

Always underfoot.



The Number 1 heating and cooling concept in Illinois can be found right in the soil around your home.

It's System GT – the geothermal system.

The constant temperature in the earth surrounding your house lets you heat and cool at the lowest oper-

ating cost of any system – with the bonus of abundant hot water.

Your electric cooperative will show you how a system especially designed for your house can keep you in total comfort 365 days a year. The clean, safe and efficient option is beneath your feet.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Electricity. A source of comfort.



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Light right to save money

Don't use more light than you need. About 15 percent of the electricity we use in our homes goes into lighting. Most Americans over-light 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 and 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 bulb 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

- 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.

Use caution with space heaters

Many people will use portable heaters this winter for supplemental heat. These heaters can help make a "chilly" room more comfortable. However, they must be installed and used properly.

In 1987, supplemental heating appliances were associated with more than 105,000 residential fires that killed about 630 people. Each year thousands of contact burn injuries occur, and some 100 deaths result from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission offers these suggestions for using portable heaters safely:

- Keep children and pets away from heaters.
- Never use a space heater overnight in the room where someone is sleeping. A heater should never be left unattended.
- Maintain proper ventilation when necessary.

- Place heaters at least three feet away from combustible objects such as bedding, furniture and draperies.

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing, operating and maintaining the heater.

- Keep a properly functioning smoke detector on each level and close to sleeping areas.

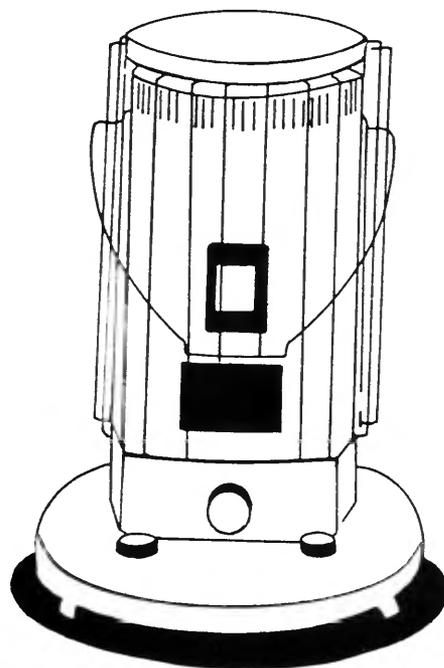
Electric heaters.

Portable electric heaters were associated with 2,800 fires and 80 deaths in 1987. These heaters should not be used as a substitute for central heating. They are designed for temporary heating of a limited space only.

Avoid the use of an extension cord with an electric heater if at all possible. If an extension cord must be used, make sure the wattage is at least the same or greater than that of the heater. A

higher wattage for the extension cord is preferable.

Electric heaters should never be used near water because of the risk of shock or electrocution.



Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held October 16, 1995.

All trustees were present. Also present were the cooperative attorney and the general manager.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held September 18, 1995.

Accepted 25 new members for service.

Canceled 14 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 3 member in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of September, 1995.

Heard a report from trustee Cammon regarding recent AIEC Board meeting.

Heard a report from the manager regarding Soyland Board meeting.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of August, 1995 in the amount of \$50,661.54 and authorized the Manager to present the same to RUS.

Discussed recent merger meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of September, 1995.

Authorized payment of dues to Chamber of Commerce.

Authorized a leave of absence to an employee.

Directed the cooperative attorney to advise of the contents of Policy Bulletin No. 200-9 and 500-4 in letter form to a member.

Discussed plans for employee and director Christmas dinner.

Authorized a refund of deposits per Cooperative Policy to eight members.

Authorized the manager to obtain bids on the sale of one vehicle and to obtain bids on the purchase of a replacement vehicle all for board action.

Adjournment.

**To report outages after hours,
weekends and holidays
call 1-800-582-9012.**

Saving money by saving hot water

Many people are surprised to learn that their water heater is one of the largest energy users in their home. Typically, that big (usually) cylindrical thing sits quietly in a corner somewhere heating water for dozens of household chores. While it's doing that, it is also using energy. On average, some 15 to 20 percent of the utility bill goes to heat water.

One way to keep costs down is to buy an energy-efficient water heater to start with. All major electricity-using appliances on the market now have an Energy Efficiency label, and there are several different price ranges of water heaters. Generally, the less expensive they are to buy, the more expensive they are to operate.

While you're shopping, be sure to talk to the people at your electric co-op. Some co-ops may have a special price on electric water heaters. Some may offer a special "peak shaving" rate to encourage you to let them place a control on your water heater. Then, the co-op can shut off for brief periods during times of high electricity usage.

Once you've got an energy-efficient water heater, there are some things you can do in your home to keep from using too much hot water in the first place.

First, you need to check your temperature setting. If you're heating your water more than necessary, you're wasting money. Home economists tell us that you need 140-degree water for proper sanitizing, and most detergents for automatic dishwashers won't dissolve properly



at temperatures cooler than that.

So check your water temperature as it comes out of the faucet, after you've let the water run for about five minutes. Then, you'll need to turn it higher or lower to reach the temperature you need.

Of course, if you don't need a new water heater, you're still stuck with a dilemma: Do you replace it anyway, which is expensive, or just go on using it, which is also expensive. The answer is yes and no. Yes, you go on using it. No, you don't use it expensively. If you have a water heater that's in good shape, you can still make it more efficient by adding insulation to the outside. You can buy kits at hardware stores, or just wrap batts of insulation around your heater, assembling everything as neatly as possible with duct tape. Be sure to leave a cutout for your thermostat control panel. That little job should save you about 20 percent on your water heating expense.

While insulation and temperature control can help, there are even more ways to save. First,

try to figure out ways to use less water.

For example, it helps to know where the water is used. Once you know that, you can try ways to use less of it. The average family, the experts tell us, uses hot water like this: 41 percent goes for baths and showers, 24 percent goes for laundry, 27 percent is used in the kitchen, and some 8 percent is used for "other" purposes.

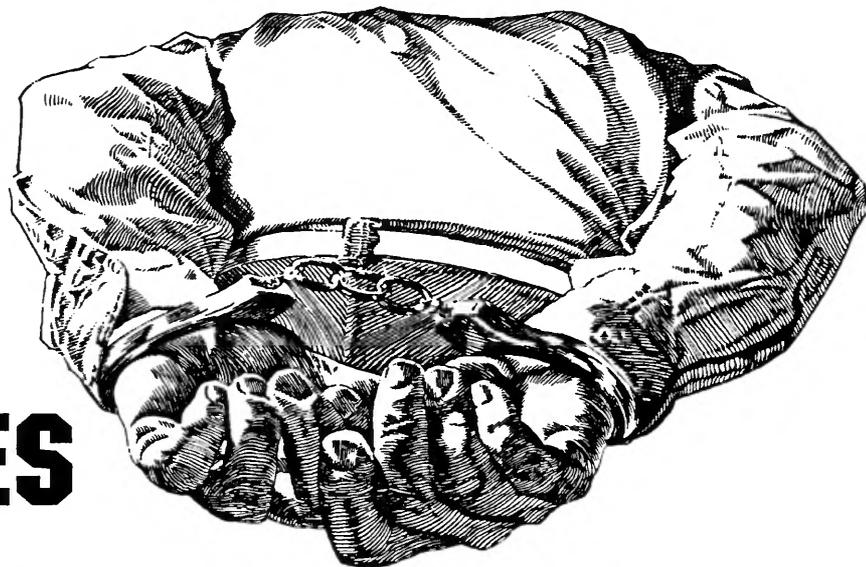
Since baths and showers account for the biggest usage, cutting back there will give the most savings. Flow reducers on shower heads will reduce the amount of water going through the shower head, while still giving the feel of a good shower. Shorter showers will help, too.

Much of the water used in the kitchen goes for dishwashing, and cutting back there can help. If you have an electric dishwasher, you can save on water heating expenses by using that appliance wisely. Wait to run it until you have a full load. Don't run it with just the dishes from one meal in it.

The laundry room is a big hot water user, too. You can save by washing only full loads, by using water temperature only as hot as needed, and by using a cold rinse whenever possible.

If there's any chance at all that you may be replacing your water heater soon, contact your co-op first. They may have a bargain for you. Be sure to ask them about any incentive rates they offer. And don't forget to ask them for further energy-saving tips. They may be able to help you save in other ways, too.

IT TAKES A THIEF...



to tamper with meters!

Tampering with an electric meter is illegal. And, it can be quite dangerous because of the possible exposure to high voltage.

When a person steals electricity, the thief is stealing from neighbors and fellow cooperative members who ultimately pay for the stolen power. Theft of electricity is also a violation of Illinois state law...with all the penalties that go with conviction.

Seals on meters are like locks on doors, discouraging unauthorized entry. If your meter needs attention, please contact your cooperative's office.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held November 20, 1995.

All trustees were present with the exception of trustees Logan and Czyzewski, also present were the cooperative attorney and the office manager.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held October 16, 1995.

Accepted 20 new members for service.

Canceled 15 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 1 member in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and out-gear report for the month of September, 1995.

Heard a report from trustee Cammon regarding recent AIEC board meeting and Soyland board meeting.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of August, 1995 in the amount of \$20,300.93 and authorized the manager to present the same to RUS.

Discussed power requirement study prepared by AIEC and tabled action until next regular meeting.

Reviewed a request for information from two members.

Accepted the bid received from TRO Maintenance to sell used trencher owned by the cooperative.

Accepted the bid received from Mike Hockman to sell used truck owned by the cooperative.

Accepted the bid of L.B. Ford for the purchase of a new pickup.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of October, 1995.

Were advised of upcoming NRECA annual meeting.

