

One word
makes the difference.

It brightens the room
when you walk into it, and lightens
the load when you have a problem that's
bigger than you are. It describes that human
tendency to help a neighbor or a stranger. It makes
life a lot easier in the countryside, and it continues to
work – creating jobs, providing drinkable water, helping
teachers in their classrooms and entertaining families in their
homes. It's a proven success story. One word makes a difference.

Cooperation.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS



Lila displays an arrangement made from the beautiful plumage of some of the family's ostriches. The vase is an ostrich egg.



This young bird may live 80 years.

Does an ostrich really hide its head in the sand?

Bill Jones says, "That's the first question most people ask me!" Bill, along with his wife, Lila, and son, Bill, Jr., are partners in the LBJ Ostrich Farm of rural Shelbyville. While Lila first mentioned her interest in ostriches, Bill said he didn't want to own a bird he had to "look up to!" Lila's interest was fueled by daughter, Candy's involvement in raising ostriches. When Bill, Jr. acquired two birds, the partnership was formed.

Considering the investment necessary in starting an ostrich farm, a partnership is a very wise beginning. Adult breeding ostrich pairs sell in the \$35,000 to \$60,000 range. Fertile eggs sell for \$700 to \$1,000. The ostrich

diet the Joneses prefer is a commercial feed of 75 percent ground alfalfa, 20 percent corn, and the remainder consists of minerals and other nutrients. An adult will eat approximately three pounds of feed per day. Bill says it costs about \$18 per month to feed each adult bird. He explains that dog food costs more per month. Lila adds that for a treat, their ostriches love fresh tomatoes and lettuce. All food is swallowed whole, so the Joneses make sure grit is available at all times.

The ostrich industry is presently growing by leaps and bounds. Ostrich meat is popular because, although it is a red meat, it is very low in fat and cholesterol. Three ounces of ostrich

meat will have 96.9 calories, 2.0 grams of fat, and 38.0 mg of cholesterol. In comparison, the same amount of beef had 230 calories, 16.0 grams of fat, and 77.0 mg of cholesterol. For the consumer, the Joneses explain that the meat may be considered expensive. Ground ostrich meat sells for around \$15.95 per pound; and steaks will be \$25.29 per pound.

Also rare and valuable are ostrich hides and feathers. Of course, there are many decorative uses for the feathers, and the leather is beautiful. An adult ostrich will produce from 10 to 20 square feet of leather; and tanned hides bring from \$30 to \$50 per square foot.



Bill and Lila laugh at the antics of one of the young birds. Naturally curious, they'll peck repeatedly at any brightly colored object. Contrary to popular belief, the big birds do not bury their heads in the sand when threatened.

An adult hen ostrich will begin to lay eggs from two to four years of age. The laying season begins in the spring around Easter or Mother's Day. Lila says the hen will lay one egg a day for the entire season up until around Labor Day. Most hens will produce for 40 years. The Joneses have built a new incubation facility to house equipment necessary in the hatching process. The incubator will hold up to 50 eggs, and it automatically turns the eggs as necessary. The incubator room must be kept at a constant 70 degrees temperature with only 14 percent humidity. Each egg is candled and weighed and a record is begun that will be maintained for the life of the bird. Average incubation time is 42 days. For the last three to four days, the eggs are placed into a special hatcher. It is interesting to note that ostrich chicks do not peck their way out of the tough

shell. They have a special, strong muscle in their neck. As the oxygen content in the shell decreases, that muscle will begin to have spasms that will eventually break the shell. Lila notes that young chicks have to be taught to eat and drink. She often does the teaching if there is not a slightly older bird to give the chicks lessons. Within two days of hatching, each ostrich gets its own identity. A microchip is installed in the neck muscle with a special syringe. Every microchip has a unique number. Records are kept by both the Joneses and the microchip company. A microchip reader is used to identify specific birds. That chip will remain for the life of the bird, and has proven invaluable in both the identification of birds and as an anti-theft device.

Bill and Lila explain a few general characteristics of their ostriches. For instance, they

grow rather fast: approximately one foot per month — with an adult reaching 7 to 9 feet in height. At adulthood, they will weigh 350 to 400 pounds. Fencing is also very important as an ostrich can reach a speed of 40 miles per hour for 20 minutes. As the only bird with two toes, Bill explains that they use the one major toe as a weapon. "It can slice like a razor. They use a karate kick straight forward — so it's a good idea to stand behind them." As for the most-asked question, Bill says he does not believe they do that. "In danger or bad weather, they will stay low to the ground, but I've never seen any of our birds stick their head in the sand." There you have your answer — and a little more knowledge about one of the fastest growing industries in Illinois to boot.

Often-overlooked energy-saving measures

Some ways to protect the environment—recycling, composting, switching to environmentally safe products—have become popular choices for homeowners. The following home energy-saving tips—even though they're often overlooked—help protect the environment too, because they help you use your energy more efficiently, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Edison Electric Institute, two national electric utility trade associations.

Insulating doors and windows

Start with your home's biggest energy wasters—the windows and exterior doors. You lose more of your heating and cooling dollars through these—per square inch—than through any other part of your home. For instance, heat passes through a window with a single pane of glass 14 times faster than through a well-insulated wall. So, even with an attic full of insulation, you still can be wasting money and energy through your windows and doors.

Install storm or double-pane windows to cut this energy drain in half. Add storm doors to create the same insulation effect there.

Caulking and weatherstripping

After insulating your windows and doors, don't overlook their caulking and weatherstripping needs. Almost 40 percent of your monthly heating and cooling bill could be going through cracks due to poorly caulked and weatherstripped doors and windows.

Caulking is a rubber-like material that can expand or contract and seals air leaks around each pane of window glass and between the door and window frames and the house. Weatherstripping is a flexible material (foam rubber, felt, or aluminum) that helps to assure a snug fit between the parts of windows and doors that open and close.

Water heating

In the average American house, water heating is the second largest energy user. Save water and the energy needed to keep it hot by maintaining an energy-efficient water heating system and conserving hot water.

Start with the water heating tank itself:

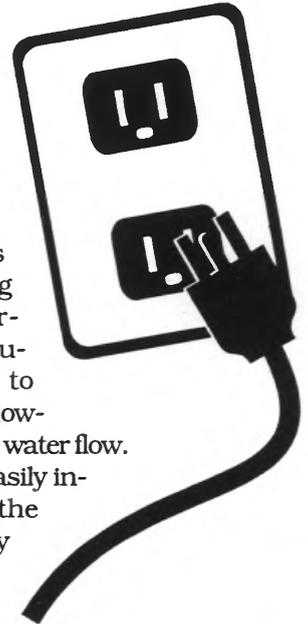
- Get the right size water heater. Keeping more hot water on hand than you need can waste energy.
- For every 10 degrees you can lower the tem-

perature, you can save about 6 percent of your water heating energy.

- If the sides of your water heater feel warm to the touch, you may need more insulation. Wrap a water heater blanket around the water heater, especially if the water heater is located in an unheated area of your home.

- In addition to insulating the water heater, you will also save money by insulating the hot water pipes leaving the water heater.

Low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators reduce water flow, saving both water and energy. Aerated showerheads and faucets mix air with water to maintain pressure, and low-flow showerheads pulse the water flow. These simple devices are easily installed and can reduce the amount of water and energy used by 50 percent.



Duct sealing

These are the ducts that carry heated or cooled air to the registers in each room of your house. Doing a checkup here can save 10 to 15 percent on your energy bill. All ductwork should be sealed at the joints to prevent leakage. Ducts located in unconditioned areas of your home (attic or crawlspaces) should be insulated.

Thermostat set-back

A set-back thermostat allows you to change the temperature setting or turn off your heating or cooling system at preset times. Each morning when you leave and each evening when you return, the temperature changes to save energy, automatically. Heating or cooling is done only when someone is home.

By using these easy and cost-effective, energy-saving guidelines, you can stay comfortable all year-round and still save money.

For more information on how you can save energy all around your house, call your electric cooperative.

Carbon monoxide danger increases in winter

Two people passed within an hour of death when their apartment building became a carbon monoxide gas chamber. An after-the-fact assessment found that the building's furnace did not draft properly, backing exhaust into several apartments. One of the people, sleeping in a basement apartment, was saved only by 10 minutes of persistent knocking on her door by a utility company employee responding to a neighbor's complaint of fumes.

When doctors examined that victim, they found her blood contained a near-fatal concentration of carbon monoxide. The neighbor who called for help was found with a slightly higher level in his blood. Without immediate attention, both would have been dead within an hour, authorities said.

They were among 10,000 Americans expected to be temporarily or permanently disabled by accidental exposure to carbon monoxide each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. In 1991, the last year for which figures are available, 594 people died from unintentional exposure to carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, invisible and highly poisonous gas that results from incomplete combustion of wood, charcoal, natural gas, kerosene and other carbon-based fuels. Its chemical designation is CO.

While the number of CO-related deaths has steadily declined in recent years, high profile accidents such as the CO-induced death in September of tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis in New York underline the continuing need for vigilance against CO poisoning. Inves-

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

If you discover someone overcome by carbon monoxide, act fast. Get them to fresh air quickly. If that's not possible, open nearby doors and windows. Then call for medical help.

Have conscious victims lie down. Keep them warm and calm. If they are not breathing, give them artificial respiration. Tell emergency personnel that you suspect CO poisoning.

% of blood saturation	Symptoms
0-10	None
10-20	Tightness across forehead, possible headaches
20-30	Headaches, throbbing temples
30-40	Severe headaches, weakness, dizziness, dimness of vision, nausea, vomiting and collapse.
40-50	Previous symptoms continue, greater possibility of collapse and loss of consciousness, increased pulse and respiration.
50-60	Loss of consciousness, increased respiration and pulse, coma with intermittent convulsions.
60-70*	Coma, intermittent convulsions, depressed heart action, possible death.
70-80*	Weak pulse and slowed respiration, respiratory failure and death.

*When high concentrations of CO gas are inhaled, the victim may not experience any of the above symptoms but may suddenly collapse. Death in these cases is the result of paralysis of the respiratory system.

tigators suspect a faulty pool heater vented exhaust into Gerulaitis' cottage as he slept.

In its initial stages, carbon monoxide poisoning is difficult to distinguish from the flu. Both cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting and fatigue.

Carbon monoxide kills by limiting the body's ability to use oxygen. Normally, oxygen molecules in the lungs are absorbed into the blood stream, where they attach themselves to hemoglobin proteins. Hemoglobin carries the oxygen to the heart, brain, muscles and other organs. But carbon monoxide attached to hemoglobin 300 times more easily than oxygen, pushing aside oxygen molecules and rendering them useless. As CO builds up in the bloodstream, the unsuspecting victim slowly suffocates.

Simply leaving a CO-saturated space may not immediately result in a return to normal blood oxygen levels. Carbon monoxide can take twice as long to leave a

human body as it did to accumulate, and victims often need pure oxygen or other treatments to purge their bodies of CO.

A second, rarely discussed danger from carbon monoxide is that it is explosive. Air containing between 12.5 percent and 74 percent CO will explode if ignited.

Defective furnaces, fireplace flues and oil heaters have long been primary causes of accidental CO poisoning. In addition, carbon monoxide is found in exhaust from automobiles, lawnmowers, kerosene space heaters, charcoal grills and other appliances that burn carbon-based fuels.

To protect families against accidental CO poisoning, utilities recommend annual furnace and appliance checks by a qualified gas appliance or heating contractor and installation of plug-in or battery CO detectors with audible alarms near sleeping areas.



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In the upper left photo, Bill and Lila Jones enjoy the antics of one of their ostriches. At left, Nancy Crowe works in her shop. Above, Wayne Cruitt demonstrates an antique washing machine.

Fun people needed!

Shelby Electric Cooperative members are interesting. They're talented and creative, and many are quite entrepreneurial. Some have fascinating hobbies or have done interesting things.

We've run stories about many of them, so you could vicariously enjoy the variety of interests. We've told you about Ron Hatfield, who raises catfish in cages on his farm near Shelbyville. Ron's story showed up later in the main body of the REN.

We featured Pat Eversole and her love of antiques—and how she became an auctioneer after she'd become a grandmother!

