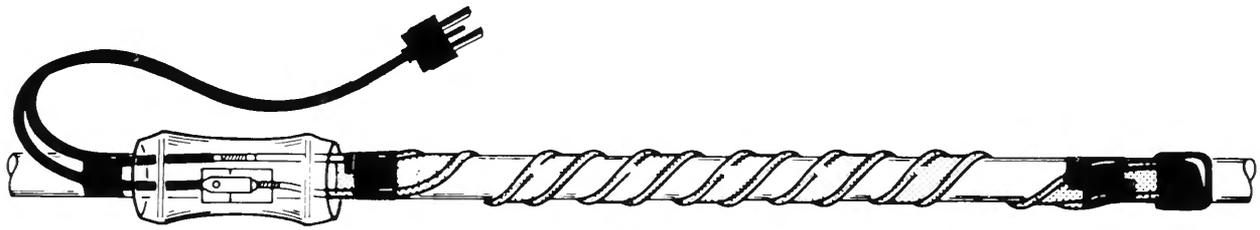
During an extended outage

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

Have the following general items on hand

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

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



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.

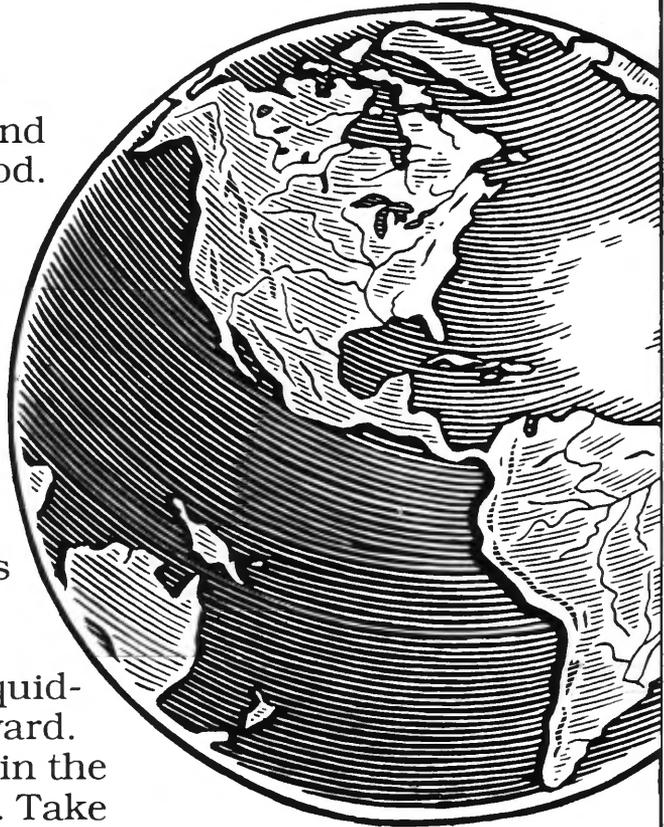
- Keep the end cap sealed and off the ground to prevent water from getting in. Moisture can lead to a fire.

- 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



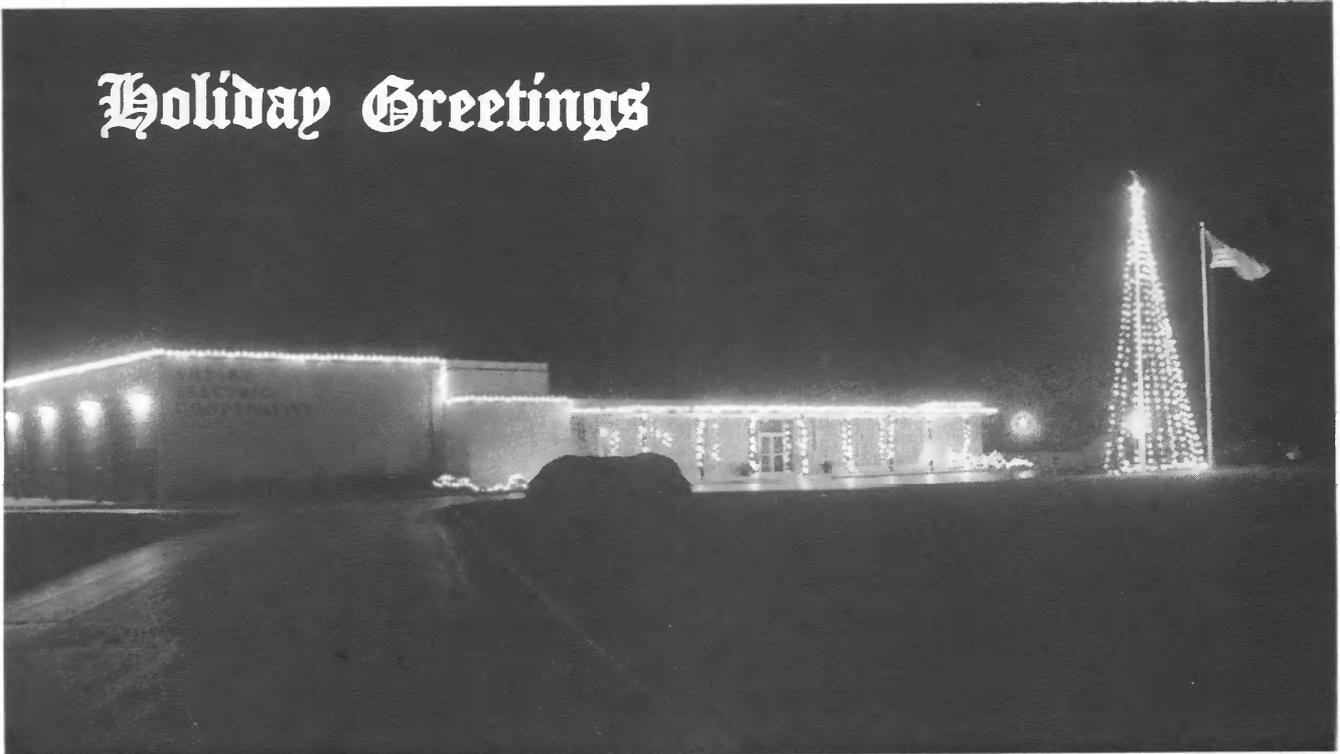
Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Holiday Greetings