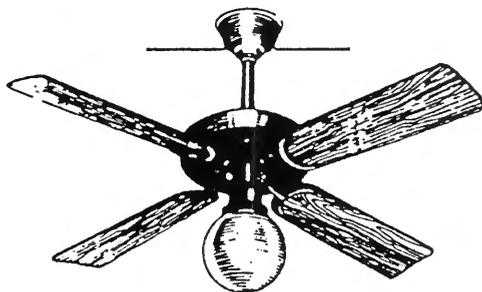
Approved a change of medical insurance coverage from NRECA.

Adjournment.

Ceiling fans help cut energy costs.

A touch of nostalgia may do more than create the mood of a long-past, unhurried era. The slowly revolving blades of an electric ceiling fan are practical as well as pretty.

A fan may not drastically lower your power bill, but it will raise the comfort level of a room. In the winter, the turning blades force the rising warm air back down into the living area of a room. In houses with vaulted ceilings or wood-burning heaters the fans



do a good job of moving the heat from the ceiling area to where it is needed. In the summertime, the constant motion helps circulate conditioned air or offers slight breezes as a much less expensive alternative to air conditioning.

You may discover extra advantages of a ceiling fan. If a fan is located above an open porch, screened porch or sunroom, the air movement will discourage insects.

To report outages after hours, weekends and holidays call 1-800-582-9012.

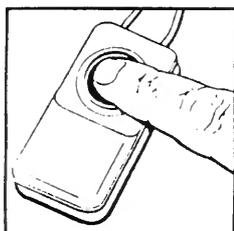
Like a security blanket...

Our rural electric cooperative's personal security service.

With our personal security service – you can feel safe and secure, knowing help is only a push button away.

Anytime of the day or night, whenever you need help, just pushing the button on the portable pendant will instantly connect you to a cooperative service representative.

And since we have all your medical and emergency information in our computer, our co-op representative will be able to summon help – no matter what your need may be.



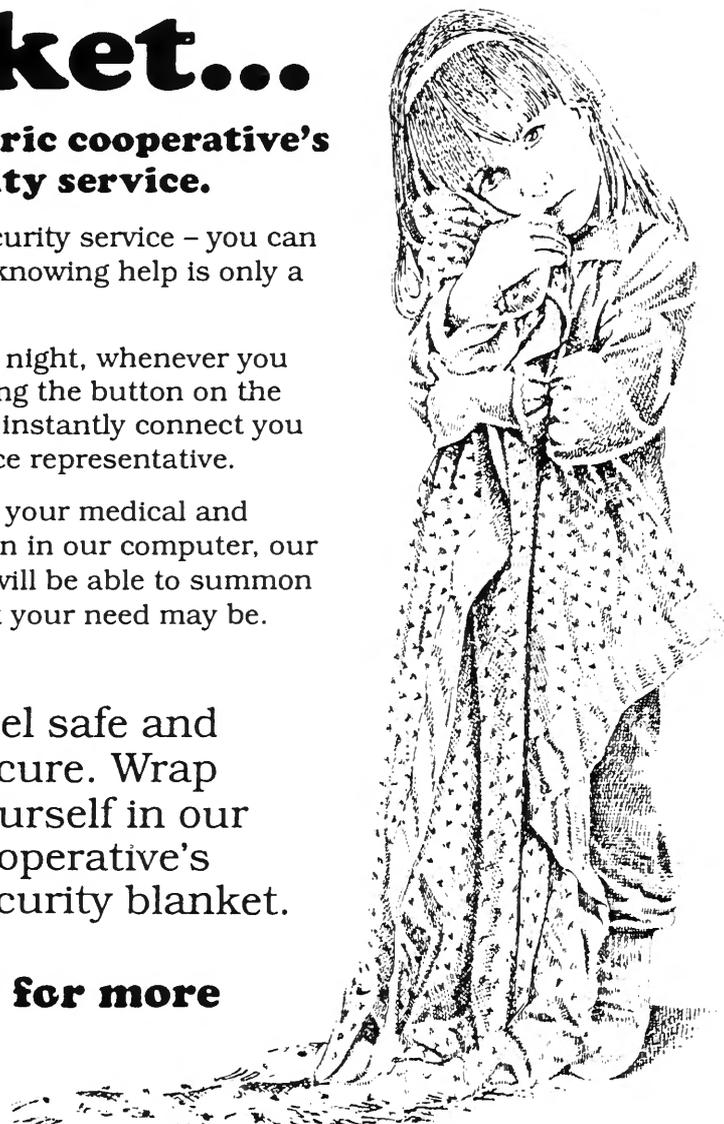
Feel safe and secure. Wrap yourself in our cooperative's security blanket.

Call us today for more information.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839 • 618/662-2171



Statement of nondiscrimination

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, or national origin or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is James E. Campbell, Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Plugging those little air leaks

Now that winter is here and we've enjoyed a couple of sieges of howling winds and blowing snow, many of us have learned—again—that our houses aren't as snug as they might be.

While it would have been better to have tackled all those little chores when it's nice, it's a good bet that a lot of homeowners have let the lessons of last winter go by.

Many people have found to their dismay that their house, which seemed to be nice and snug during last year's fairly mild winter, is susceptible to cold and drafts.

Even so, there are some things that can be done, besides just turning up the thermostat and hoping for the best. Even well-built houses can have "problem" walls, usually on the north side, and also on the side facing the prevailing winds. Or both.

If you've found that you have a problem room, or if your entire house is harder to heat than you remembered, you may be able to achieve greater comfort and lower costs with a few simple remedial steps. You can do some of these repairs inside the house, no matter what the weather is like outside. For others, you may be wise to wait for a warm spell.

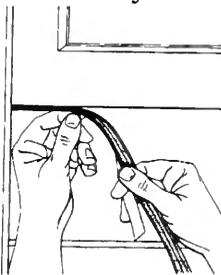
Even the best of houses will often let an amazing amount of cold air in around the electrical outlets on the outside walls. If you suspect that your outlets are leaky, wait until there's a good stiff breeze blowing outside and put your hand near the outlet. Chances are, you'll be able to feel that draft like the wall wasn't there.

Almost any home-supply store anywhere has little foam rubber backing plates that act as gaskets to minimize that problem. They are inexpensive and simple to install. All you need is a screwdriver and a few minutes. You simply take off the switch or outlet cover, place the gasket behind it, and screw the cover back on. Since this little chore is so simple and inexpensive, it probably should be your first step. If you can't do all the switches and outlets, be sure to take care of the problem ones first.

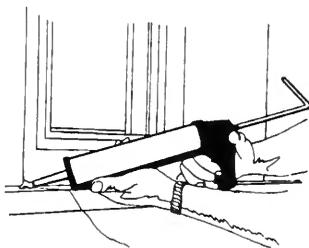
Windows can present problems, too. Often, all you need to do to check your windows is be in the same room they're in, and that'll be confirmation enough! Since they perform contradictory functions, they're fairly complex structures. They have to seal out the elements during some times, yet they need to be opened at others. Many of the problems windows give you are related to this open/

shut nature.

One of the first steps you need to take to cure your window drafts is to add weatherstripping, if there is none already there, or if what's there is no longer doing the job. You can buy little strips of adhesive-backed stripping, and they're also inexpensive. You just cut the strip to length where the window closes, peel off the tape that covers the adhesive, and apply it carefully. You'll probably need to do this at the top of the window, also.



If you feel around the outer edges of the window, inside the frame, you may still find that there's leakage. You can minimize that by putting in a shrink-fit film on the inside. While it looks like a daunting chore, it really isn't. You can buy kits at hardware and home-supply stores, and they usually include double-sided tape and enough film to do one or two windows. They come in different sizes, so you'll need to know how big your windows are. The kits are generic, so you may need to buy a larger film than you actually need and cut it to fit with scissors.



While it looks like a difficult task, the hardest part actually is peeling the backing off the silly double-sided tape!

After you get the tape up and the plastic cut to size, you apply the film, carefully, and press it against the tape, which you've peeled the backing off of, naturally. If it's not perfect, you're still okay. You can shrink it to fit with a hair dryer. Even a mediocre craftsman can do a presentable job.

Once you get that taken care of, your windows may still leak. The area around the outer edge of the window frame is often a source of difficulty, and that's a problem you'll have to go outside to take care of.

Actually, that's caused by a lack of caulking around the outside of the exterior window frame, and can be cured by the judicious application of a bead of caulk around the window. Occasionally people have tried to do a temporary interior fix with masking tape around the window frame. That works, but it's visible, unattractive, and will peel the paint off if it's left on too long. Don't do it unless there's a really horrendous draft, and you expect to be able to remove the tape and do a proper caulking job when the weather improves.

These few simple steps, most of which can be done inside the house, will help you cut your heating costs, and will make your house more comfortable, too.

When you flip a switch, you're buying power

As you walk into a room in your house, the first thing you're likely to do when you pass through the door is to hit the light switch. As you sit and begin to read, you realize things would be a little easier if you had more light, so you turn on the lamp next to your chair. Most of us do those little things without thinking about them at all.

As a matter of fact, though, you're making a buying decision each time you turn on an electrical switch. You make a buying decision when you pick something off the shelf at the supermarket, or at the boutique in the mall, or when you put gas in your car. We often fail to realize we also do it just by flipping an innocuous little switch on the wall.

If you keep that realization in mind, you also have a way to exercise a certain amount of control over your electricity bill. There are simple things you can do if you think before you buy. You can purchase electricity wisely, without losing any of the comfort and convenience it provides. Keep these factors in mind as you go about your routine at home.

Water heating

It's hard to believe, but about 15 percent of the energy we use in our homes goes to heat water. Hot water plays a very important role in everyone's lifestyle, and many lifestyles require quite a bit of hot water. Naturally, that results in higher energy use, which means that you're going to buy more electricity.

Ask yourself these questions:

"When I take a bath, do I use water sparingly, or do I fill my tub clear to the top?"

"Do I take short showers, or do I stay in the shower until the last drop of hot water's gone from the water heater?"