We did a squib on The

Garwood Seed Company, operated by Harold and Doug Garwood near Stonington. Doug, a third generation seed producer, notes that the company had the first combine east of the Mississippi River, and the first in the world to combine soybeans.

We profiled Nancy Crowe and her "Nancy's Floral Creations," a flower shop near Nokomis. D&D Quarter Horses, an arena south of Stewardson, was featured in our center section, and was later featured in the REN.

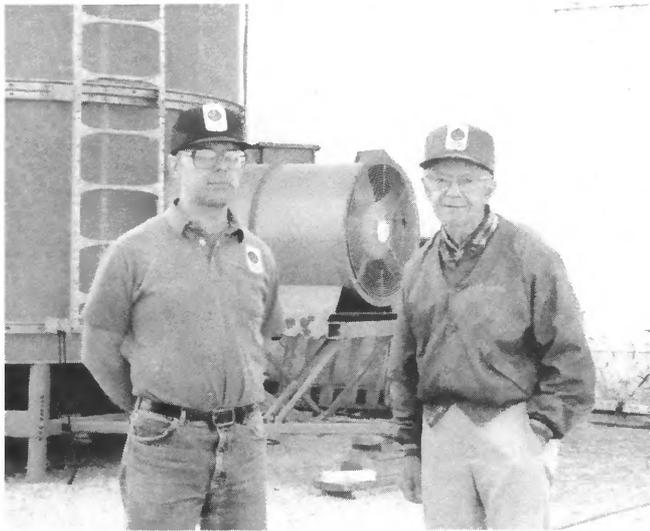
We trekked to Moweaqua to do a piece on the golf course there, a nine-hole community venture designed to provide area residents with a good place to golf



Pat Eversole in her auctioneer role.



Ron Hatfield "harvests" a catfish crop.



Harold and Doug Garwood with their operation.



Max Hutchens sells popcorn – by the ton!

and to attract paying customers to the area.

The Inn at Eagle Creek piqued our interest, and we did a story about its operation, as well as the Christmas lighting there, and the Snowflake Trail. That story was on the cover of the REN.

We stopped by Eagle Creek State Park for the 1993 International Bowhunters Association (IBO) World Championship, and did a story on the interesting goings-on there.

We visited Bill Roth, and talked to him about his invention that's intended to make combines more efficient. His firm, Reel Mfg. & Sales, which he operates out of his farm near

Stonington, was later on the cover of the REN.

We couldn't resist doing a story on Max and Carol Hutchens and the Sunglo Products Company popcorn production facility they manage near Assumption. That's another area operation that's growing like gangbusters.

We headed over to rural Findlay to do a quick story on Wayne Cruitt and his "Grandpa's Barn Museum and Gift Shop." Wayne notes that he's been collecting stuff "forever," and began organizing things in his barn in 1983. His setup is open for tours, and he's had herds of tour buses stop by since he made it known that people who want to refresh their memory were welcome.

We went out to rural Shelbyville to talk to Bill and Lila Jones about their ostrich farm, and learned a lot about that fascinating industry that seems to be on the verge of growing fast.

We found these people and places interesting, and hope you did, too. While we've profiled thundering herds of people over the years, we'd like to do more. If you have a hobby, interest or sideline business you think would be interesting to our members, or if you know a member who does, please call us and we'll get in touch. It's a painless process, and doesn't cost you anything. Call us at (217)-774-3986. Please call and ask for Suzanne Tate. We'll be glad you did!

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

Lighting

Don't use more light than you need. About 15 percent of the electricity we use in our homes goes into lighting. Most Americans overlight their homes, so using lighting efficiently is an easy conservation measure. The U.S. Department of Energy has these suggestions. Some may be appropriate for your situation.

Indoor lighting

- Turn off lights in any room not being used.
- Light-zone your home and save electricity. Concentrate lighting in reading and working areas and where it's needed for safety (stairwells, for example).
- To reduce overall lighting in non-working spaces, remove one bulb out of three in multiple light fixtures and replace it with a burned-out bulb for safety. Replace other bulbs throughout the house with bulbs of the next lower wattage.
- Consider installing solid state dimmers or high-low switches when replacing light switches. They make it easy to reduce lighting intensity in a room and thus save energy.
- Use one large bulb instead of several small ones in areas where bright light is needed.
- Use compact fluorescent lights whenever you can; they give out more lumens per watt. These lights can fit into many incandescent lamp sockets and provide the same quality of light. With efficiencies of 50-60 lumens per watt, the compact fluorescent lamps are three to four times more efficient than conventional bulbs and last 10 times as long. For example, an 18-watt compact fluorescent lamp produces the same amount of light as a 75-watt incandescent lamp. Although the initial cost is higher, the savings in

electricity costs could pay for the compact fluorescent bulb in about a year.

- Consider fluorescent lighting for the kitchen sink and counter-top areas. These lights, set under kitchen cabinets or over counters are pleasant and energy efficient.

- Fluorescent lighting also is effective for makeup and grooming areas. Use 20-watt deluxe warm white lamps for these areas.

- Need new lamps? Consider the advantages of those with three-way switches. They make it easy to keep lighting levels low when intense light is not necessary. Use the high switch only for reading or other activities that require brighter light.

- Always turn three-way bulbs down to the lowest lighting level when watching television. You'll reduce the glare and use less energy.

- Use low-wattage night-light bulbs. These come in 4-watt as well as 7-watt sizes. The 4-watt bulb with a clear finish is almost as bright as the 7-watt frosted bulb, but uses about half as much energy.

- Try 50-watt reflector floodlights in directional lamps (such as pole or spot lamps). These floodlights provide about the same amount of light as the standard 100-watt bulbs but at half the wattage.

- Try 25-watt reflector flood bulbs in high-intensity portable lamps. They provide about the same amount of light but use less energy than the 40-watt bulbs that normally come with these lamps.

- Keep all lamps and lighting fixtures clean.

- You can save on lighting energy through decorating. Light colors for walls, rugs, draperies, and upholstery reflect light and therefore reduce the amount of artificial light required.

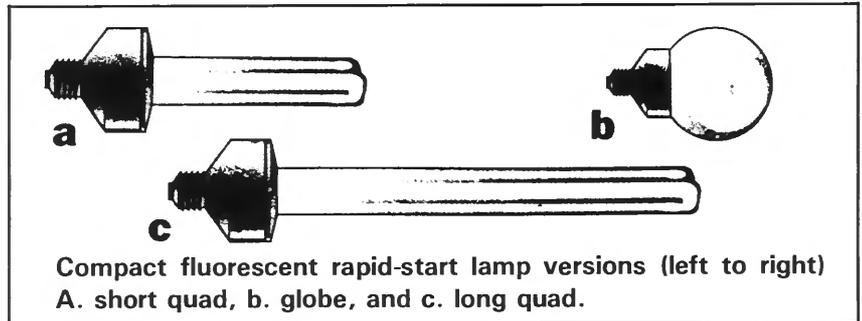
Outdoor lighting

- Have decorative outdoor gas lamps turned off, unless they are essential for safety. Just eight gas lamps burning year round use as much natural gas as it takes to heat an average-size home for a winter heating season.

By turning off one gas lamp, you might save from \$40 to \$50 a year in natural gas costs.

- Use outdoor lights only when they are needed. One way to make sure they're off during the daylight hours is to put them on a photocell unit or timer that will turn them off automatically.

- Consider installing solar-powered outdoor pathway lamps or high-efficiency sodium lamps for outdoor security lighting. They are available at many local hardware stores and building suppliers.



Compact fluorescent rapid-start lamp versions (left to right) A. short quad, b. globe, and c. long quad.



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SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

New billing process now underway

We hope by now you have received this letter (see opposite page) and your first billing card, copies of which are reproduced below. We at the office feel the transition is going very smoothly. Of course, we have received some questions regarding the new system.

We hope you realize that you are a member of a large organization. We now have over 8,700 members. As we continue to grow, we have to change various time-honored procedures. In the case of our billing system, we were encouraged to make changes by our data processor. For several years, we have been linked to our data processing system via a satellite dish here at the office. Beginning this last fall, we were converted to an in-house computer system; and the satellite up-link was abandoned. For us, this meant that our processor no longer had our member records on file at their location. In the past, they processed the billing stub books; and forwarded them to us here for assembly and mailing. We do not have the means to print 8,700 meter books (with 12 stubs per book, this amounted to 104,400 stub sheets) at our office. An outside printer could not be found with the capability to do this for us.

It was our wish to introduce this new system to you in the easiest possible manner. Our members are some of the greatest in the world! You know how to read your meter; and we wanted to continue with that

plan. An alternative would have been to hire meter readers to come to each of our homes and businesses each month. I think you know how expensive that would have been. Our card system was adopted with the hopes that after a few uses, it will be as comfortable to you as the old meter book system. Of course, we are here at the office to help you. If you have

any questions, we want you to call and get help from us. We know everyone will have questions from time to time — just give us a call — we'll figure it out with you! And, please use the toll free number: 1-800-677-2612.

All of us here at your Cooperative thank you for your patience; and look forward to being of assistance when we can.

SHelBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Route 128 & North St. P. O. Box 560
SHELBYVILLE ILLINOIS 62565
TELEPHONE (217) 774 3986

SHelBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
P. O. Box 560
SHELBYVILLE ILLINOIS 62565

FORWARDING & ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

USE AS PREVIOUS READING WHEN FIGURING BILL ON REVERSE SIDE

ACCOUNT NUMBER Billing Date Balance

RETURN THIS PORTION

SHelBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Route 128 & North St. P. O. Box 560
SHELBYVILLE ILLINOIS 62565
TELEPHONE (217) 774 3986

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CURRENT BILL

DATE READ

METER NUMBER

READING

PREVIOUS READING

DIFFERENCE

MULTIPLIER

AMOUNT USED THIS MONTH (Meters by Rate Chart)

AMOUNT

AMOUNT PAID

DATE

AMOUNT PAID

CHANGE IN BALANCE

ENTER BALANCE FROM PREVIOUS BILL

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

RETURN THIS PORTION



Shelby Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 560

Shelbyville, Illinois 62565

Telephone: (217) 774-3986

Dear Member:

Shelby Electric Cooperative is announcing a small change in its billing procedure. We believe it will be both cost-efficient and more productive. In past years all members have received their 12 billing stubs in January. Beginning in January 1995, our members will receive a billing postcard each month. The bill will be perforated in the middle so that members will be able to keep one half for their records. You will use your current rate book.

We want to stress that members will still read their own meters and calculate their own bill. You will simply get a billcard in the mail each month. Hopefully, for those members who sometimes forget to read their meter and pay their bill on the 26th, this will also serve as a reminder that it is the time to do so.

Obviously, our postage expenses will rise, but savings will come with this new billing system. With changes our computer supplier has made, we upgraded our system this past year and we are realizing a monthly savings of around \$2,500. In the past, our supplier also printed and separated the billing stubs and shipped them to us. We would staple and mail them. Our labor and postage costs were approximately \$7,000. The changes our supplier made would have forced us to print and separate the stubs this year. The additional costs and time would have been prohibitive.

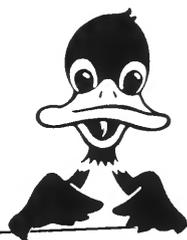
At one time or another, most of our members have received a balance card because they either overpaid or underpaid their bill. We will now discontinue this since any credit or balance due will now appear on the monthly bill. The final major area of savings will come from avoiding the wastes incurred during the course of the year. Previously when members moved to a new home, their stubs were thrown away and new ones were produced manually.

Most months, we will get the billcard to our members between the 25th and 27th of the month. However, due to Sundays, the post office and holidays this will not always be possible. If at any time you have not received your bill by the first of the month, you should call the office and let us know so that arrangements can be made. The local number is 774-3986 and the toll-free number is 1-800-677-2612.

A copy of the front and back of the new bill is included here. We hope for a smooth transition period during this change. Your patience and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors and Employees
of Shelby Electric Cooperative



Time to DUCK again!