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A history of Christmas lights

As the Christmas season of 1882 approached, Edward Johnson was trying to think of a way to make things more festive. As a vice-president of Thomas Edison's newly formed electric company, he knew that just about anything he wanted to do would be affordable. And he knew that electricity would play a part.

It was just three years after Edison had unveiled his new light bulb, and Johnson decided to decorate a tree with the new gadgets. He didn't seek publicity for the idea, but a reporter for the now-defunct Detroit Post and Tribune spied the tree in Johnson's New York City home.

He wrote: "There at the rear of the beautiful parlors, was a large Christmas tree presenting a most picturesque and uncanny aspect. It was brilliantly lighted with many colored globes about as large as an English walnut and was turning some six times a minute on a little pine box. There were 80 lights in all encased in these dainty glass eggs, and about equally divided between white, red and blue. As the tree turned, the colors alternated, all the lamps going out and being relit at every revolution. The result was a continuous twinkling of dancing colors, red, white, blue, white, red, blue, all evening."

The electric tree was a sensation among the monied class at the turn of the century, according to Phillip Snyder, who researched the history of the Christmas tree for a book called, "The Christmas Tree Book."

Within a few years, the wealthy were sparing no expense to construct the grandest, most brilliantly illuminated trees that 1890s technology allowed.

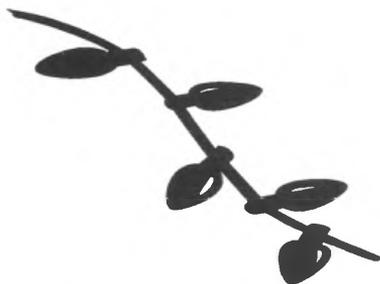
Christmas tree parties became big social events. In 1895, President Grover Cleveland put electric lights on his White House Christmas tree. A few years ear-

lier, the New York Hospital put an electric tree in its children's ward.

"It was so arranged as to revolve slowly, and as it moved electric lights shone from each of its boughs. The children, many of whom had never seen anything half so fine, shouted with delight," wrote a New York Times reporter who visited the hospital to see the tree—still a novelty in 1891.

But it didn't take long for the trees to spark controversy. A few years after it had waxed euphoric over the hospital tree, the Times was concerned that the whole electric Christmas tree idea was getting out of hand.

"The little children of the rich have grown critical with overabundance, and nothing short of an electric tree, with fairy effects. . . satisfies them," an editorialist wrote. In those days the lights, and the electricity to run them through a Christmas season, could cost \$2,000.



The early electric trees were customized in every sense of the word. Each bulb was hand-wired. Individual bulbs were bought or even rented for the season. Wiring a tree required hiring a skilled electrician.

In 1903, the Ever-Ready Company of New York began manufacturing ready-made strings of electric lights. An "outfit," as they were called, contained 28 sockets with General Electric (GE) bulbs, and cost \$12, about what a laborer earned in a week.

Throughout the early decades of the century, the primary unit of the electric tree, the bulb,

was being refined. The original Christmas tree bulbs were tiny replicas of the classic light bulb.

In about 1910, GE went to a ball-shaped bulb, which was colored with translucent paint.

In the early days of the century, there was much more variety in tree lights. Each light was considered a separate work of art—with bulbs shaped like strawberries, clowns, snowmen, roses and Santa Claus. By the end of World War II, however, such detail seemed quaint.

The 1950s saw a brief vogue of bubble lights, the long narrow bulbs with colored liquid inside that bubbled at the temperature of an average light bulb. For a time, no tree was without its string of gaudy, bubbling lights.

By the 1960s, the bubble light was almost gone from the American landscape, a victim of oversaturation.

In the 1970s the new star of Christmas tree lights was the midget bulb—the tiny twinkling light that gave a fresh look to the Christmas tree. The softer, more pastel colors could be clustered together for an effect like the nighttime sky.

So what's next?

This is the year your Christmas tree can fade, chase, bloom, blink, wink and twinkle like never before.

Christmas tree light companies are planning new products, including strings of tiny bulbs that can perform several functions at up to 15 different speeds. Strings of bulbs will have four colors light in sequence, the lights "chase" up the tree then back down at a variety of speeds, then have the colors fade one at a time.

Some of the lighting products can be programmed to perform as many as seven different effects—all for about \$25.

Then again, somewhere in the attic are those strings of bubble lights.

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