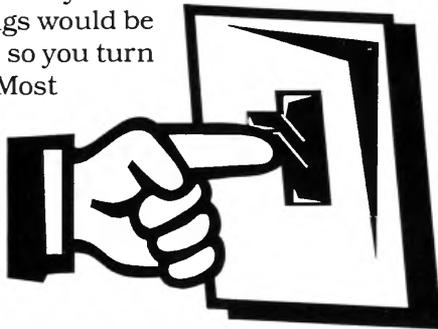
"Do I repair leaky faucets, or do I let them drip and waste hot water?"

"Do I operate automatic washers and dishwashers with a full load, or just whenever it's convenient?"

Space heating and cooling

Let's face it: Nobody likes to be too hot or too cold. That fact is reflected in our energy usage. Nearly half the energy used in American homes goes for heating and cooling. If we use dehumidifiers in the summer, or humidifiers in the winter, we're making a fairly substantial energy purchase, because such units tend to run continuously. Portable space heaters, air conditioners, and garage

and basement fans also contribute to our energy consumption.



If we take a look at our "comfort" lifestyle in terms of maintaining relative humidity and temperature, we can use energy wisely in many ways. These range from adding insulation where it's needed, to caulking and weatherstripping, to simply turning down the heat and turning off the air conditioning in a room that's not being used. When you do that, of course, you're making a deci-

sion to buy a little less electricity.

Family size

There is a direct relationship between the number of people living in a home and the amount of energy used, and that's especially true if some of the residents are teenagers. In addition, if friends and relatives are visiting, you can expect to use more energy for cooking, baking, laundry and hot water. And if you've opened up a spare room, it will cost a little extra to light it and provide heating or cooling.

Appliance use

America is a nation of gadget-lovers, and we're all looking for an appliance that will do something for us. But we need to remember: when we open a can with an electric can opener, we're making the decision to buy just a tiny bit of electricity. And when we roast a turkey in our electric oven, we're also buying energy. The truth is, though, most of us are firmly convinced that the convenience is worth the cost, and we use such appliances cheerfully.

Your appliances work for you around the clock, whenever you choose to use them, and wise use of these helpers can cut your costs.

For example, ask yourself questions like these:

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

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

All these considerations affect your lifestyle, and the cost of maintaining it. All Americans are part of the residential sector, and real energy management consciousness is likely to start at home.

A conscientious home and farm energy management program can pay big dividends!



CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Clay Electric News

Jim Campbell winds up 50-year career

James E. "Jim" Campbell of Flora, manager of Clay Electric Cooperative for the last 13 years, will "hang up his hat" at the end of March. When he does, he will wind up a career spanning five decades in the rural electrification program, and work on behalf of rural people on three continents.

Jim began his career in March 1946, at the New Mac Electric Cooperative in Neosho, Missouri, where he drew maps and secured easements. He later took charge of engineering and member extensions.

From there, he went to Twin Valleys Public Power in Cambridge, Nebraska, then to KBR Rural Public Power District in Ainsworth, also in Nebraska.

Never one to let grass grow under his feet, he then went to work at the Poudre Valley REA, Inc., in Fort Collins, Colorado, then to Jackson Purchase Electric Cooperative in Paducah, Kentucky. From there, he came to Clay Electric. In the half century he's worked with various cooperatives, he has served as manager for the last 44 years.

While serving all those years,

Jim also kept busy lending his expertise to various boards and committees. He was a member of the board of directors of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Management Committee and the NRECA Parity of Rates Committee. The Parity of Rates Committee later expanded and organized a long-range study committee that formed



Jim Campbell

the National Rural Electric Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), the cooperative bank.

He has also served on various statewide association boards and committees. Many electric cooperatives in several states have banded together and formed generation and transmission cooperatives, or G & Ts, and Jim has worked with several of those in conjunction with his efforts at the distribution co-ops. He worked with KAMO (Kansas, Arkansas and Missouri) Co-op in Vinita, Oklahoma, and Big Rivers G&T in Henderson, Kentucky. He served as secretary of the board of Nebraska Electric G & T Co-op, Inc., in Columbus, Nebraska, and held the same position at the Tri-State G & T

Assn., Inc., Denver, Colorado. He was also a member of the board of directors of Soyland Power Cooperative, Decatur.

Electric cooperatives in the U. S. have hosted delegations from five different countries while Jim was working with them, and he took part in working with the visitors from Uruguay, Turkey, the Philippines, Nigeria and Bangladesh. Those groups returned home and helped begin rural electrification efforts there. He also traveled to Uruguay and India on similar missions.

Jim was one of the first seven candidates to receive the Advanced Management Achievement Award, which recognizes a significant contribution to management, improvement through self development, advanced study, professional achievement and demonstration of dynamic administration. He also serves on the Flora Industrial Commission.

Jim and his wife, Patty, have been married 49 years. They have two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren. After retirement, Jim plans to enjoy his yardwork and woodworking hobbies, and the Campbells plan to do some traveling, too.

We at Clay Electric Cooperative want to thank Jim and Patty for their years of service and commitment to rural electrification programs both at home and abroad.

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held December 18, 1995.

All trustees were present, also present were the cooperative attorney and the general manager.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held November 20, 1995.

Accepted 23 new members for service.

Canceled 20 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 1 member in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of November, 1995.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of October, 1995 in the amount of \$34,471.64 and authorized the Manager to present the same to RUS.

Discussed the revised power requirement study prepared by AIEC, Approved the study and

Authorized the staff to seek approval from RUS.

Approved a refund of capital credits to the estate of deceased members King and Esther Anderson.

Accepted the disbursements list for the month of October, 1995.

Discussed arrangements for management services.

Authorized a request of information from two members.

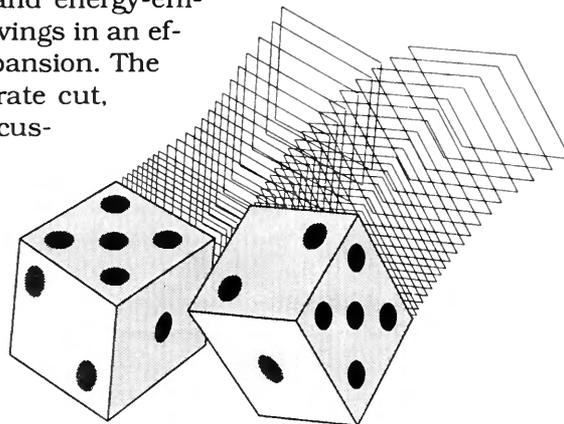
Adjournment.

Nevadans gambling on a co-op

In Las Vegas, the gambling capital of the United States, a group of business people and homeowners are trying to form their own electric cooperative. The Citizens Energy Services Cooperative would buy Nevada Power's distribution system and part of its transmission system.

The co-op efforts stem from dissatisfaction with Nevada Power in several areas. Organizers claim that the utility has encouraged energy-wasteful habits of large developers, and that residential customers paid for these sins in their rates. In fact, Nevada Power slashed its load management and energy-efficiency budgets this year, sacrificing demand savings in an effort to raise cash, mostly to pay for system expansion. The utility recently announced a fuel adjustment rate cut, but it amounted to only 1 percent for residential customers. The incident that finally convinced the group to form a co-op was Nevada Power's attempt to offer a secret rate to the Mirage, a huge casino-resort.

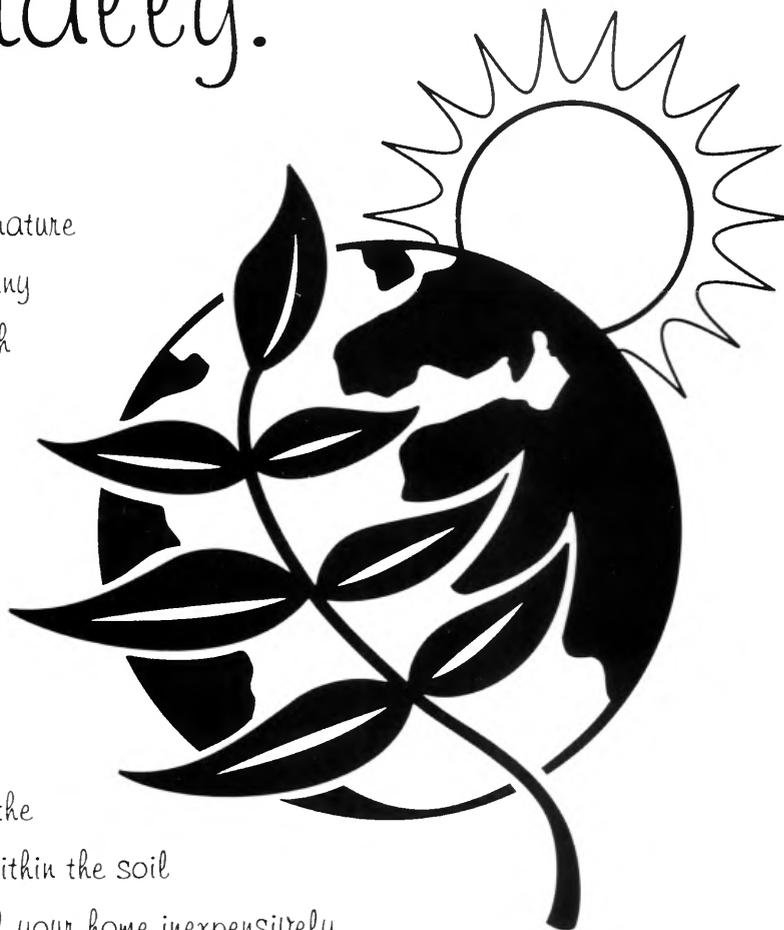
Citizens Energy Services Cooperative would be the largest electric distribution cooperative in the country, serving three times as many members as the current largest, Florida's Withlacoochee River Electric Co-op, which has 132,000 members. It would be almost entirely urban, but it would bring power for the first time to a rural canyon that Nevada Power has been reluctant to serve. The Nevada Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives says that just the fact that the people of Las Vegas are looking at forming an electric co-op proves that the cooperative way of doing business is alive and well.