Ahhh, it's great to be outside again, even if it means there's work to be done. The TV antenna's a little crooked, there are some tree limbs to cut, and the ol' swimming pool will need cleaning. That means it's time to DUCK. When you're moving the grain auger, raising the TV antenna — anytime you use tall equipment — make sure you stay clear of the power lines. Duck down and keep poles, augers and other equipment away from overhead electric wires. Whether you're outside your home or out in the farm field, get your jobs done the safe way.

Look up and live.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois

Appliance labeling

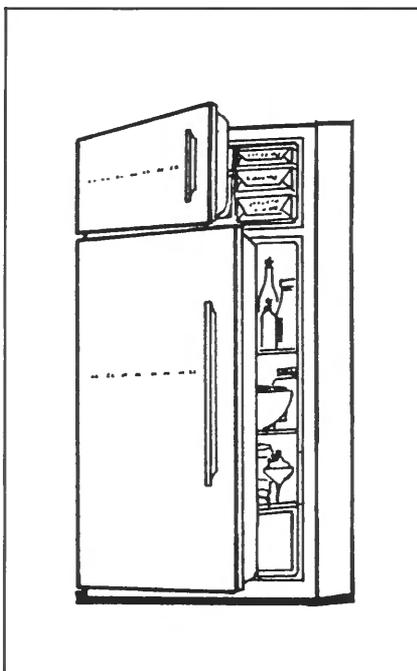
About 20 percent of all the energy used in our homes goes into running electrical appliances, so appliance use and selection can make a considerable difference in home utility costs. Buying an energy-efficient appliance may cost a bit more initially, but that expense is more than made up by reduced operating costs over the lifetime of the appliance.

Energy efficiency can vary considerably among appliances of similar size and features, though individual models may seem alike. To help consumers evaluate energy use by an appliance, the federal government has developed a labeling program that covers the following appliances:

- Furnaces
- Clothes washers
- Water heaters
- Dishwashers
- Refrigerators and freezers
- Room air conditioners
- Central air conditioners and heat pumps
- Fluorescent lamp ballasts

Two agencies are involved in the appliance labeling program. The U.S. Department of Energy tests the energy efficiency of the above appliances. The Federal Trade Commission develops the energy labels that go on these appliances and monitors their use by manufacturers.

Appliance labels measure energy use in one of two ways. The first — and most common — is in dollars. The dollar figures on an energy label represent the estimated annual cost of operating that specific appliance. The lower the dollar amount of



the label, the more efficient the product.

The second method is with an energy efficiency rating (EER). The EER measures the efficiency of one product in relation to other similar products. With EERs, the higher the rating, the more efficient the product.

Each label, whether it is in dollars or EERs, contains information about that appliance's energy use, as well as the least efficient and most efficient

products in that category. This allows you to compare the energy efficiency of one specific appliance with other similar ones.

For example, a refrigerator with \$68 on the label would cost \$32 per year less to operate than a refrigerator of similar size and capacity that had \$100 on the label. The following information can help you compare products with EER labels.

- The EERs for furnaces currently range from 78 to 95. A unit rated 78 would use 18 percent more fuel than a unit rated 95.

- The EERs for central air conditioners currently range from 10 to 15. A unit rated 10 would use 50 percent more energy than a similar unit rated 15.

- The EERs for heat pumps currently range from 6.8 to 8.9. A unit rated 6.8 would use 24 percent more energy for heating than a similar unit rated 8.9.

For an energy label in dollars, the lower the number the less it will cost you to operate. For an energy label in energy efficiency ratings, the higher the number, the less it will cost you to operate.



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Timbers Lodge, set on the edge of Hidden Springs State Forest, is the perfect spot for fun and relaxation.

A special place to bring special friends

I have never met a more un-retired person as Frances York! She called the other day and invited me down to tour her latest venture, The Timbers Lodge. Adjoining Hidden Springs State Forest, the new bed and breakfast lodge is located two miles south and three and one-quarter miles west of Strasburg in Shelby County.

The day of my visit, Mrs. York

and her husband, Derry, were preparing the three story log home for their grand opening on February 1. Built as a private residence, the Yorks purchased the property and began renovation October 1 of 1994. Mrs. York explains that the interior design of the building was her job.

Furnished in a country/western motif, the bed and breakfast is a delight. There is no

place your eyes rest without seeing an example of Frances York's love of flowers, birds, and the outdoors. She mentions that each of the six bedrooms is furnished for the convenience of her patrons. You may request single beds, queen, or kingsize. The honeymoon suite is furnished beautifully with a canopied bed.

To take full advantage of the beautiful wooded area surround-



Clockwise from left: The Yorks enjoy a quiet moment. The two-story gazebo is a restful place. The spa in the basement exercise room.

guests, the Timbers Lodge is open year round. Mrs. York says "We always try to do what our guests like. They can cook here, or we will be happy to cater meals in. We try not to have too many rules. I know when I go somewhere, I like to enjoy myself — not follow someone else's rules!"

If the name "The Timbers" sounds familiar, you may have heard it in reference to the Yorks' other business. The Timbers Restaurant and Sables was opened to serve the public in 1992. An open, airy building, the restaurant is located with beautiful views of a lake (complete with swans, geese, and ducks), flower gardens, and surrounding wooded areas. Before or after dining, guests are invited to go for a horseback ride, try their hand at fishing in the catfish pond, or walk the lovely grounds.

The York name is famous for good food. Derry York's father, Dale, operated the well-known Yorks Cafe in Strasburg for many years. Several of Dale's secret recipes are now being prepared in The Timbers' kitchen. Frances York tells us that the gift shop at the restaurant will carry the famous Yorks' salad dressing as well as the dry mix for their chicken batter. Baked goods from The Timbers' new bakery kitchen will also be on sale. Local artists are offering their wares for sale in the gift shop also featured along with crafts are hand painted china and gifts to suit almost any taste.

The Yorks explained to me that their lodge was created as a restful place for their guests to enjoy nature and relax. It appears to me to be an ideal place to do just that and much more. I just wonder what the next venture will be for Derry and Frances York in these years they call "retirement!"



ing the lodge, decks have been installed (complete with two kinds of bar-b-que grills) around the rear of the lodge. Mrs. York explains that the lodge is equipped with a complete kitchen that guests are welcome to use. For relaxation, the basement exercise room is equipped with a huge spa.

Of course, one of the real beauties of the lodge is the set-

ting itself. The state forest and surrounding grounds provide refuge for all sorts of wildlife. It is not uncommon to see deer grazing outside the window, or wild turkey feeding in the nearby fields. An avid birdwatcher, Mrs. York has stationed feeding stations around the lodge which are visited by a wide variety of wild birds.

Now taking reservations for



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

Building or buying a home

Energy-wasting mistakes can be avoided if you consider climate, local building codes, and energy-efficient construction when you build or buy a home. Does the home take advantage of the sun's natural light and warmth? Has it been designed not to overheat? Does it include energy-efficient windows, furnace, heat pumps, and appliances? The following energy conservation ideas should help you keep down home utility bills.

When building a home

- Insulate walls and roof to the highest specifications recommended for your area.

- Insulate floors, too, especially those over crawl spaces, cold basements, and garages.

- If the base of the house is exposed, as in the case of a mobile home, build a "skirt" around it.

- Ventilate the attic using vent panels under the eaves and gable end or ridge vents rather than motor-driven fans.

- Use double-pane insulating glass throughout the house. Consider windows with low-emissivity (low-E) coatings and gas fills when retrofit or replacement is necessary. They also improve comfort, cut condensation, and reduce the fading effect of ultraviolet light on home furnishings. Installing a low-E coated double glass unit with gas fill, instead of standard double glazing, will improve the insulating value of the glass area by 40 to 50 percent. A low-E coating is a virtually invisible metal or metallic oxide layer on the glass that reflects heat back into the home during cold weather and back to the outdoors during warm weather.

- Window frames and their

quality of construction and installation are as important as the glass unit when making a purchasing decision. Wood and vinyl frames offer the best insulating value today.

- Consider solar heat gain from the windows. Many glazings are available today to control the amount of incoming solar radiation. Depending on your climate location and the window orientation, you can choose a window that best suits the space without limiting the amount of window area significantly.

- Install windows you can open so you can use natural or fan-forced ventilation in moderate weather.

- Place your refrigerator in the coolest part of the kitchen, well away from the range and oven.

- Install the water heater as close as possible to areas of major use to minimize heat loss through the pipes; insulate the pipes.

- If you live in a warm climate, remember that light-colored roofing and building materials can help keep houses cooler.

When buying a home

- Consider all the ideas mentioned for building a house.

- Ask for a description of the insulation and data on the efficiency of space heating, air-conditioning, and water heating plants, or have an independent engineer advise you about the efficiency of the equipment. Ask to see the utility bills from the previous year, but remember to adjust them for current utility rates. You may want to compare the bills of houses under consideration.

- Consider the need for additional insulation or replacement of equipment. Even some new houses don't have insulation in the exterior walls; be sure to check. If improvements are necessary, you may want to seek an adjustment in the purchase price to cover all, or a reasonable share, of the costs.

Many Illinois electric cooperatives offer home energy audits. A number of the cooperatives also participate in the "Certified Comfort Home" program.

Consider having a qualified energy evaluation of your home's construction and condition for an indication of likely utility bills and for recommended cost-effective energy improvements.



Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS



Paul demonstrates how easy it is to use his band saw.

It just doesn't get any better than this!

Paul Easley of rural Moweaqua often refers to himself as "that crazy old man in the woods." Fortunately, Easley tends to exaggerate. Probably the only accurate part of that statement is that he is a man — and he is almost always surrounded by wood!

Telling his story, Easley explains that he has always had a love of the woods, stemming from his hunting days as a youth. Twelve years ago, he and his wife, Kathy, began looking for their

ideal home in the woods. When Kathy brought him to the house she had found near Moweaqua, he says, "I knew at the moment that this was right! I let Kathy look over the house — I took straight to the woods!" They immediately purchased the home and 17 surrounding wooded acres.

Today, the Easleys operate a certified tree farm on those acres. He explains that you need not own a huge plantation to have a successful tree farm. "There are over

1,000 certified tree farms in Illinois. In 1990, this was the No. 1 tree farm in the state." The Easleys' farm was nominated by their district forester, then by the Department of Conservation, and finally, they were inspected by the people from the American Tree Farm Program. In 1994, their farm represented all of Illinois in the North Central Forestry Division. In that district, there are 12 states represented. Competing with some huge tree farms, the



Clockwise from left: Paul is surrounded by some of the exotic lumber at Oak Leaf Wood 'n Supplies in Moweaqua. This sign greets visitors to the Easley place. A brush house sits in the middle of the Easley woods; Years ago, they served as worship areas for traveling ministers.



Easleys' 17-acre farm was awarded second place. Speaking for tree farmers with limited acreage, Paul Easley has recently added another facet to his career. He is now asked to give talks around the country on that subject which is so dear to his heart.

"There are three things we live by here at this farm," Easley explains:

- The educational process we do here is extremely important to us. We love to take groups on

tours. From school children to senior citizens — we have a ball. Everyone who comes here goes away with more knowledge and we always learn something from our visitors.

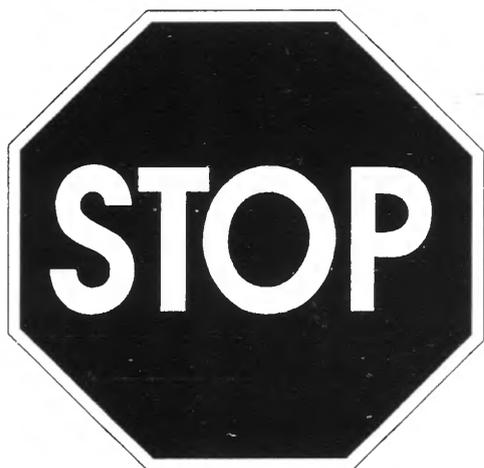
- We do not waste any of our natural resources here — I mean nothing goes to waste.

- We address the problems of the small tree farm here and we try to share what we learn with others."



Notice of closing

Our office will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.



Whether you're out in the farm field or outside your home, get your jobs done the safe way. Moving the grain auger, cutting tree branches, raising a ladder or tv antenna. . . anytime you use tall equipment, make sure there are no electric lines above your work area.