**To report outages after hours,
weekends and holidays call 1-800-582-9012.**

Heat and cool your home, naturally.

The energy of nature shows itself in many ways...the strength of a seedling pushing through the soil, waves surging against the shore. The Earth also absorbs and stores heat energy from the sun. This energy within the soil can heat and cool your home inexpensively, cleanly and efficiently through the Geothermal Heating and Cooling System. In the winter, warmth naturally stored within the soil is drawn into your home. In the summer, the action is reversed to cool the house. The system produces four times more energy than it uses, which should leave you good-natured when the electric bill comes.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer

Spring is time to think geothermal

It has been said—roughly—that in the spring, a young person's fancy turns lightly to other young persons. For those who are older, and who have a house to keep up, a family to provide for and bills to pay, spring tends to bring gratitude.

Not only are we thrilled for the end of winter, but we're grateful that the old furnace has squeaked through another winter without giving up the ghost.

With the heating season on the way out and the cooling season a month or so away, now might be a good time to give some thought to having a geothermal heating and cooling system installed in your home. If you're getting ready to build, you certainly ought to look into geothermal.

A geothermal system uses earth-stored energy in partnership with safe, clean electricity, to offer a hard-to-beat way to heat and cool your home.

The heart of the geothermal system is essentially a heat pump with a difference: but what a difference! The average air-to-air heat pump is essentially a reversible system that removes heat from your home in the summer and expels it to the outside air. It does the opposite in the winter, warming outside air and moving it into your home. You decide what it does simply by flicking a switch on your indoor thermostat.

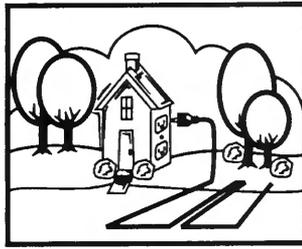
If the air-to-air heat pump has a disadvantage, it's that it starts losing its efficiency at about 10 degrees F., so you have to rely on another heat source to make up the difference.

A geothermal system doesn't have that problem. It draws its heat or coolness from a liquid-filled grid of plastic piping buried 5-6' underground. Once you get about 5 feet below the surface of the earth, the temperature in Illinois is a fairly consistent 55 degrees F., the year around.

Instead of having to cool 90-degree air in the summer, the unit is dealing with 55-degree air, and it does that very efficiently. When you need heat, the geothermal system is, again, working with a 55-degree medium. That's much better than the subzero weather air-to-air units have to cope with. All in all, about 70 percent of the "fuel" your unit needs comes from the solar energy absorbed by the earth and stored there.

Not surprisingly, the technology for the geothermal system, also known as a "closed-loop earth-coupled groundwater heat pump system," came from northern Europe. It is only natural that the system would develop in that area, with its harsh climate and high fuel costs.

The idea dates back to the 1940s, but offered no advantage to Americans in a time when the cost of heating and cooling a home was almost insignificant. The energy crunch of the early 1970s changed all that, and Americans started getting serious about economical comfort conditioning.



There was another factor, too. The piping and technology hadn't developed to the point that Americans

would feel comfortable with them, and it wasn't until the 1980s that they came together. Early experiments with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) piping proved unsatisfactory, and until better piping could be developed, the system had no real future. Today's piping is expected to last 25-75 years in virtually any soil type. Present-day piping has better heat conducting properties than earlier materials had.

Most closed-loop systems are trenched horizontally in the yard around the home, but the stored solar energy can also come from well water or a pond, if it's large enough. If you don't have room for a horizontal loop, you can have a well drilled or use an existing one. If you need to have your yard trenched, it's usually not a big problem. The trenches are usually about 6 inches wide, and a simple reseeding will take care of the disturbed lawn. The pipes have no adverse affect on plants above them.

A big plus is that the heart of the unit is installed inside the house, in a garage, storage closet or crawl space, where it's protected from the elements. That prolongs the life of the unit, which is quiet enough that it won't be a bother.

Geothermal systems can save you even more money by providing hot water for your home. Some types of systems can save you up to 50 percent on your annual water heating bill by preheating tank water. These units are standard equipment on some systems and optional on others. Be sure to look into the possibility of having hot water, too.

While geothermal units seem to be too good to be true, they do have one disadvantage: They're expensive to install because of the trenching or well-drilling needed for the loop.

Don't let that deter you. They will save you so much money on your heating, cooling and water-heating costs that they'll pay for themselves much sooner than any other kind of system that's likely to be available to rural electric consumers. Ask the people at your electric cooperative for more information. You'll be glad you did!



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held January 15, 1996

All trustees were present, also present were the cooperative attorney and the general manager. Peter Kollinger, David Hollis and Tom Hentz from Edgar Electric were also present.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held December 18, 1995.

Accepted 17 new members for service.

Canceled 12 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 2 members in bad standing.

Heard a presentation by Tom Hentz regarding Clay Electric and Edgar Electric.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of December, 1995.

Reviewed 1996 budget.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of November, 1995 in the amount of \$12,551.13 and authorized the manager to present the same to RUS.

Heard a report by Trustee Cammon regarding

recent AIEC meeting.

Approved a refund of capital credits to the estate of deceased members, Allie Lewis and Harland Kincaid.

Authorized participation in the "Youth to Washington" contest.

Approved a refund of deposits pursuant to cooperative policy.

Were advised of upcoming meeting regarding Soyland.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of December, 1995.

Discussed upcoming NRECA annual meeting.

Directed the manager to review cooperative policy on deposits and present proposals at next regular board meeting.

Heard a report by the executive committee and directed the manager request RFP's for management contracts and to advertise for a full-time manager to replace retiring manager.

Adjournment.

Electricity usage up during the winter?

As the winter winds down (finally) and spring shows signs of making a welcome arrival, do you look back on your winter electricity bills and think that they might be higher than they should have been? Many people do. As a matter of fact, many of our members comment on the size of their winter bills.

While we have some idea of why members' bills are higher during the winter—ours are too—we do not know specifically why a particular individual's electricity usage is up. We do not know because we are not the ones who used the power.

It is sometimes difficult to determine where all that power went, because we use electricity for so many things, so many times a day, that we take it for granted and are not really conscious of the fact that we are using it.

For those who may be questioning why their electric energy usage is up in the winter months, here is a list of some of the easily overlooked uses for electricity during the cold, dark season:

1. Holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day—cooking and baking.
2. More use of lighting because days are shorter.
3. Most heating systems require the use of electric power and run almost continuously during extremely cold periods.
4. Many use space heaters here and there in their homes and buildings.
5. Stock tank heaters and fountains are in use.
6. Engine heaters are being used for cars and trucks.
7. Electric blankets and heating pads are being used more.
8. Clothes dryers are used more, and those in unheated rooms use more energy.
9. Forgetting to shut off a light or turn an oven off and noticing several hours—or a day or two—later.
10. Christmas tree lights and outdoor decorations are left on during the evening.

Geothermal heating and cooling gaining in popularity

The earth is the largest, most efficient collector of the sun's energy. The temperature of the ground remains about 50 degrees throughout the year. Although this temperature is not warm enough in itself to heat a home, there is a tremendous amount of heat available. The only thing needed is a dependable way to move it from this collector and deliver it to the home in a usable form.

Geothermal heating and cooling is such a system. This system circulates water through a closed loop buried in the ground, picking up the BTUs, which it takes to a compressor. The BTUs are removed from the water and delivered to the home at about 110 degrees. Since the heat is already present, the only cost is for moving and removing the BTUs. This cost is small compared to the cost of producing heat. In fact, this system will produce 3 1/2 to 4 times the heat, per unit of cost.

The installation of the geothermal system is simple. The inside unit consists of the compressor, the water-to-air exchanger, and the blower unit. It takes up no more room than other systems. The rest goes outside, underground. The ground loop can be trenched, installed in uncased wells 100 to 150 feet deep, or submerged in a body of water.

The advantages

1. There can be extraordinary energy savings—up to 65 percent in some cases.
2. No outdoor equipment is required. This adds to the life of the equipment because it's not out in the extreme weather.
3. If service should be required, the equipment is indoors, where the serviceman is not at the mercy of the weather.

4. The system provides year-round comfort; heating, cooling, dehumidification, and much of your hot water.
5. There is normally a rapid payback (5 to 7 years—depending on fuel/system comparison): any home equipped for energy conservation is more marketable.
6. Since there is no combustion, no chimney or flue is required and there are no combustible gases in conditioned space.
7. The system is all-electric—no fossil fuels are consumed and there is no need for the expense of using a second utility, even if it's available.
8. The systems are extremely reliable, utilizing components developed through years of research, testing and experience.
9. Two-thirds or more of the heat energy used comes indirectly from the sun—a renewable, non-polluting energy source.

The disadvantages

1. Initial first cost is higher than conventional systems (however, see advantage No. 5).
2. The common complaint of new heat pump owners is "the air feels cool." Those accustomed to the warmer air temperatures provided by fossil fuel furnaces will notice that the air from the ductwork is cooler. However, moving air that is the same as or slightly warmer than the body temperature will feel cool. This will not be a problem if you are forewarned. Air entering a structure around 90-110 degrees Fahrenheit or more can warm it to 68-75 degrees or warmer if the equipment is properly sized.

Spring is tornado season

Springtime means tornado season. Although tornadoes can occur anytime, peak months are March through August.

There are two types of tornado alerts. A tornado watch means atmospheric conditions are right for a tornado to develop. Stay tuned to news broadcasts for further information. A tornado warning means one has been sighted in the area or will occur.

If a warning has been issued, your family should seek shelter immediately. The best shelters are basements or storm shelters. If your home does not have a basement, move to a small room such as a bathroom or closet in the center of the house.

If you are in your vehicle, do not try to outrun a tornado. If you cannot escape the path of the tornado, stop and get away from the vehicle. Lie flat

with your head covered in a low area such as a ditch or a ravine. One of the major causes of tornado deaths and injuries is flying debris, so be sure and keep your head covered.

Do not stay in a mobile home during a tornado. Evacuate the home to find a low area where you can lie down and cover your head. It might be wise to also check rules and regulations concerning "hold-down" equipment for new or used mobile homes.

Your family should have an emergency plan and know exactly what to do if a tornado hits. Each home should have basic emergency supplies, such as a portable radio, batteries and flashlights on hand in the basement or closet. Being safe is being prepared.

**To report outages after hours, weekends
and holidays call 1-800-582-9012.**

g^{eothermal}

It's closer than you realize.

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



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER

'Invisible' light is useful stuff

An English astronomer made an interesting observation in the early 19th century, and we benefit from his perceptiveness today. Sir William Herschel noted the difference between heat and light, using a prism to split sunlight into spectral bands, much as a suncatcher will project "rainbows" on the walls during a sunny day.

As Herschel moved a thermometer through the bands, he saw that the temperature increased as he moved the thermometer from the blue end of the spectrum to the red. Surprisingly, the mercury continued to climb after the thermometer had passed through the red—the last of the visible bands. The higher temperature invisible light came to be known as infrared.

For a long time, there was little use for infrared, but times have changed. Now, rural English towns use infrared to track burglars, and firefighters in the West use infrared detectors to locate smoldering "hot spots" that can't be detected by the naked eye. During Operation Desert Storm, pilots used infrared to locate targets during night missions and in heavy smoke. Astronomers hope to use infrared technology to peek inside distant stars.

The infrared video camera, a fairly recent gadget, is what is being used in an effort to make all these things come to pass. The IR camera takes advantage of the fact that a warm object gives off more radiation than a cool one, and the camera "sorts out" those differences, providing a recognizable image.

Since the human eye responds only to visible light, it may miss the glow of hot ashes in the middle of what looks like a dead fire. It also can't see in the dark. An infrared camera can do both.

Scientists predict that there will be many uses for the emerging technology, including assisting commercial aircraft during landings at night and in foul weather, and night surveillance.

Older infrared technologies have been used for years in the construction and petrochemical industries. They have been used to help detect leaks and stress patterns, control oil pollution and conduct land surveys and medical analyses. Those looking for problems in electrical lines use them to find faults in connections, which show up as darker areas, since they're hotter than their surroundings.

Some energy-efficiency experts use them to de-

tect heat loss from homes, enabling homeowners to determine how better to weatherstrip and insulate, to add comfort and save money on their energy bills.

Such cameras have been either expensive, or they were limited in what they could do. Now, new platinum-silicide cameras should offer a low-cost alternative. Scientists have used them to peer through the interstellar dust and look into distant regions of the universe, and NASA has lobbied long and hard for an infrared space telescope, which astronomers believe will be of fundamental importance for almost all aspects of astronomy.

Closer to home, though, the towns of Halmore, Purton and Hinton in Rural England have installed such cameras on power poles at the edges of their towns, to obtain a record of those who enter and leave. The idea is to snag the occasional urban thief who passes through; as in other places, such problems are on the increase.

An infrared image is essentially a composite picture of the thermal images given off by a scene or person, and represents the internal temperature. While faces will look like faces, they will look very different from those viewed by light in the normal spectrum. Warmer parts, such as eye sockets, will register dark. Cooler parts, such as ears and the nose, will be lighter. Eye and hair coloring are missing.

While such differences cause problems, police viewing the video tapes have a fairly respectable record of success in recognizing perpetrators.

But one problem is that many objects emit similar amounts of infrared "light," giving off little in the way of visual contrast, even through the best of cameras now in existence. A major goal for infrared researchers is to find a way to boost the difference.

But for now, while astronomers dream of a telescope that will enable them to unlock the mysteries of the universe and police view strange images on TV screens and firefighters look for hot spots, the electric industry uses them for practical purposes.

While sniffing out power line flaws and energy leaks is necessary and even important, there's nothing wrong with dreaming of finding out more about the universe around us. Perhaps someday soon such cameras will enable us to do just that!





Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

After hours outage reporting

We have had a few inquiries about our answering service and why consumers are put on hold. Your Cooperative is a member of Cooperative Response Center (CRC) based in Austin, Minnesota. The center has the capabilities and the equipment of answering several calls at one time. In an emergency situation, such as the recent snowstorm that went through the southern part of Illinois and Indiana March 19 and 20, several consumers were put on hold when reporting outages. This was because a widespread area was hit. CRC answered 6,742 calls the morning of March 20th. When a major storm such as this hits a big area, several outages are going to be called in.

CRC not only answers for Clay Electric Cooperative, but for approximately 60 other cooperatives nationwide. When there is a widespread outage, you may have to hold on the line to talk to an operator.

To help speed up outage reporting, please remember these helpful tips:

- Note your account number (found in the lower right hand box of your copy of the last billing stub) and keep it beside your telephone.

- Also, know the exact way your name appears on the stub (example) Robert F. Smith, not Bob Smith.
- Call 1-800-582-9012.
- State your name and account number and reason for calling.

CRC will ask you the following questions:

- Do you have partial power, or a complete loss of power outage?
- Have you checked your fuses or breakers below the meter or in your circuit breaker panel?

This question is asked to save you from being charged if we send a crew and find out that your breakers have tripped.

- Have you checked to see if your neighbors are without power also?
- Do you have an idea what caused the outage (such as fallen tree or a pole that has been hit by a motorist)?

It will only take a minute for you to report your outage if you will have the information ready when you place the call to CRC.

Improve air conditioning cost and comfort

Correctly sizing an air conditioning unit is important. Too large a system will do a poor job of dehumidification and will cost more to purchase and to operate. Too small a system will not cool your home adequately.

Systems are sized to meet peak heating and cooling needs, and units are sized by the "ton," which represents 12,000 Btu of cooling per hour. Factors such as geographical area, building orientation, insulation, windows and doors are considered in sizing the unit.

Air conditioner sizing should never be based merely on an estimate. Methods are available from professional organizations such as ASHRAE (the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc.) and ACCA (the Air Conditioning Contractors of America). Computer software is also available to assist homeowners in sizing their own air conditioning systems.

Air conditioners are rated by their seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) and the sensible heat fraction (SHF). The higher the SEER rating the greater the efficiency. A minimum SEER of 10 is required by the National Appliance Efficiency Standard. The SHF expresses the unit's dehumidification ability. The lower the SHF, the better it dehumidified conditioned air. The suggested maximum SHF is 0.80. Units with a higher rating may not adequately dehumidify some homes.

Finally, join Clay Electric's Switch 'n' Save program. We'll install a FREE radio-controlled switch on the outside unit of your central air conditioner. This switch allows the compressor to be cycled during the hottest summer afternoons. It saves the co-op money and the savings are passed to you.

Phone the Member Service Department for more information.

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held February 19, 1996.

All trustees were present, also present were the Cooperative Attorney and the General Manager.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held January 15, 1996.

Accepted 12 new members for service.

Canceled 10 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 3 members in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of January, 1996.

Adopted the 1996 budget in the form presented.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of November, 1995 in the amount of \$21,575.69 and authorized the Manager to present the same to RUS.

Heard a report by Trustee Cammon regarding recent AIEC meeting.

Heard a report by the manager regarding recent Soyland meeting.

Appointed trustees Dunigan and Cammon as Directors and Trustee Logan as alternate Director on Soyland Board.

Approved one power contract under Rate Schedule 1.

Amended Policy Bulletin 200-3.

Accepted the disbursement

list for the month of January, 1996.

Appointed Trustee Henson as voting delegate and Trustee Logan as alternate delegate for NRECA Annual meeting.

Appointed Trustee Logan as voting delegate and Trustee Henson as alternate delegate for the CFC Annual meeting.

Were **Advised** of upcoming NRECA directors course.

Authorized the President to execute Deferred Compensation Separation Notice to NRECA for the retiring Manager Campbell.

Reviewed RFP's received with no action being taken.

Received information concerning meter tampering.

Adjournment.



Rent a high-pressure sodium security light

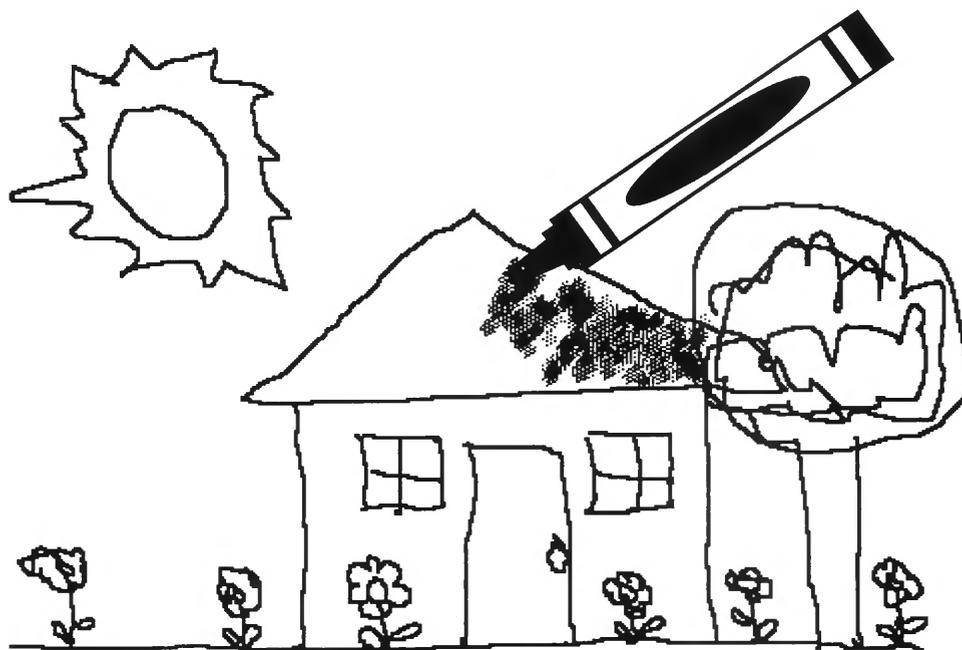
Rent a high-pressure sodium, 100-watt security light from Clay Electric Co-operative for only \$2.50 per month, and protect your home and family.

Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and thefts. Falls and other injuries can also be avoided by lighting dark areas.

For more information, call Clay Electric Co-operative at 618-662-2171 (during regular office hours).

**To report outages after hours,
weekends and holidays call 1-800-582-9012.**

A different color



You may think of your electric cooperative in just one way . . . your power provider. If you haven't checked lately, you may find that it is *more than that now*. We can help you find a better electric rate for your life style, or teach electrical safety to your child. We may improve your heating and cooling system, if you ask. We may help you communicate better, and we work with groups to help bring in businesses and jobs.

Look into your power provider. It may be a co-op of a different color now.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer

Little energy-saving steps add up

There are several steps you can take to save on your electricity bill around your home. Many steps are simple and don't cost much, such as caulking, weatherstripping, and replacing some incandescent light bulbs with fluorescents.

There are some that don't cost anything. Most involve a simple change of habits, a little attention to detail, or spending very little money.

You can save on your overall bill by being careful when you run your appliances. Most Illinois cooperatives are "summer peaking." Their electricity costs more during the hottest times of the day, during the hottest days of the year, than it costs at other times.

With that in mind, you'll know that you shouldn't use heavy appliances such as dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers, and electric ovens in the afternoon hours during hot spells. Try to use such equipment early in the morning or late at night. This will save your co-op money and save you money too.

You can enjoy direct savings on your bills by using appliances wisely. For example, many people keep their refrigerators colder than necessary. The recommended temperatures for the fresh food compartment is 36-38 degrees F., while freezer temperature should be about 5 degrees. If you have a separate freezer for long-term food storage, you should keep it at 0-5 degrees F. (Check with thermometer).

If you have manual-defrost refrigerators or freezers, you need to keep after the frost. As frost builds up, it boosts the amount of energy needed to keep your food cold. A quarter of an inch of frost in your freezer is too much.

Be sure your refrigerator door gaskets are airtight. You can check them by closing them gently on a piece of paper and trying to pull it out. If it slides out easily, you need a new seal, or your latch may need adjustment.

There are a few things you can do in the laundry to save energy by using your automatic washer and dryer less often and more efficiently. Wash full loads rather than "just a few things," and if you do wash half a load, set your washer's control for a partial load, if it enables you to.

And you can wash most clothes in warm water, with a cold rinse. Use hot water only when necessary, using only as much detergent as you need. Follow the directions on the box and avoid

the urge to add "just a little more." Oversudsing makes your machine work harder and takes more energy.

You can save by using a prewash or soak cycle to wash really dirty clothes. You may avoid having to wash them twice.

Fill clothes dryers, but don't overfill. Keep the lint screen clean, removing lint after each load. A plugged filter will make the dryer work harder, and is also a fire hazard.

Dry consecutive loads. Start and stop drying uses more energy because a lot is used to heat the dryer up to working temperature each time you begin.

Separate drying loads into heavy and light-weight items. The lighter ones take less drying time, and the dryer doesn't have to be on as long. Leave small, light items for last, you may be able to dry them after you turn off the heat, using heat retained by the machine from earlier loads.

If your dryer has an automatic dry cycle, use it. It'll stop the dryer as soon as your clothes are ready, without running any more than necessary. And you can save energy twice, if the weather permits, by using a solar-powered clothes dryer, formerly known as a clothesline. Not only will it save you the energy needed to dry the clothes, but it won't add heat to your home, either. Some believe line-dried clothes smell fresher, too.

You can save some energy during ironing by hanging clothes in the bathroom while you're bathing or showering. The steam often eases the wrinkles out for you. It's worth a try.

You can save energy in the bathroom by taking showers rather than baths, but you'll need to be careful. It's easy to enjoy a shower enough that you forget yourself and spend enough time under the spray to use more hot water than you'd use in a regular bath.

It takes about 30 gallons to fill the average tub, and a shower with a flow of three gallons a minute uses only 15 gallons in 15 minutes. If you use half cold and half hot water for bathing, you would save about five gallons of hot water every time you substitute a shower for a bath.

If you're interested in saving money on your electricity bill, you can do it if you're careful. While each of the tips mentioned are little things, they'll add up. Call your cooperative's energy advisor today for more tips on saving money and energy.



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held March 18, 1996.

All Trustees were present, also present were the Cooperative Attorney, The General Manager and Mike Kirk of Leymone Hardcastle and Company Ltd., the cooperatives auditor.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held February 19, 1996 and the minutes of the special meeting held March 4, 1996.

Accepted 8 new members for service.

Canceled 10 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 3 members in bad standing.

Heard a presentation by Mr. Kirk regarding the cooperative audit and following discussion. Accepted the audit as presented and directed the Manager to forward copies to RUS.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of February, 1996.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of January, 1995 in the amount of \$35,674.09 and authorized the Manager to present the same to RUS.

Set the date, time and location for the annual meeting of the members of Clay Electric Coopera-

tive for Thursday, September 5, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. at Charley Brown Park in Flora.

Heard a report by Trustee Cammon regarding recent Soyland meeting.

Approved one power contract under Rate Schedule 15.

Amended Policy Bulletin 300-1.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of February, 1996.

Heard a report by the manager regarding necessary matters covered under the Managers Certification to CFC.

Discussed the Freedom of Information Request of a member and determined no objection would be made to said request.

Were Advised of upcoming NRECA Legislative Conference.

Declined participation in ACRE solicitation, NRECA-RE member group insurance program, Soyland-Informal committee formation and the Town Square Graphics Maps of Flora program.

Nominated the manager as delegate to the upcoming Workers Compensation Group meeting.

Adjournment.

What's a guy to do?

What can you do about a guy wire? You have to mow around it or plow around it. It's always in your way but what good is it?

Guying cables support the structures of the power lines that bring electricity to your home or business. Without guys to hold the weight and strain of the conductor, the lines would sag and the poles would lean. The power distribution system would break down or collapse under adverse weather conditions and would require more frequent and costly repairs.

The placement of each anchor and guy is calculated for your safety. The guys are set in precisely the correct positions to hold the strain of the power line.

You can help guy wires on your property do their job by:

- * Not hitting or scraping the cable or anchor with mowers, plows or other equipment.
- * Not allowing children to play on the cable or remove the bolts.
- * Not storing straw, hay, compost or other moisture-attracting materials near the anchor.
- * Not stacking or moving sharp-edged scrap metal, sheet metal or pipe around the cable.

Even though you're on vacation... your appliances continue to work.

Even though you may be gone for several days or even weeks, your home probably is still using energy. In fact, you may wonder why your bill isn't considerably lower because you were away. Here are some of the possible reasons:

Usage period.

The days you were away on vacation may have occurred during two billing periods, so any decrease in energy usage would be split between two bills.

Weather.

During the hot summer months, you may have made greater use of your air conditioner both before and after vacation.

Billing period.

Always look carefully at your bill to see exactly what days the billing period included.

Major appliances.

Your water heater operates while you are away. Your refrigerator and freezer still run. These appliances are relatively large energy users.

Before you leave, plan to take steps that will reduce your home's energy consumption while you enjoy your vacation.

- * **Turn off (or down) the thermostat on your water heater.**
- * **Turn off your air conditioner or set the thermostat at a higher temperature.**
- * **Keep indoor and outdoor lighting to a level of security which you consider adequate.**
- * **Use timers to turn lights on and off; save money and increase security.**



Mark your calendars
Annual meeting of members of
Clay Electric Cooperative
Thursday, September 5, 1996-
Charlie Brown Park-Flora

**To report outages after hours,
weekends and holidays call
1-800-582-9012.**

.....
Getting the job done

TOGETHER

Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Not far from the Mississippi River in western Illinois, there's a new subdivi-

sion in which all of the houses are heated and cooled by geothermal systems. The geothermal system's underground liquid-filled loops carry energy from within the soil, a method four times more efficient than fossil-fuel systems. The local electric cooperative played a big role in getting this low-cost heating and cooling system installed throughout the subdivision. All around Illinois, electric cooperatives are encouraging their members to install a geothermal system because it is the leader in safety, comfort and economy.

The geothermal system improves the quality of life for members, something that electric cooperatives have been doing for more than five decades. They are working in all kinds of ways to make life better in rural areas. It's a job that's far from over, and it takes people working together to accomplish it. *There's a word for this. Cooperation.*



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois

Odd weather may bring danger, outages, spikes

The weather this year has been unusual, to say the least. We've had flooding, tornadoes, hail, and cold and warm spells far in excess of those we normally have had in the past, and we've had an abundance of rain and lightning and thunderstorms, too.

Whatever the case, it is obvious that last fall, this past winter, this spring and whatever the summer will bring involves weather patterns we aren't accustomed to.

We are now in the middle of the tornado season, with all the hazards that it brings, so a few tornado pointers are in order.

Seek shelter — Seek inside shelter if possible. If you're in the open, move away from a tornado's path at a right angle. If there's no time to escape, lie flat in the nearest depression.

In office buildings — The basement or an interior hallway on a lower floor is safest. Upper stories are unsafe. If there's no time to go downstairs, find a closet or small room with stout walls, or an inside hallway. If you can't do better, lie down under a piece of heavy furniture.

In homes with basements — Seek refuge near the basement wall in the most sheltered place.

In homes without basements — Take cover in the smallest room with stout walls, or under heavy furniture, a tipped-over upholstered couch or chair in the center of the house. The first floor is safer than upper floors.

Mobile homes — Mobile homes are especially vulnerable to overturning and destruction during high winds, and should be abandoned in favor of a preselected shelter, or even a ditch in the open. You can minimize the damage of future tornado damage by securing the trailer with cable anchored in concrete footing.