**Don't start until
you Stop!**



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Electricity. A source of comfort.

Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-677-2612

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Your Total Energy Supplier

Propane and television: filling a need

Thanks for taking time to read about your cooperative. You probably have noticed something new and different in this month's issue of the Illinois Rural Electric News. We've added a couple of pages to the usual monthly local material, and we plan to have this expanded communication for you each month.

I bring this to your attention for several reasons.

First, this is your electric cooperative, and you deserve to have your board and management communicate with you regularly about what is going on with Shelby Electric Cooperative.

Second, your cooperative has undertaken in the last few years to offer auxiliary services to cooperative members. These include Shelby's new propane gas subsidiary and satellite television programming.

Some of you may say, "Why is our electric cooperative in the gas and television business?" I think I can best explain why by going back to the 1930s and the very beginning for the electric cooperative. Electricity then was unavailable in most parts of the rural landscape. Rural people visited in town and knew what it would mean to have this marvelous servant in their homes and on their farms. It was a means to an end, a way to a better life.

That's really the purpose of your electric cooperative: help provide you with a way to a better life. Your elected board, made up of members of the cooperative, keeps an eye on the future. Several years ago the directors took a good look at ways by which the cooperative could further assist its members.

Propane service and satellite television were two things that drew the board's interest. If the cooperative could provide its members with benefits by offering these two services, then it should consider expanding into these areas, directors said.

Shelby Electric has had these two subsidiary operations in place long enough for

us to get the idea that it was a good decision to expand for the members' benefit. The propane subsidiary, which operates on its own, is off to a fast start. This tells us that the cooperative is meeting a need in the area. Shelby Electric Cooperative wants to be your total energy supplier. Our DIRECTV® operation, also completely on its own, is growing quickly. Again, the cooperative is filling a need.

As I said earlier, your board and management see these auxiliary operations as

Across the Manager's Desk

By Jim Coleman



continuations of the original purpose of the cooperative—to meet the needs of the members. Sixty years ago it was electricity. Today, it is full-range energy supplies and modern telecommunications.

Your board and management considered another factor in making the decisions to enter the propane and television programming business. These are local businesses operated as for-profit subsidiaries of Shelby Electric Cooperative, and the money stays in the local community. The proceeds from these subsidiaries go directly to the electric cooperative, thus holding down the cost of electricity. There are no investors who would expect dividends.

Articles in this expanded edition of your cooperative's Illinois Rural Electric News further explain the new things going on at your cooperative, including the expansion being completed at our headquarters.

Propane sales exceed goal

Propane gas sales to consumers across central Illinois are substantiating Shelby Electric Cooperative's entry into this energy business. Begun one year ago, Shelby Energy Company, a for-profit subsidiary of the cooperative, has had a busy 12 months.

As of April, the business had signed up more than 500 customers, 200 more than the goal established in the subsidiary's business plan. "The gas business has exceeded all expectations," Jim Coleman, cooperative manager, says. "The board of this cooperative wants Shelby Electric to be a total energy supplier. The members' well-being is our goal, and I believe the excellent beginning for Shelby Energy Company is an indication that we are doing the job for our members. And, the money stays here in the local community," Coleman adds.

Shelby Energy Company offers competitively priced propane gas and tanks to members of the electric cooperative as well as non-members.

The propane organization, with a staff of three people, serves customers with a variety of options. Budget billing is available for those who prefer to have level billing throughout the year. The company also offers a "keep full" service by which the cooperative maintains computer records relating to degree-days and dispatches gas to customers based on usage determined by the computer.

New propane tanks are available for annual rentals of \$1 per year, or customers may purchase tanks. There is no charge for normal installation.

Steve Shoaff is the gas superintendent. Wayne Bunch is the bulk driver. Janet Orr is customer service representative. They have more than 62 years of combined propane service experience.

Shoaff points out that the company offers free safety checks for each installation or delivery. This inspection includes a check of the entire furnace system for leaks and proper ventilation, as well as safe location of the storage tank in relation to the home.

The company performs all work to install and connect the system. The company is a member of



Janet Orr is the customer service representative for Shelby Energy Company. Steve Shoaff (left) is gas superintendent and Wayne Bunch is bulk driver.

the Illinois Gas Association and the National Gas Association. Employees have completed the required certification and training for handling propane gas.

By April, the gas company had sold more than 502,000 gallons of propane, Shoaff says. The company has a 30,000-gallon storage capacity. In addition to its "keep full" and budget billing service, the company also offers forward contracted pricing and grain drying billing. The budget billing sign-up date is July 1. For further information, contact Shelby Energy Company at 774-2311.

Low debt a Shelby tradition

Shelby Electric Cooperative is among a very select group of electric cooperatives. Statistical data drawn from our lender indicate that more than 85 percent of the nation's 887 distribution electric cooperatives have greater debt per member than Shelby Electric.

Your cooperative board and management take a great deal of pride in such an excellent ranking. Based on actual data for the year 1993 and pre-

liminary information for 1994, Shelby's debt amount per member is not only one of the lowest in the nation, but also is one of the lowest two or three in Illinois.

This information is timely for several reasons.

Not long ago, your board received the report of the cooperative's certified public accountant. Each year, the cooperative's books are closely ex-

(Continued on page 12d)



This is the west side of the addition. A fourth bay and overhead door, with a loading dock for large trucks, is located just out of the photo on the left.

Addition nearing completion

The growing subsidiary operations of Shelby Electric Cooperative will soon occupy a 9,216-square-foot addition to the cooperative's headquarters. The metal-and-wood building, located just to the north of the headquarters building, will house the expanding Shelby Energy Company propane gas business and the DIRECTV television programming subsidiary, along with a small amount of relocated office space for the cooperative.

Approximately 60 percent of the new structure will be warehouse, primarily for storage of equipment and vehicles. The front part of the building, which faces east, has offices and showroom areas for the gas and television operations, along with gas service facilities. The new structure is joined with the headquarters building by an enclosed walkway.

York Bin Company of Strasburg is the contractor.

Jim Coleman, cooperative manager, said the building fills a major need for the cooperative. "No space has been added for the cooperative since 1972, when the west warehouse was built. The Shelby Electric headquarters building was constructed in 1958, and it was getting really tight with the new businesses occupying space. We also needed to open up some room for our engineering



Inside the warehouse part of the new building, storage capacity is maximized where possible.

department, so it was practical to relocate some office space into the new building and give employees in the original building some 'breathing room' to work more efficiently," he said.

"In addition, we now have a loading dock for large trucks, as well as a dock for pick-up trucks. This is a major safety advancement. We will have four overhead bay doors on the west, or back side of the building, and one small door on the north," Coleman added.

Work on the new structure began in July 1994 and cooperative officials plan an open house soon.

Mark your calendar!

1995 annual meeting

Friday, June 23

Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds

Pork chop lunch from 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Business meeting at 1 p.m.



DBS rental plan available

Consumers interested in direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television programming have a new option available through Shelby Electric Cooperative. The cooperative's satellite television subsidiary, DIRECTV, has added a rental option for those who prefer to pay for the service on an as-you-use-it basis.

Marla Berner, customer service representative, says the new option allows customers to have the 18-inch satellite receiver dish installed at their home for \$150, then pay a \$15 monthly equipment rental plus the monthly cost of programming. "After customers pay the installation fee, the total monthly cost for them is \$29.95 for 16 channels plus access to about 40 pay-per-view channels," Berner says.

Shelby Electric offers the DIRECTV DBS programming package to consumers in a six-county area of central Illinois. The rental plan is the third payment option available. Payment plans that call for a one-time purchase payment or financing for up to three years also are offered.

Jim Coleman, Shelby Electric manager, says, "We are pleased to be able to offer this new plan. It allows television consumers to pay for DIRECTV in much the same way that cable subscribers in town pay for their service. The cooperative always owns the unit and assumes responsibility for repairs and maintenance. We believe the more than 900 customers we are now serving reflect the strong initial interest in this service. The board considers this to be an outstanding start, and we anticipate adding many more subscribers as word of what DIRECTV offers gets around even more."

The basic unit price is \$699, plus tax, Berner says. That includes the exterior receiver dish, the decoder box and one remote control device. A self-installation kit costs \$69.95, or the cooperative

Low debt

(Continued from page 12b)

amined, and the board is advised of the CPA firm's findings. Again this year, the auditing firm has concluded that the cooperative conforms to generally accepted accounting procedures and that the financial operation of the cooperative is reflected in the various financial reports.

For decades, your elected board has established policies that have guided this cooperative in a very conservative fiscal manner. This low debt per member is an indication of this attention to the general well-being of the membership.

You also should know that the cooperative is in this admirable financial position even after the cooperative borrowed start-up funds to launch the propane gas and television programming busi-

ALL THIS ... AND MORE



DIRECTV® delivers the best in news and information, movies, sports and family programming with crystal clear digital video and audio.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. DIRECTV.

will do the installation for \$99. Other combinations involving multiple television sets are also available. There is a \$50 rebate on equipment purchases.

Three financing plans are available through a local bank for one, two or three years.

The DBS programming does not include local stations. Customers must have a conventional television antenna for local news and weather.

For information about the DBS television programming and equipment, call Marla Berner at 774-3986 or 800-677-2612.

nesses. The cooperative borrowed the necessary funds from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), which is a lending institution owned and controlled by the cooperatives. Because CFC is a cooperative organization, interest rates on these loans for Shelby Electric are quite favorable, lower than from other sources.

To give you an idea of how Shelby Electric's debt compares to the past, we went back to 1961 and found that long-term debt was \$3,111,045 for 5,862 members, or about \$530 per member. At the end of 1994, the cooperative had long-term debt of \$5,254,939 and 8,789 members, or about \$598 per member. When the figures are adjusted for inflation, you can see that the current debt per member is quite low.

Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-677-2612

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Your Total Energy Supplier

ADDITION OCCUPIED

Many of you have visited the new facilities located in the addition to the cooperative headquarters. We are pleased to have this construction project completed. This new building, of which more than one-half is warehouse, garage and storage, gives Shelby Electric Cooperative and its growing subsidiary operations some much-needed breathing room.

We had become quite crowded in the main headquarters building, which was never designed to accommodate an organization as diverse as that which exists for members' benefit today. We believe it is a good sign that our propane and direct broadcast satellite television operations are doing so well. The support these new programs have received in the past year confirms the board's decision to offer members, and non-members, high-quality propane sales and service and television programming services and equipment. These are important sources of outside revenue for Shelby Electric Cooperative, and that has a positive effect on the Cooperative's bottom line and your electric rates.

THE VACATION SEASON

Many of you will be traveling this summer on vacation. You also will be leaving your home unoccupied, so we encourage you to take care to make sure your home is secure during your absence. Be sure you make arrangements to have the mail and newspapers stopped or picked up by a relative or neighbor. Use timer clocks to turn lights on and off to give the home an occupied appearance.

Consider, too, letting the cooperative know if you will be away from home during the bill-paying period. Be sure you make preparations to assure that your bill is paid on time during your vacation. There are several ways to accomplish this, including Visa, MasterCard or Discover. You can pay your electric or DBS bill this way.

We can offer some tips on how to minimize your electric costs while you are gone. During vacations or other times when you are gone for an extended period, your electric service continues. Your unoccupied home will consume energy. Some people call us to check on a post-vacation bill,

thinking it is a mistake. After we have an opportunity to discuss the matter, most members understand better how they used electricity while they were gone.

DIRECTV

We continue to work on ways to help you gain access to the seemingly unlimited world of satellite telecommunications. When Shelby Electric started its direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television operation last year, we offered one purchasing option. That was to simply purchase the receiver dish and associated equipment and then pay a monthly fee for television programming.

That continues today as the most popular

Across the Manager's Desk

By Jim Coleman



choice, but we have added options for you. These are proving to be popular, too.

One is an option for you to purchase your equipment over time. We have arranged with a local bank for qualified buyers to finance the equipment purchase over periods of one, two, or three years. You make monthly payments for the equipment and pay the monthly programming fee.

The newest option is a rental plan. It's simple. You pay a \$150 installation fee, then \$15 per month for rental of the equipment, plus the monthly fee for programming that you select.

The cost of the most popular programming package of 16 channels and access to about 40 pay-per-view channels is \$14.95 per month.

We believe we have developed payment and subscription plans for everyone. For information, call Marla Berner at 774-3986 or 800-677-2612.

PROPANE SALES

Consumer interest in the propane gas sales and service has been very gratifying. Sales during
(Continued on page 12d)



You may see Larry Brooks' Sharp Edges van in any place in the area. Larry says he may make a schedule to visit advertised "ports of call" to sharpen household items.

He's a travelin' man

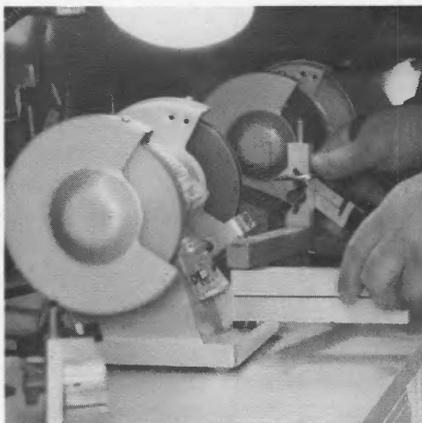
By Suzanne Tate

Every now and then we have a first here at Shelby Electric. The other day, we experienced a very pleasant one. A story for this magazine drove up to the front door of our office.

For 22 years now, I have had some interesting experiences: freezing my feet in cold barns, mopping perspiration in hot hay fields, etc. I've taken notes on fence posts, my knee, and even on the back of a friendly farmer. I've been loved by huge stock dogs and scratched by little kitties I thought were loving. All of these experiences have been great. I have made some new friends and I have learned a lot.

You can imagine my pleasure to sit at my own desk and visit with Larry Brooks when he came in to tell me of his unique new business. Last August, Larry began operating Sharp Edges, a portable sharpening service. An industrial mechanic by trade,

Larry was injured in an accident that left him unable to perform the duties of his job. On the lookout for a new career, he discov-



Precision equipment is required for Brooks' sharpening business. Here, Larry demonstrates how rapidly his diamond wheel will sharpen. He cautions: "A knife sharpened with this equipment will be as sharp as a razor!"

ered through his barbers that everyone has tools and implements in need of sharpening. Larry began contacting manufacturers of sharpening equipment, and he found them very helpful. Now that he had the equipment — why not take the service to the customers?

He bought a used truck and outfitted it with all the necessary equipment. He equipped it with a gasoline generator for convenience. Being a "people person," Larry then took off to become acquainted with businesses he thought might be in need of his service. A stop at a local barber shop would lead to a referral to a beauty parlor or dog groomer. Larry mentions that he works mainly on scissors, shears, clipper, and knives. There are some things he feels he cannot sharpen accurately at this time. "I never know what I will find when I make a stop. I might be



The interior of the van provides plenty of room for Brooks to conduct his work but little extra room for visitors and onlookers.



Brooks stops at Double D Tack in Shelbyville to pick up horse shears. The stop also provides a chance to visit with Dean and Louise Utlser of Double D.

at a place 20 minutes or two hours. I am often asked to sharpen things I have never seen before."

Many businesses have made it a practice to send all their sharpening jobs out of town. Larry also handles mail order items and has them back on their way to the owners in 24 hours. He states that many of his customers cannot wait for long periods of time to get their equipment back in service. He presently has a piece of machinery on order to sharpen dentists' instruments because they tell him

the mail takes too long. Brooks states, "I guess I am a perfectionist. I will not promise a customer a job I cannot do right. I have to be 100 percent satisfied with the work myself before I pass it on to my customers."

I asked Larry how he liked the traveling part of the job. He replied that some days are quite long, but as times goes on, he refines his route to fit his schedule and saves time and miles. His ever-expanding territory reaches from his home in Decatur north to Bloomington, south to Greenville, east to Charleston,

and west to Chatham — and many, many towns in between. Like the travelers of old, Larry says he has become a moving message board. Barbers and others will have messages to deliver to a colleague somewhere down the road. Often times, he passes on information about items or equipment for sale from one shop to another.

Larry says the expanding business is becoming more demanding. "I don't have time to stop everywhere I would like. If someone calls or stops me, I'll be glad to set up a schedule." Adding on to the business may be in the future. His wife, Linda, started a daycare service when their first grandchild was born. He says, "She had the best of both worlds. Most women cannot afford to quit work to take care of their grandchildren. Linda started a business with them in mind." Now, as the grandchildren are off to school, Linda has started to lighten her load but has taken on the extra duties of doing all the bookwork for Sharp Edges. Larry says he may hire some help in the future, and may add another truck to the routes.

"As far as I can see, no one is out there doing what I do. And there is a never-ending source of business — every home and business has something that is in need of my attention."

Larry drove me around with him on a couple of stops he makes in Shelbyville to meet and chat with his customers. As noon approached, he dropped me off at the front door of the Cooperative office and drove off to continue his rounds. There I stood back in my office. What a unique experience! A center section story delivered to me and two pair of scissors sharpened in the bargain. Larry Brooks' story was one in a million. On the other hand, I'm looking forward to meeting more of our members — be it cold barn, hot hayfield, or your living room!

(Continued from page 12a)

the 15 or so months the gas subsidiary has been in operation have exceeded our goals.

This is a very important time for you and our propane operation. It may be summer and a long way from the cold winter, but it is not too early to start thinking about your propane supply.

One of the ways in which we have set out to

provide the best propane service is our forward contracting plan. We also have a "keep full" program as well. Our goal is to meet all of your propane sales and service needs, with competitively priced gas. Call Steve Shoaff or Janet Orr at 774-2311 for more information.

We want to be your total energy supplier.

Ways to save on your power bill

Shelby Electric Cooperative offers its members a number of money-saving programs

Controlled air conditioning service

This is available to any member with a central air conditioning system over 3 KVA. You must agree to allow the Cooperative to install a radio control device so the Cooperative can control the compressor during peak or energy conditions.

Credit:

The member will receive a credit of \$20 per year if installed and available during July and August.

Controlled water heaters

The Cooperative will agree to provide the maintenance on a member's electric water heater—including replacement when necessary—for the right to interrupt service in conjunction with the load management program. The Cooperative will provide and install a new electric water heater to replace a gas water heater at no charge at any time.

Dual fuel rate

Available to any member using electric energy as the primary source of heating. The member must have an alternate source of fuel for heating available. Member must agree to permit the Cooperative to install a radio-control switchover device, which will cause the system to utilize the alternate fuel source for heating when the switch is activated during peak or emergency conditions. A separate meter will be installed to meter the electric side of the heating system.

Rate:

Facility charge: \$5.00 per month
All heating kwh: 4.5¢ per kwh

Geothermal heating

Available to any member utilizing a geothermal heating and cooling system as the main home conditioning source. Member must agree to allow the Cooperative to install radio control equipment on the air conditioner's compressor and the resistance backup coils on the heating unit. The Coop-

erative shall have the right to control the heating or cooling system during the winter or summer peaks or under emergency conditions. A separate meter will be installed by the Cooperative to measure the geothermal unit.

Rate:

Facility charge: \$5.00 per month
All heating and cooling kwh: 5.7¢ per kwh

Levelized billing

Levelized billing is available to members under rate schedules A and B. When requested, the Cooperative will bill a fixed amount each month for qualifying members. The member must pay monthly for one year before qualifying. The member's first payment must be in the month of the March billing. Starting dates later than March will be permitted providing the member makes all payments due since the March starting date. The Cooperative shall determine the amount of payment. Members must read their meters monthly and send in the reading with the monthly levelized payment. If a monthly reading is not provided, the standard meter reading fees shall apply, and the meter will be read by Cooperative employees.

Electric heat rate

Last November, your board approved an electric heat rate that enables members to heat their homes for 6.22 cents per kilowatt-hour. This rate of 6.22 cents applies to all kilowatt-hours above 1000 each month. The time period for the electric heat rate is November 26-February 26. You must register for this rate, and the cooperative may inspect your home to assure that you use electricity for heating.

Call us

More information on these rates is available by calling or stopping in the Shelby Electric office. We will be happy to provide this information and copies of the rate schedules upon request.

Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-677-2612

SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Your Total Energy Supplier



The students who represented Shelby Electric Cooperative on the 1995 "Youth to Washington" tour met with Congressman Glenn Poshard of Carterville and Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, and they visited briefly with Sen. Paul Simon, as well. From left are Nate Taulbee of Taylorville, Katie Roley of Windsor, Congressman Poshard, Allison Harvey of Shelbyville and Erin Ollech of Edinburg.



Katie Roley of Windsor, left, will represent Illinois on the NRECA Youth Consulting Board. She is pictured with Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun.

Roley to represent Illinois

Katie Roley of Windsor, one of the four students representing Shelby Electric Cooperative on the 1995 "Youth to Washington" tour, was selected to represent Illinois on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Consulting Board, or YCB.

Katie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roley, is the first student from Shelby Electric to represent Illinois on the youth board. She was chosen from a field of six finalists.

On the first evening in Washington, each finalist gave a brief speech, explaining why they

thought they would be a good representative to the national organization and asking their contemporaries to vote for them. The election was conducted by secret ballot.

While on the tour, the young people took in the sights of Gettysburg, Smithsonian Institution, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, U.S. Capitol, National Holocaust Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and other points of interest, and met with legislators. "I was pleased to have my picture taken with Sen. Carol Moseley Braun," she notes, "and I got to meet Sen. Paul Simon,

too, although it was only briefly."

As the Illinois representative on the YCB, Katie will address the annual meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield in August, will attend the NRECA annual meeting next year in Houston, Tex., and will play a part in next year's Youth to Washington tour.

We at Shelby Electric are proud to have one of our students represent Illinois on the YCB and extend our congratulations to Katie.



The area men who were elected to the board of directors of Shelby Electric Cooperative at the organization's 57th annual meeting are congratulated by James E. Coleman, manager. From left are Robert Primmer of Findlay, John M. Scott of Pana and Coleman. Primmer was reelected, while Scott was elected to replace Victor Jostes of Nokomis, who did not seek reelection. The meeting was held Friday, June 23, at the 4-H Club Fairgrounds at Shelbyville.

Primmer reelected; Jostes retiring

One area man was elected to the board, and a veteran member was reelected at our annual meeting Friday, June 23, at the 4-H Club Fairgrounds at Shelbyville. The new member is John M. Scott of Pana. He replaces Victor Jostes of Nokomis, who did not seek reelection. The reelected director is Robert Primmer of Findlay.

Neil Pistorius of Blue Mound, president, told his audience that there are many changes taking place in the electricity business, with some co-ops being bought out by investor-owned utilities, and others merging with neigh-

boring co-ops.

He added that co-op staffers had moved into a new building Shelby had been working on, and that it was working out well. "We are very proud of this addition. It was needed very badly. I hope you'll visit it," he said.

Pistorius remarked that the old Rural Electrification Administration, or REA, had been restructured into the Rural Utilities Service, or RUS. "With its new title, RUS is encouraging us to become a more complete supplier to our rural consumers. We are asked to consider supplying water, sewer service, and gas. At

the present time we are supplying gas through our subsidiary, Shelby Energy Company, and that subsidiary is doing far better than we'd expected it to be doing in such a short time," he said.

He added that Shelby Electric also sells communications radios, TV programming, and Direct Broadcast Satellite programming. "If you want cable convenience with an excellent picture, you should look at what this has to offer," he said.

James E. Coleman, manager, told his audience that Shelby Electric had been busy during



Victor Jostes, left, a 26-year board veteran, receives a plaque and watch on his retirement from the board. Neil Pistorius, president, makes the presentation.



Employee Lynn Gilck shows the hazards of carelessness around electricity.



Co-op employees pick up ballots.



Lawrence Compton of Nokomis, right, won the grand prize, an electric barbeque grill. James E. Coleman, manager of Shelby Electric, congratulates him.

the past year. "We maintain nearly 2,200 miles of distribution and transmission lines overhead and underground. For the last five years, we have added nearly 100 new services every year. In 1990," he continued, "we had 9,211 services, while we had 9,657 at the end of 1994. That's nearly 500 new members."