In large buildings — These buildings, with their wide, free-span roofs, should have preselected, marked shelter areas in their basements, smaller rooms, or nearby. Seek shelter there, if possible.

Lightning is dangerous to be out in, and it's bad for electrical appliances and electronic devices. There is always a danger that lightning may hit a line and run through it into a service entrance, perhaps damaging delicate electronics or motors.

There are "surge protection" devices to guard against that possibility, and you may be wise to

look into the possibility of buying one. Several electric cooperatives in Illinois sell and install them.

Even with whole-house protection, you're still wise to use separate outlet protectors for especially sensitive equipment, such as computers. Don't forget to protect incoming phone lines, too.

Our unusual weather may bring other safety problems we will have to deal with thoughtfully, too. With tornadoes, high winds, soggy ground and other elements in the mix, there may be more downed power lines around than there have been in the past. Remember: Downed lines are dangerous! If you see one, don't try to do anything with it. Call your local electric cooperative. They have specially trained crews to deal with such things.

And we may be faced with longer-than-average power outages. High winds and tornadoes often tangle trees and limbs in lines, resulting in a cleanup nightmare. Repair entails a lot of painstaking work, and that sometimes means long-term outages. With the weather the way it's been lately, you might be wise to be prepared for a spell without electricity. Fortunately, most summer outages aren't life-threatening, like winter outages might be without a running furnace.

Still, you need to be prepared for at least some inconvenience. You can make the next outage more bearable if you keep the following on hand and easy to get to:

- Something to provide light—flashlights and extra batteries, lanterns or candles.
- Extra fuel for lanterns, or batteries for electric lamps
- Canned meats and juices, powdered milk, cereals
- Jugs of water
- Battery-powered radio
- Windup alarm clock

It's also a good idea to keep your co-op's telephone number handy, as well as your map location number.

If you begin to worry about your frozen foods, you might look for a source of dry ice. They're often listed in the Yellow Pages under "Ice."

If you take a few simple precautions, you may be able to spare yourself some grief during the strange weather we've been having.





Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting held April 15, 1996.

All Trustees were present, also present were Cooperative Attorney Todd, and General Manager Wattles.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held March 18, 1996.

Accepted 10 new members for service.

Canceled 4 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 2 members in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of March, 1996 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of February, 1996 in the amount of \$2,554.78 and authorized Manager Wattles to present the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Heard a report by Trustee Cammon regarding recent AIEC meeting.

Heard a report by Manager Wattles regarding recent Soyland meetings.

Approved insurance quote from Federated Insurance Co.

Tabled action on two Rate Schedule 15 contracts.

Approved one minimum rate contract pursuant to cooperative policy.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of March, 1996.

Approved a refund of Capital Credits to the estate of deceased member Bernadine Kuenstler pursuant to cooperative policy.

Authorized manager Wattles to prepare a policy and to offer Budget Billing to the members.

Were **Notified** that the current phone system is obsolete and cannot be repaired again if damaged, **Approved** purchase of phone system from ITA.

Adjournment.

Board of Trustees Special Meeting

Minutes of Board of Trustees Special Meeting held April 4, 1996.

All Trustees were present along with Cooperative Attorney Todd and Manager Wattles.

Attending the special meeting were representatives from

Edgar Electric Cooperative.

Heard a presentation from Edgar Electric Representatives concerning a proposed merger.

After discussion, following Edgar proposal, the Board **Authorized** Manager Wattles to inform Edgar Electric in writing

that Clay Electric is not interested at this time in a merger.

Authorized Manager Wattles to sell stale inventory.

Approved payment of expenses for NRECA annual meeting.

Adjournment.



To report outages after hours,
weekends and holidays call
1-800-582-9012.

Mark your calendar...

**Annual meeting of members of Clay Electric Cooperative
Thursday, September 5, 1996 — Charlie Brown Park-Flora**



Xenia woman is versatile artist

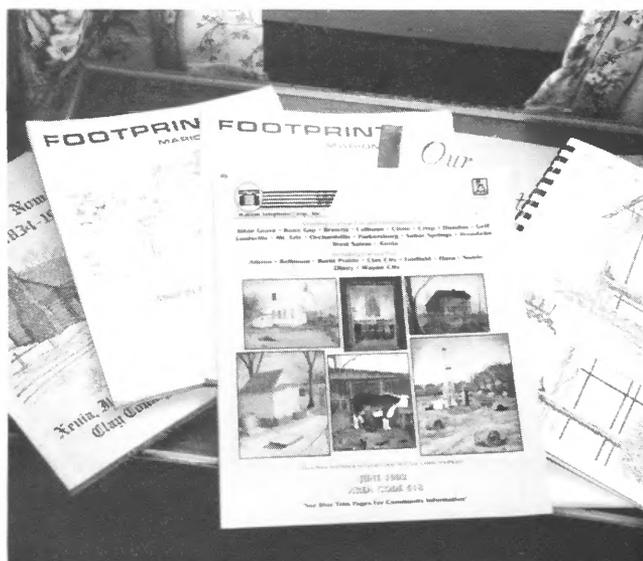
Just about any artist worthy of the name can display a certain amount of versatility. Frances Oliver of rural Xenia is like that and then some: She not only works in a wide range of media, but she does them very well. And it's not surprising: She's been at it since childhood.

"I can remember when I was just a little thing," she says with a chuckle, "and I'd ask my mother to draw something for me. She'd draw me a pig with a triangle for a head, an elongated body, crosses for legs and a curly tail.

"I just love to draw," she continues, "and I always have. I can remember sitting for hours, just copying cartoons out of the comic pages. I got so I could draw Dagwood and Blondie better than their creator could, I think. I always wanted to improve on my mother's pig drawing, and I think I've done that."

She notes on her business card that she's a fine and graphic artist, and that she does pen and ink, scratchboard, oils, watercolors and pastels, including cartoons and "chalk talk" pieces. Chalk talk, incidentally, refers to an art form that involves using colored chalks to illustrate a theme, and is done as a song is sung or played, or while a person is speaking.

"It's not as common an art form as it used to be," she says, "but I enjoy doing it, and it's really



At left, Frances displays a scratchboard. Above is a sample of some book covers she's done.

popular with a lot of my older audiences. I give chalk talk presentations at churches and senior citizens' homes, primarily. It lends itself well to illustrations of hymns and the like. For example, when the hymn 'The Old Rugged Cross' is playing, I'll chalk out a quick cross. Easter and Christmas themes are good, too"

In addition, she sews, decorates cakes and makes braided rugs.

In her spare time, she gives demonstrations to groups interested in learning the various arts.

"I like both art and history," she says, "and you can see that in a lot of my works. And I also do quite a bit of work for the historical and genealogical societies I belong to. I've done the covers for my genealogical society publications and several others. I did a cover not too long ago for Wabash Telephone Coop.'s telephone directory."

She remarks that she has done the cover for "Footprints," the quarterly publication of the Marion County Genealogical and Historical Society, for more than 15 years, and has received some recognition for that. "I was really pleased when the state organization recognized my work," she says.

She was one of the artists chosen to have her works displayed and sold at the opening of the Southern Illinois Art Marketplace at Rend Lake when that facility opened, and she has several displays she'll take to shows.

"I also had three pieces accepted for a traveling exhibit through Southern Illinois. It was put on by the Rural Arts Council in Fairfield, and it just finished up," she says.

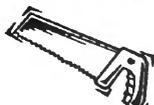
Anyone interested in talking art or art purchases with Mrs. Oliver can reach her at Rte. 2, Iuka, Illinois 62849. Her phone number is (618) 678-4115.



Tree-mendous advice

Trees mix well with kids and cookouts and summer afternoons.

They DON'T mix with power lines.  Trees can interfere with electric service. More dangerously, they pose a threat when youngsters climb in branches near power lines.

Your electric cooperative routinely inspects its miles of line each year to make sure they are clear of brush and branches.  Trimming is necessary, but our crews try to keep the trees attractive as they work.

You can help, too. The best time to avoid the problem is when you plant. Make sure your growing tree will stay clear of power lines. Proper pruning of young trees controls their branch growth.

Plant wisely.  You'll enjoy the pleasure of trees and the reliable convenience of electricity.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer

Miscellaneous energy-saving tips for summer

While your friends at the local electric co-op want you to use all the electricity you need, they want you to use it wisely, too, so you won't "break the bank."

We've stressed several times here that most energy used in homes, by far, is used for heating and cooling, and wise heating and cooling will save you the most money with the least amount of effort: All you need to do is to raise your thermostat setting in the summertime, or lower it during the heating season.

After heating and cooling—or "comfort conditioning, as it's sometimes known—the next two biggest users of electricity in most homes are water heating (15 percent) and refrigerators and freezers (also 15 percent).

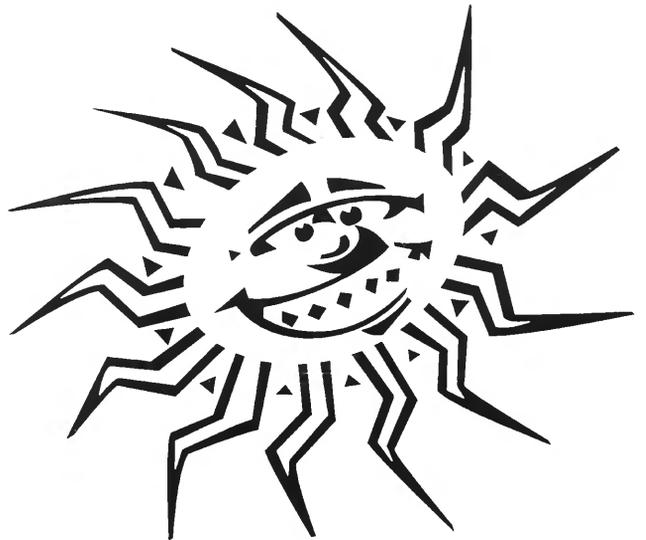
Some 24 percent goes into lighting, cooking and running other appliances. Obviously, you'll find the biggest savings in the higher-use categories. In addition to changing your thermostat, the addition of insulation and/or weatherstripping can help you save a lot on both heating and cooling, and you can often do some of the work yourself, using fairly inexpensive materials.