Coleman added that such growth was a mixed blessing, with new members being beneficial, but also contributing to the need for more capacity.

"The co-op sold some 30.5

million kilowatt-hours in 1958, when most of our substations were in operation," he said, "and we sold just less than 180 million last year. That's almost six times as much electricity going through subs that are nearly 40 years old."

While substation capacity is becoming critical, he said, they are becoming obsolete, too. "They were built to take 34,500 volts," he added, "and many of the CIPS lines we connect to in many places have 69,000 volts. We'll have to replace several of the

transformers in many of our substations. It costs an average of \$350,000 to upgrade a substation."

Richard Boggs of Macon, treasurer, reported that Shelby Electric had ended 1994 with kilowatt-hour sales almost exactly 2.5 million kwh higher than the previous year.

After the meeting the board met in reorganizational session and elected Primmer president, Pistorius vice president, Boggs treasurer, and Lawrence D. Oller of Taylorville secretary.

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* These prices are subject to change without advance notice

* Prices in effect for Shelby Electric service area only. (Shelby, Christian, Macon, Moultrie, Montgomery and Effingham counties).

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Shelby Electric News

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SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Your Total Energy Supplier

New director profile



John M. Scott

of seed beans and seed wheat.

A graduate of Pana High School, Mr. Scott attended Blackburn College. Among his civic duties, he is a member of the board of Pana Community

John M. Scott of Nokomis was elected to the Shelby Electric Co-operative board of directors at the June 23, 1995, annual meeting. Mr. Scott farms west of Pana in Rosamond Township with his son, Jeff. They raise grain and beef cattle and are certified producers

Hospital. Shelby Electric is pleased to welcome Mr. Scott and his wife, Mary to the Co-op family.

A fond farewell

Victor R. Jostes of Nokomis retired from service to the Cooperative at the June 23 annual meeting. During his 26 years on the board, Jostes served as President from 1980-1983 and Vice President from 1973-1979. Everyone at Shelby Electric sends their best wishes to Vic and his wife, Arlene.



Victor R. Jostes

The storm has passed but danger still lingers

While we understand the urgency of restoring electric power to all our members during and after severe storms, we consider hazardous conditions created by the storm our first priority.

Power lines that have been snapped or pulled down as a result of a storm present a serious, even deadly threat. If you come across a downed wire, stay completely away from it — don't touch the wire, the pole to which it is attached or anything else in contact with the wire. Call Shelby Electric immediately — don't assume someone else will call or has already called. We want to know about downed wires as soon as possible so we can send our trained linemen to make the needed repairs.

We encourage you to take a few moments today to teach your children about the dangers of downed electric wires. Instruct them to tell you or another adult as soon as possible about the problem and to warn other children to stay away. Never assume a wire is harmless — let us make the de-

termination and repairs. With your help, together we can continue to keep our community safe from electrical accidents.





Richard sizes up the herd before getting started. Teams have up to 90 seconds to cut and pen their three animals.

Let's go to a team penning!

by Suzanne Tate

Team penning — one of America's fastest growing spectator sports? I didn't quite know about that until I was invited to one!

Nancy and Richard Syfert of rural Shelbyville invited me to their Flying "S" farm to learn more about the sport they love. In fact, Richard gave me so much information, my head was spinning and the note pad was full of scribbles. When I returned a few days later to watch a penning they were hosting, the information all fell into place, and I felt like an expert.

The official American Quarter Horse Association Handbook states: "Within a 90 second time limit, a team of three must cut

from the herd and pen three head of cattle with the assigned (same) identity number or colored neckband. The fastest time wins." For the spectator, that's about all you need to know to enjoy a penning. Of course, there are a lot more rules to the sport...

There are from 21-30 calves of approximately the same size grouped on the cattle side of the time line before the event begins. The team of three riders are poised and await a flagman to signal the beginning of an event. The announcer calls out a number as the flagman drops the flag and the nose of the first horse crosses the starting line. It is then the job of the three horsemen to cut the three calves from

the group with identical numbers on their neckbands. They must have all three calves in the pen in the center of the arena within 90 seconds. The riders are not allowed to touch the cattle or push them with their horses. As the rule says, the team that has penned the calves in the best time wins the event.

The Syferts say that 15 seconds is about the fastest time. Richard explains: "It's kinda luck of the draw. A lot depends on where your calves are in the herd at the end of the arena. Every team has their own special skills for herding the cattle." Nancy adds: "You have to be able to read the cattle. Many times you can predict what the calf is going to



Nancy is seriously at work. Note the numbered neckband on the calf just in front of her horse.

do.”

Being such enthusiasts for the sport, I asked Nancy and Richard how they became interested in the sport. They explained that they have always had horses and participated in cutting horse events. “Then we decided we wanted to compete more and became involved when team penning was just getting started in our area,” explained Richard. “Now, we’re going to pennings almost every weekend. It has really become a family pastime, as our daughters Vickie and Sherry, and our older grandchildren all compete, too. It’s really a sport our whole family enjoys,” commented Nancy.

The Syferts compete for points at each event they enter. The goal of collected points is the AQHA World Show in Oklahoma



Nancy displays some of the many trophies she and Richard have won.

City. Of the four times Richard has entered the World Show, he has placed three times.

As the Syferts are on the road most weekends, they talk of the many friends they have made from across the country. As their team does not always consist of the same members, they often meet old friends and team up and make new friends as they go.

The fans are pretty remarkable, too. At a penning, you will hear family members and friends call out to riders: “Your calf is over here!” or “Get the spotted one!” or just “Hurry — Hurry!” What a great spectator sport. I’ll bet when you attend your first penning, you’ll be just like me — shouting out instructions just like the experts. Yes, I’m hooked on that great spectator sport—team penning!

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Comedy Central	1.00	Lifetime70	WWOR	3.00		
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Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Your Total Energy Supplier

Being a co-op member: what it all means

We hate to admit it, but sometimes we have a tendency to forget that ALL of our customers have not ALWAYS received their electricity from an electric cooperative. You may not know about the advantages of receiving electricity from an electric cooperative — your rights, your privileges and your responsibilities.

As consumers of electric service from an electric cooperative such as Shelby Electric Cooperative, you should know:

- You are a member of the cooperative, and as a member you are part-owner of the cooperative.
- You have the right to attend the cooperative's annual meeting of members held each June and to vote for the directors who govern the cooperative.
- You have the responsibility to keep up with developments affecting your cooperative.
- Your cooperative was established by local activists at a time when existing utilities refused or neglected to serve the area where you live now.

All cooperative members receive a monthly subscription to the Illinois Rural Electric News. Electric cooperatives began publishing periodicals such as this in the 1940s to communicate with their members when the cooperative was being attacked in extensive negative advertising campaigns.

Today, Shelby Electric relies on this magazine, not only to relay information about this business, but also to encourage you to use electricity wisely and safely. Promoting electrical safety can help save the lives of our cooperative members. Promoting wise electrical use can help the cooperative and its members save money. Cooperative personnel can help members make informed decisions when purchasing new, efficient appliances and technologies for the home.

But the advantages of being served by an electric cooperative do not end there. You have a trained professional line crew on call, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep your electricity flowing. So whether it is a major outage caused by a storm or a small section of line that is out, you can count on us for reliable, quick restoration of power.

The cooperative's wholly owned subsidiaries,

Shelby Energy Services and KASCOM, Inc., bring cooperative members and the entire community valued services. Shelby Energy, along with Shelby Electric, can be your "total energy supplier" with competitive propane prices. And Shelby Electric can bring you the latest in digital home television services with DIRECTV R. KASCOM offers you instant personal communications with its two-way radio and paging services, or provides "Rural TV"

Across the Manager's Desk

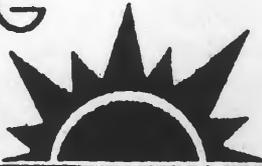
By Jim Coleman



satellite television programming.

Shelby Electric is one of a thousand electric cooperatives in 46 states dedicated to providing service efficiently and economically as possible the co-op way. Working hard, meeting challenges, and helping our community grow and prosper are the key ingredients that this cooperative succeed. As you can see, there is a lot to be said, and a lot of advantages to be had, for being a member of Shelby Electric Cooperative.

COOPERATIVES

EXPANDING
PEOPLE'S 

HORIZONS

Crop drying, safety, and your cooperative

We receive many requests yearly for information regarding grain bins and crop drying. One frequently asked question is whether the member's existing

tant. Planning for adequate clearances can reduce the risk of accidental contact between power lines and tall farm equipment such as portable grain au-

clearance requirements for grain bins located close to power lines. The NESC specifies both the horizontal distance between the side of the bin and an adjacent power line, and the vertical clearance above the bin to the nearest power line.

●The NESC is a code which specifies minimum construction standards for safe transmission and distribution of electricity to the meter location.

Table 1 lists the minimum horizontal distance needed between grain bins of various sizes and a typical power line. Placing bins at these distances reduces the chance of an electrical accident and avoids the need for special power line construction. This helps both the farmer and the power supplier.

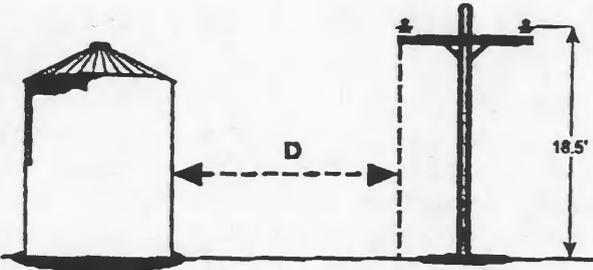
Wiring at the bin

Many large grain storage facilities will have a separate dust-free building or storage shed as part of the overall installation. This is the best location for the electric service center because it provides protection from rain, snow and other outside conditions. For installations inside a dust-free shed, standard service equipment and enclosures can be used.

If the service panel is to be placed outside, only enclosures rated as "rainproof" should be used. A rating system for panels and other electric devices is provided by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA). All rainproof enclosures for farm applications must carry at least a NEMA 3R or equivalent rating. Electrical equipment not designed for outside conditions will experience rapid deterioration, which can cause outages and unsafe conditions.

On many installation, it is common to mount the electrical control panels directly to the side of the bin. Although this prac-

Table 1



Height of Grain Storage Structure	D = Minimum Distance From Line* To Bin Wall
15 feet	55 feet
20	68
25	80
30	93
35	104
40	118
50	143
60	168
70	193
80	218

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 750V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

electric facilities are adequate for grain bin crop drying. If you are adding a new bin at your location, or adding motor capacity to an existing bin, you should call our Engineering Department to make sure the transformer and wiring are adequate to carry the new load. Our Field Engineer will meet with you at your site if necessary, to make sure you have a safe, adequate electrical system.

And speaking of safety — here is some valuable information on grain drying systems:

Proper siting of grain bins in relation to existing high voltage power lines is extremely impor-

gers, elevators or grain probing devices.

In addition to safety considerations, there are also requirements for power line clearances which are mandated by national wiring codes. A bin placed too close to a power line may need to be moved, or the power line relocated (i.e. raised or rerouted), due to a code violation. These changes are likely to be expensive and may be charged to the bin owner. Talk with our Engineering Department before the bin site is confirmed.

The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) specified the line

tice is not a code violation, it is recommended that controls be mounted separately from the bin as illustrated in Figure 1. This provides several advantages:

(1) **Visibility to motors** — placing controls on a separate panel allows for better visibility to fans, augers, ore other motor-driven equipment. The safety aspects of this design are particularly important because the operator can visually confirm that children or other farm work-

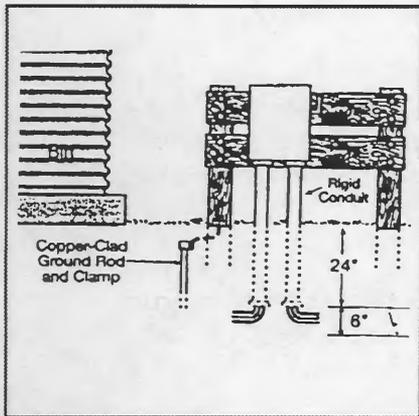


Figure 1 Placing electrical controls away from the bin wall on treated wooden boards and posts provides several advantages.

ers are safely away from the equipment.

(2) **Simplified wiring** — Panels placed on the bin wall require multiple conduit bends to bring the wiring down over the concrete foundation and skirting of the bin. This adds expense and time to the installation. Locating panels separately on wooden boards and posts allows a more direct path for the wiring to crop dryers, augers and future bin sites.

A disconnect switch must be used to physically disconnect any motor from the source of supply. The motor must be within sight of a person standing at the switch. A distance of 50 feet or more is considered to be out of sight. A pilot light at the disconnect switch, which shows when motors are energized, is also recommended.

Rigid metal or plastic conduit should be used to protect wiring around grain storage structures. Never use plastic piping or other material not rated for electrical use.

When installing plastic con-

duit around the walls of a grain bin, be sure expansion joints are used to allow movement of the conduit as temperatures change. Anchor the conduit to the structure with approved fasteners to be sure it stays in place.

Checklist for proper bin wiring

- Was the system installed by a licensed electrician?
- Is all electrical equipment dry and free of corrosion?
- Are all conductors (wires), fuses and circuit breakers of the proper size and type?
- Are all outlets, switches and other devices surface-mounted for easy inspection and maintenance?
- Do all motor circuits have disconnects located within sight of the motor?
- Do motors have correctly sized overcurrent protection and are they rated for farm duty?
- Does each motor have circuit overload protection?
- Are lights enclosed by globes or guards?

Walk for the health of it

It's hard to believe something so easy can be so good for you, but walking 20 to 30 minutes a day three to four times a week may help with weight reduction and lengthen and improve your life.

The health benefits of a regular walking program speak for themselves:

- strengthens the heart
- reduces risk of heart attack and stroke
- improves circulation
- improves breathing
- helps in weight loss and permanent weight control
- reduces blood fat and cholesterol
- normalizes blood pressure
- improves most medical conditions or limitations
- strengthens bones
- tones muscles and develops

lean tissue

- reduces anxiety and tension
- improves self esteem
- makes you feel and look younger and more energetic.

A long-term program of walking may help you live longer, too. A study was conducted following the exercise habits and mortality rates of 17,000 Harvard alumni for more than 12 years. It found that men who walked a lot and were otherwise physically active lived longer. Also, life expectancy improved steadily as exercise increased, starting at 500 calories spent per week and continuing up to 3,500 calories per week. Exercising more than that was counter-productive. A brisk walk (3.5 mph) for one hour burned an average of 460 calories for men and 370

for women.

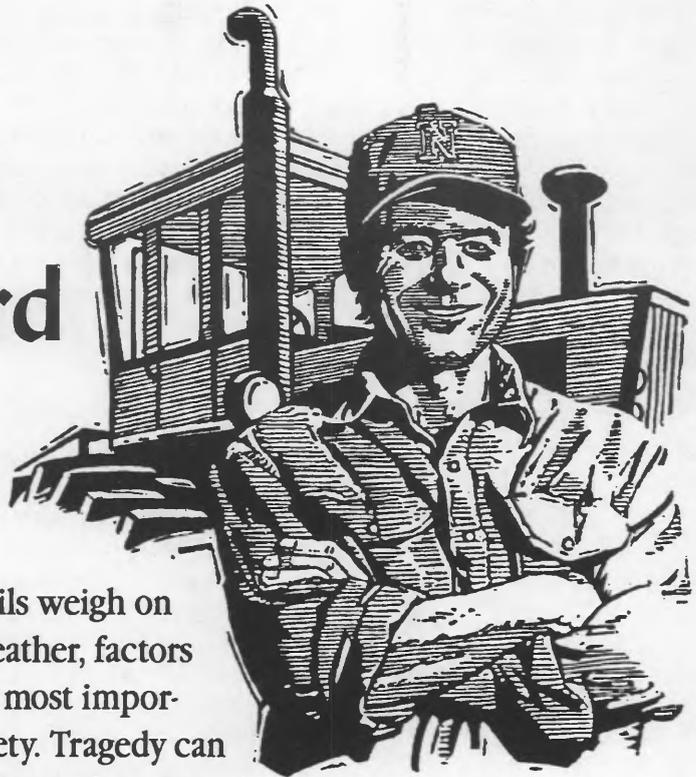
To receive the benefits from walking, you should walk three to four times a week for 20 minutes. Walking two times a week will keep you at your current fitness level.

A five-minute warm-up and cool-down and 20 minutes of brisk walking in your target heart zone is suggested. It takes about two weeks to adjust to exercising and you can see results in about two to three weeks.

So how hard do you need to walk?

If you can walk and talk at the same time, you're exercising at a good rate. Being able to exercise and socialize at the same time may be one reason walking has the lowest dropout rate of any exercise program.

Don't let your guard down



This time of year, details weigh on your mind . . . money, weather, factors vital to your livelihood. The most important concern, though, is safety. Tragedy can occur in that flash of an instant when you let your guard down – taking a short cut, overlooking basic safety rules. To ensure future harvests, always work the safe way.

- ☛ Watch out for overhead power lines.
- ☛ Wear appropriate protective equipment.
- ☛ Make sure helpers are familiar with equipment they are using.
- ☛ Shut off power before fixing or unclogging machines.
- ☛ Keep extended machinery away from power pole guy wires.
- ☛ Keep shields in place.

Shelby Electric News

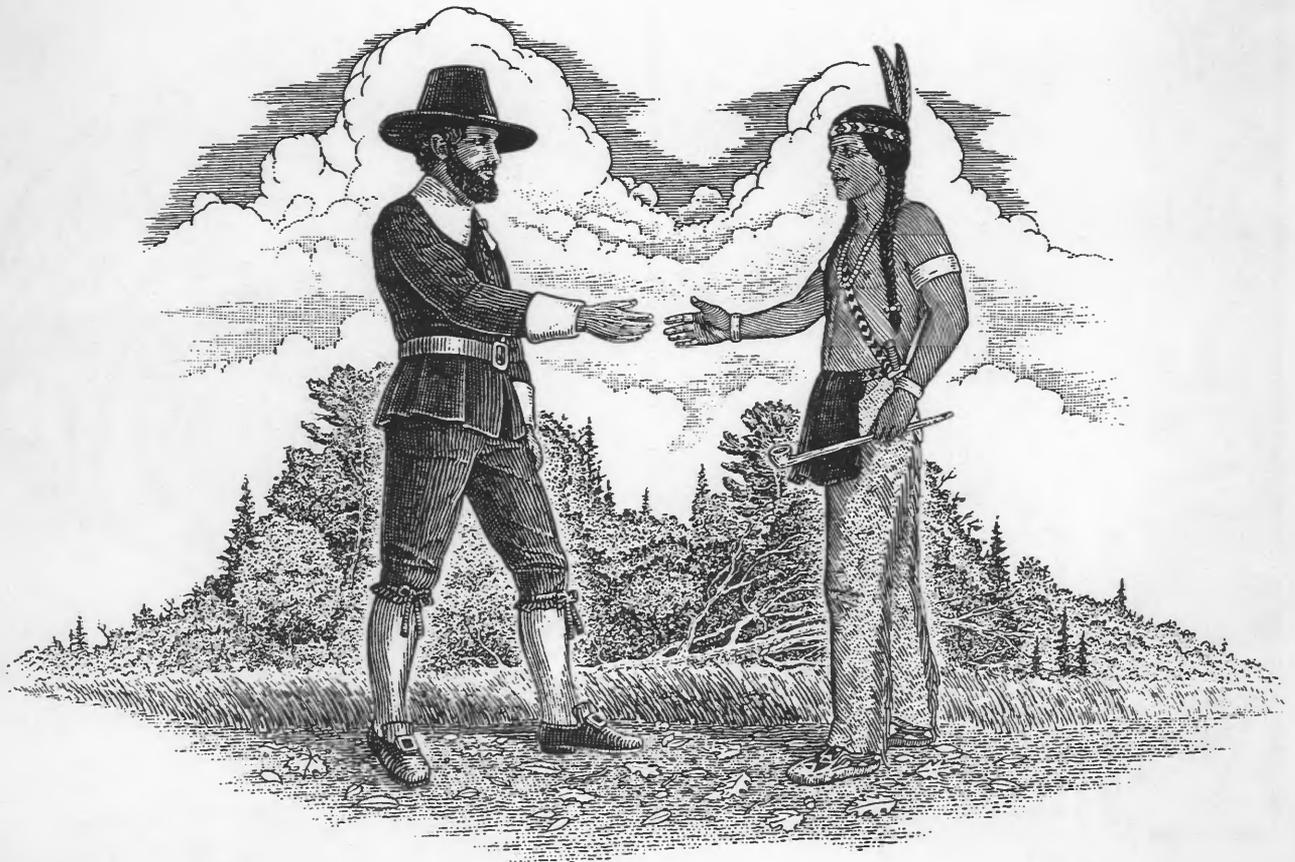
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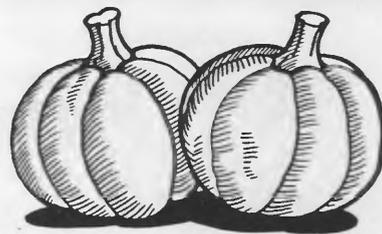
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SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Your Total Energy Supplier

*Happy Thanksgiving
from
Shelby Electric Cooperative*





For Shelby Electric Cooperative Members Only!



\$649.00*
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for just \$649.
You save \$150.

*plus tax

Any Shelby Electric Cooperative members may present this certificate to Shelby Electric Cooperative before December 31, 1995, to receive an unbeatable discount on the RCA satellite equipment. It's just our way of wishing you the best this holiday season!

**18-inch
dish!**



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DBS DBS



Now you can rent our single unit for just \$1.00 per day!!!

This program includes the rental of the basic unit (\$699), receiver, remote control, and surge suppressor. Cost of the installation of the equipment is just \$149. The monthly programming fee will include the cost of the program package you choose plus an additional \$15 monthly fee for the rental of the equipment.



DBS Program Packages

Economy Basic Package \$14.95 per month

A&E	Nashville Network
Cartoon Network	TBS
Country Music TV	TNT
CNBC	Turner Classic Movies
CNN	USA Network
Discovery	Weather Channel
Disney	Family Channel
ESPN	Home Shopping
ESPN 2	Network
Headline News	

Plus \$2.50 Direct Ticket Coupon



Total Choice Package \$29.95 per month

AMC	History Channel
A&E	Home & Garden TV
Bloomberg	Home Shopping
BET	Network
Bravo	Learning Channel
C-Span	Much Music
C-Span 2	Sci-Fi Channel
Cartoon Network	Nashville Network
CNBC	Newsworld International
CNN	TBS
CNN International	TNT
Country Music TV	Travel Channel
Court TV	Trio
Discovery	Turner Classic Movies
Disney (E&W)	USA
E! Entertainment	Weather Channel
ESPN 1 & 2	Family Channel
Headline News	

Plus ...

Encore (7 channels of movies from the 60s, 70s, and 80s.)

Local Regional Sports Network

Music Choice (25 channels of audio)

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DBS DBS

Lynn Glick, metering lineman, demonstrates the new portable safety display.

Shelby offers safety demo



In keeping with Shelby Electric's safety and education policies, your Cooperative has recently purchased a portable safety demonstration kit.

As we provide power to your homes and farms, we want to demonstrate some of the many dangers involved with using electricity — and help teach how to

avoid electric accidents. Our program is realistic and uses real electricity and neon people to help both students and adults become more aware of the importance of electrical safety.

A trained lineman always accompanies the kit and puts on the demonstration. We can conduct our program in classrooms,

at your meeting place, or here at Cooperative headquarters. If you are interested in a safety program for your club, 4-H club, classroom, or organization, please call Suzanne Tate at the office (1-800-677-2612) and she will schedule an appointment for you.

Health tips can ease harvest-time stress

Harvest time is one of the most dangerous times of the year for one of the country's most dangerous occupations — farming, and things get worse, later in the harvest season.

"Increased pressure to get crops out of the fields may cause additional stress to farmers and increase the risk for injuries caused by carelessness," says Paul Gunderson, a safety specialist at the National Farm Medicine Center.

American farmers have to cope with more stress than an average worker, according to the National Safety Council. Droughts, floods, pests, long hours, money problems and other complications can lead to frustration for farmers and their families and contribute to agriculture-related work accidents and illness. In 1991, U.S. farmers suffered 1,400 deaths and 140,000 disabling injuries, according to the Council. These statistics place farming among the three most dangerous occupations.

Here are some tips from the National Farm Medicine Center and National Safety Council that may help ward off unnecessary problems:

- Acknowledge that stress exists in your life. That's your first line of defense.
- Don't minimize your reactions to stress. Buried stress can cause problems.
- Discuss problems with family, friends, clergy or a professional counselor to help reduce anxiety.
- Eat a well-balanced diet and limit caffeine, alcohol and tobacco.
- Get enough sleep.
- Keep machinery in good condition to reduce breakdown that can result in stressful days.

—Rural Electric News Service

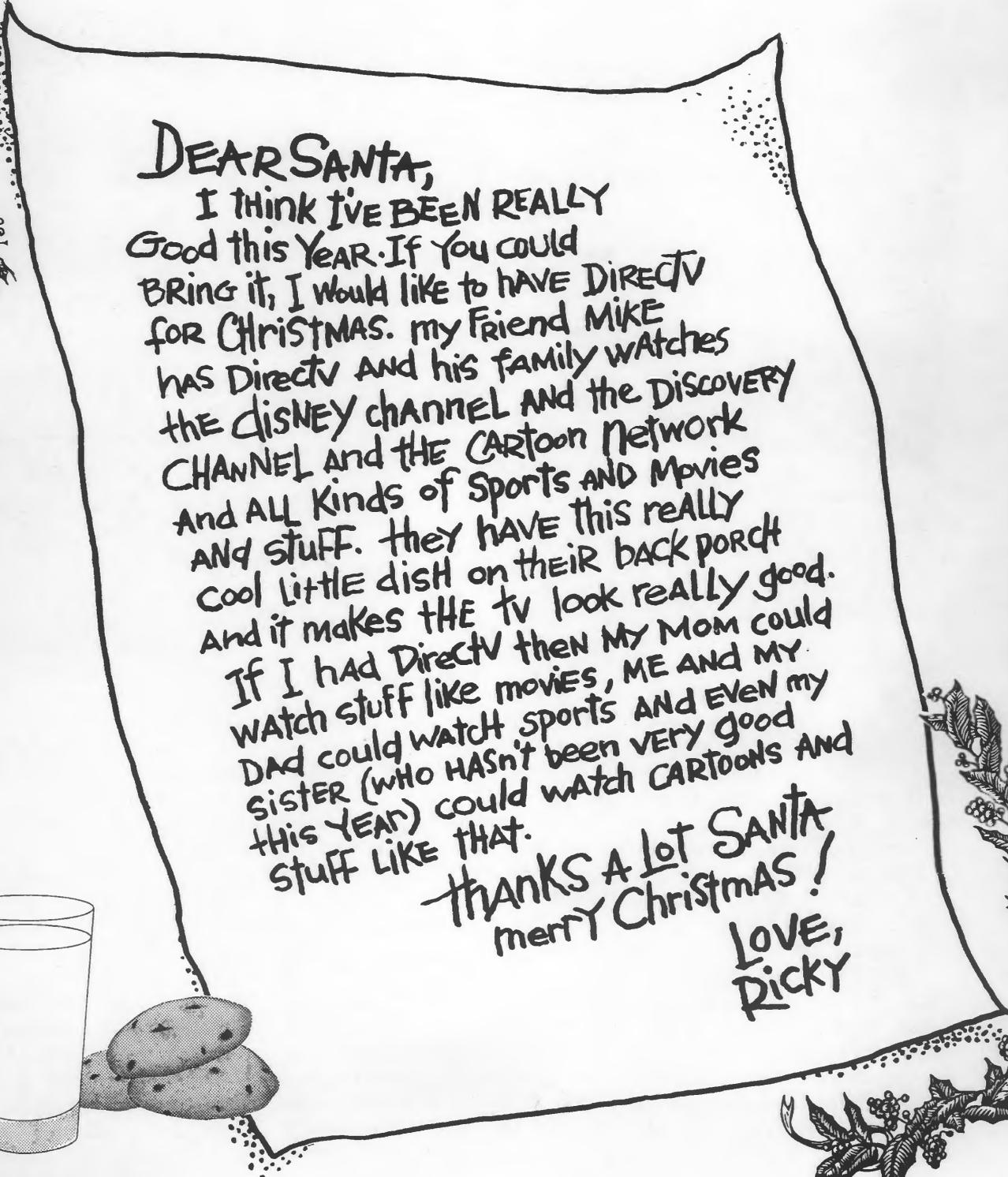
Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-774-3986

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Your Total Energy Supplier



DEAR SANTA,
I THINK I'VE BEEN REALLY
GOOD THIS YEAR. IF YOU COULD
BRING IT, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DIRECTV
FOR CHRISTMAS. MY FRIEND MIKE
HAS DIRECTV AND HIS FAMILY WATCHES
THE DISNEY CHANNEL AND THE DISCOVERY
CHANNEL AND THE CARTOON NETWORK
AND ALL KINDS OF SPORTS AND MOVIES
AND STUFF. THEY HAVE THIS REALLY
COOL LITTLE DISH ON THEIR BACK PORCH
AND IT MAKES THE TV LOOK REALLY GOOD.
IF I HAD DIRECTV THEN MY MOM COULD
WATCH STUFF LIKE MOVIES, ME AND MY
DAD COULD WATCH SPORTS AND EVEN MY
SISTER (WHO HASN'T BEEN VERY GOOD
THIS YEAR) COULD WATCH CARTOONS AND
STUFF LIKE THAT.

THANKS A LOT SANTA
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
LOVE,
RICKY

What's cookin' in

We asked our office girls for some of their favorite holiday recipes. Following is a good sample of what we like to cook. We hope you like our ideas as well as we do!

And from all the office girls "Have a wonderful holiday season!"



Laura Cutler, Susie Kircher, Vicki Blackwell, Dannette Logue, and Dianne Peadro



Janet Strohl, Clara Mae Carter



Mexican meatloaf

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 small jar taco sauce
- 1 can chicken with rice soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 small can green chiles
- 1 large onion
- 1 (8 oz.) jar tomato sauce
- 1 lb. cheddar cheese
- 1 bag tortilla chips

Brown meat. Add all ingredients except chips and cheese. Cook until onion is soft. Layer in casserole dish: meat mixture, cheese, chips. Continue layers ending with the cheese on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes.

Marla Berner

Smoked turkey

- 1 (10-15 pound) turkey
- 1 clove garlic, cut
- 1/2 lemon
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 cooking apple, cored and quartered
- 2 stalks celery, cut into thirds
- 2 carrots, cut into thirds
- 1 small onion, quartered
- 2 tbsp. butter or margarine, melted

Remove giblets and neck from turkey; reserve for other uses, if desired. Rinse turkey with cold water; pat dry. Rub cavity with garlic and lemon; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place apple, celery, carrot and onion in cavity of turkey; close cavity with skewers. Tie ends of legs to tail with cord; lift wingtips up and over back so that they

are tucked under bird. Baste turkey with butter.

Prepare charcoal fire in smoker, and let burn 15 to 20 minutes. Soak mesquite chunks in water at least 15 minutes. Place mesquite chunks on coals. Place water pan in smoke, and fill with water.

Place turkey on food rack. cover with smoker lid; cook turkey 8 to 12 hours or until meat thermometer reaches 180 to 185 degrees when inserted in breast or meaty part of thigh. (Make sure thermometer does not touch bone.) Refill the water pan and add charcoal as needed.

Remove turkey from food rack; cover and refrigerate. To serve, remove vegetables and discard; thinly slice turkey. Yield: 14 to 18 servings.

Christy Cook

the co-op kitchen?



Kates, and Alma Bates

Pumpkin bars

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 4 eggs
- 1 can (16 oz.) pumpkin
- 1 2/3 cups sugar
- 1 cup cooking oil
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- Cream cheese frosting

In a bowl stir together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, soda and salt; set aside. In a mixer bowl beat together eggs, pumpkin, sugar and oil. Add the flour mixture: beat well. Stir in pecans. Spread in ungreased 15x10x1 baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool. Frost with cream cheese frosting. Cut into squares. Makes 24.

Cream cheese frosting

In a bowl beat together one 3-ounce package cream cheese, softened, 1/4 cup butter or margarine, and 1 teaspoon vanilla until fluffy. Gradually add 2 cups sifted powdered sugar, beating until smooth.

Janet Orr



Pam Manship, Marla Berner, Christy Cook, Debbie Wade

Mashed potato casserole

- 5 pounds potatoes
- 1/2 stick butter
- 8 oz. (or less) cream cheese
- 1 tsp. onion salt
- 1 tsp. seasoned salt
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- top with paprika

Peel potatoes and cook as you would when preparing mashed potatoes. Mash and get rid of all lumps before adding other ingredients. Add rest of ingredients, top with paprika and bake until hot through. Makes 9x13 pan.

Alma Bates

Fudge

Heat until dissolved over medium heat:

- 1/2 lb. butter
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 cup milk

Add 25 big marshmallows. Bring to a full boil. Remove from heat. Add 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate, 1 (12 ounce) package chocolate chips, and 15 ounce Hershey almond bar. Stir until all is dissolved. Pour into a large greased 9x13 pan.

Laura Cutler

Pumpkin roll

Mix 3 eggs on high speed for 5 minutes. Gradually beat in 1 cup of sugar. Add 2/3 cup pumpkin and 1 tsp. of lemon juice. Stir together 3/4 cup flour, 1 tsp. baking powder, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1 tsp. ginger, 1/2 tsp. nutmeg and 1/2 tsp. salt. Fold this into the pumpkin mixture. Spread on a well greased and floured cookie sheet. Top with 1/2 cup chopped pecans. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes.

Remove from oven and loosen edge with a knife. Slip a pancake turner under the cake to make sure it does not stick to the pan anywhere. Lay a dish towel over the top of the cake and flip cake and towel over. Sprinkle the cake with powdered sugar and roll cake and towel together until cooled. Completely unroll, remove towel, and ice the cake. Re-roll and chill.

For frosting, use 6 oz. cream cheese, 1 cup powdered sugar, 4 tbsp. oleo, 1/2 tsp. vanilla and blend together — then spread.

Dannette Logue



For Shelby Electric Cooperative Members Only!

DBS Program Packages

Economy Basic Package

\$14.95 per month

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| A&E | Nashville Network |
| Cartoon Network | TBS |
| Country Music TV | TNT |
| CNBC | Turner Classic Movies |
| CNN | USA Network |
| Discovery | Weather Channel |
| Disney | Family Channel |
| ESPN | Home Shopping Network |
| ESPN 2 | |
| Headline News | |

Plus \$2.50 Direct Ticket Coupon

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\$29.95 per month

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| AMC | History Channel |
| A&E | Home & Garden TV |
| Bloomberg | Home Shopping Network |
| BET | Learning Channel |
| Bravo | Much Music |
| C-Span | Sci-Fi Channel |
| C-Span 2 | Nashville Network |
| Cartoon Network | Newsworld International |
| CNBC | TBS |
| CNN | TNT |
| CNN International | Travel Channel |
| Country Music TV | Trio |
| Court TV | Turner Classic Movies |
| Discovery | USA |
| Disney (E&W) | Weather Channel |
| E! Entertainment | Family Channel |
| ESPN 1 & 2 | |
| Headline News | |

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Encore (7 channels of movies from the 60s, 70s, and 80s.)

Local Regional Sports Network

Music Choice (25 channels of audio)

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\$649.00*
Buy the dual unit
for just \$649.
You save \$150.
**plus tax*

Any Shelby Electric Cooperative members may present this certificate to Shelby Electric Cooperative before December 31, 1995, to receive an unbeatable discount on the RCA satellite equipment. It's just our way of wishing you the best this holiday season!

**18-inch
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