With summer fully here now after what may well have been the weirdest winter and spring in memory, you may want to think about paying some attention to your air conditioning system. Keep your cooling system well tuned, and see that it gets periodic maintenance by a professional serviceman. This isn't something you need to do every year, but if it's been a while since anyone's had a look at the machine's innards, you may want to call a serviceman.

It helps a unit run cooler if you plant trees or shrubs close by the outside unit, to shade it. Don't plant them so close that they'll shed leaves in the machinery and get in a repairman's way. A few well-placed shrubs will increase efficiency by as much as 10 percent.

But there are many simple no-cost steps you can use to save a little money, and they just involve a change of habits. It's old advice, but we tend to forget: Shut off the lights in an unused room. While that won't make you rich, it'll help a little, and it doesn't cost anything.

Many of us tend to leave TV sets on all the time, in the forlorn hope that something worth



watching is bound to come on eventually. A good-sized color TV draws a fair amount of current. You can save a little money by shutting yours off when you're not specifically watching a program you want to see.

A common energy waster that many people overlook is the bathroom ventilation fan. You need to run that little rascal for a few minutes after bathing or showering, but it's hard to remember to shut it off after it has done its job. If you can get into the habit of flipping that switch off after a 10-minute run time, you can often save on two counts: the energy used by the fan motor, and the energy used to heat or cool the air it exhausts.

Since much of the energy used in doing laundry goes to heat water, you can save a little by changing to cooler washes and rinses, whenever possible. And, of course, you may want to keep after faucet washers, wherever they are. It seems to be a natural law that the first faucet to leak will be the hot water one, and that wastes both water and heat.

If you are one of those fortunate folks who live in the country, you may have more to worry about than your town and suburban cousins, because you're far more likely to have your own well. That may include a pressure tank, which has a tendency to get "waterlogged" as time goes by, causing your pump to run more than necessary. Be sure to keep after that, too.



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held May 20, 1996.

All Trustees were present, with the exception of Trustee Poehler, also present were Co-operative Attorney Todd, and General Manager Wattles.

Approved the minutes of the special meeting held April 4, 1996 and the regular meeting held April 15, 1996.

Accepted 17 new members for service.

Canceled 10 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 3 members in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of April, 1996 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of March,

1996 in the amount of \$689.35 and authorized Manager Wattles to present the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Heard a report by Manager Wattles regarding recent Soyland meetings.

Heard a report by Trustee Cammon regarding recent AIEC meetings.

Resolved that the officers of the Cooperative sign RUS form # 675 in the form presented to this meeting.

Approved a new Rate Schedule 15 in the form presented to this meeting.

Approved two contracts for Rate Schedule 15.

Directed Manager Wattles to respond to a cooperative

member regarding request for information.

Were Advised by the Co-operative auditor's that all accounts were in order.

Were Advised by Manager Wattles that NRECA will lift the moratorium on contribution to retirement on October 1, 1996.

Were Advised by Manager Wattles of upcoming Soyland meetings and

Designated all members of the Board of Trustees as delegates to the meetings.

Discussed personnel.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of April, 1996.

Adjournment.

**To report outages after hours,
weekends and holidays call
1-800-582-9012.**

**Mark your calendars
Annual meeting of members of
Clay Electric Cooperative
Thursday, September 5, 1996.
Charlie Brown Park, Flora**

Lightning Surge Protector

Ask most people what causes a power surge and they'll say, "lightning." But a surge can also be caused by road accidents involving utility poles, by your air conditioner starting up on a hot summer day, or even by birds and squirrels shorting out a line. Power surges aren't always noticeable but they can quickly damage your valuable electronics and appliances.

We are offering a selection of products designed to provide "Total Home Protection" from surge damage.

Either a Meter Socket Adapter (MSA) or a Universal Surge Suppressor (USP) is used to protect standard equipment such as a washer, dryer or refrigerator.

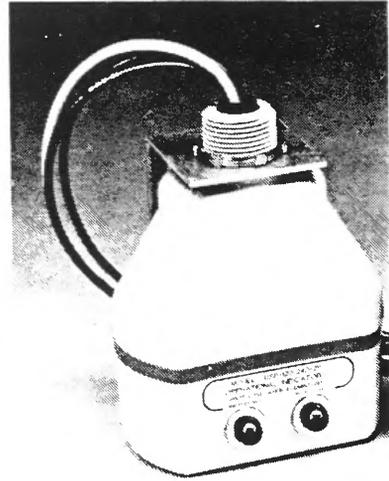
Plug-in surge suppressors called Transient Tamers (TTs) are designed to plug into your individually grounded (three-prong) outlets. These suppressors will protect a variety of electronics including those with sensitive silicon chips such as your television, VCR or home computer.

Electronics can be damaged by a single surge of electricity or by electronic rust (the wearing down of electronic equipment exposed to repeated and usually unnoticed surges).

While the technology does not exist that can prevent damage from a direct lightning strike, L.E.A. DYNATECH products can help protect your

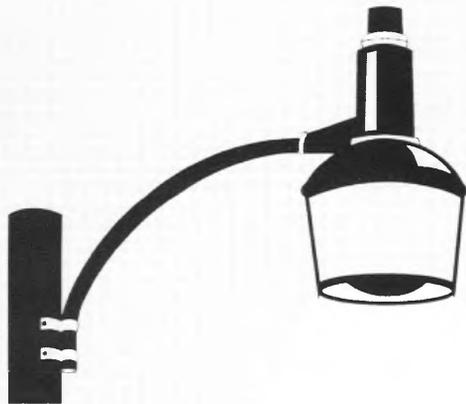
home electronics from most serious power surges.

L.E.A. DYNATECH products are protected by 10 year and lifetime manufacturer's warranties. The manufacturer also offers a consequential



damages plan. The plan provides coverage of up to \$5,000 per equipment failure, a \$2 million per residence for equipment damage due to failure of a product.

For more information, or to purchase these Surge Protectors from your Cooperative just call 618-662-2171 and ask for member services.



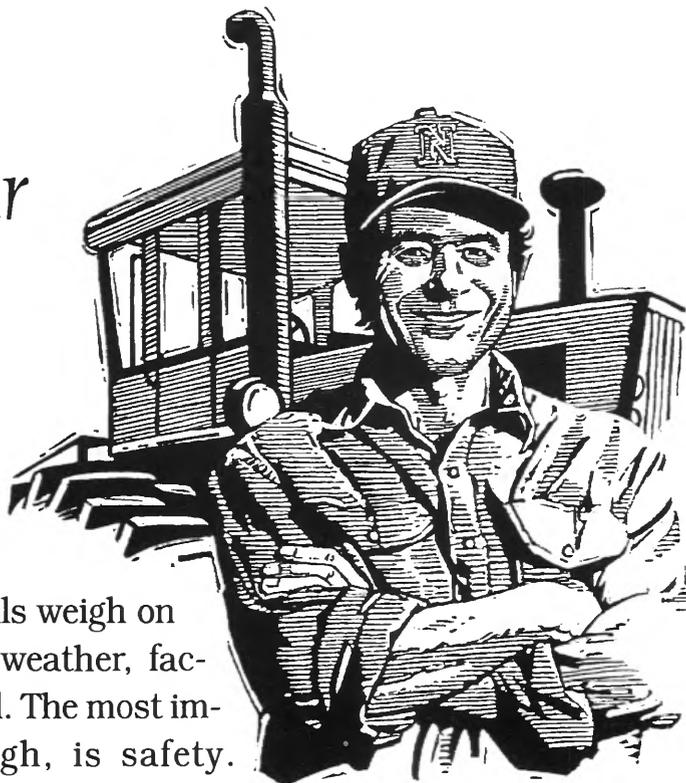
Rent a high-pressure sodium security light

Rent a high-pressure sodium, 150-watt security light from Clay Electric Co-operative for only \$2.50 per month, and protect your home and family.

Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and thefts. Falls and other injuries can also be avoided by lighting dark areas.

For more information, call Clay Electric Co-operative at 618-662-2171 (during regular office hours).

*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.*



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer

Safety with electrical outlets

We all know that electricity is wonderful stuff. Good things happen when we flip a switch. Lights beat back the darkness, warmth replaces the cold, dishes and clothes get washed and dried, TV sets come on, and water flows in and out of our house in an orderly fashion.

But there's a dark side to electricity, too. It's a lot like controlled lightning, and when it gets out of control, it can add a whole new meaning to the phrase, "Reach out and zap someone."

What follows is a description of a few gadgets that will help you keep the "electric genie" in the bottle until you need it. Installing one or more of them will make your home at least a little safer, and maybe a lot safer.

The first gadget costs very little, and you can install it yourself in minutes. It's designed primarily to protect those toddlers who seem determined to plumb the depths of all electrical outlets, using a bobby pin or paper clip. There are plastic outlet covers that simply plug into an unused receptacle. They're easy to remove when you need to plug in an appliance. Look for them in the electrical section of your department store or in a building supply place. A package of a dozen will set you back less than two dollars. Put one in each outlet a toddler is even remotely capable of reaching.

After those little gadgets, things get a bit more expensive, but the simplicity is, for the most part, still there. There are several different kinds of ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), and they're real miracle workers. Essentially, they sense a problem in a circuit and shut it off before enough current gets through to cause injury. While it definitely isn't something you'd want to try at home, a demonstrator of the devices has plugged in a hair dryer and plunged it into a sink. Before GFCIs, such dunkings were almost always fatal.

Again, GFCIs are not intended to enable you to do dangerous things. They're intended to provide a big margin of safety when you accidentally

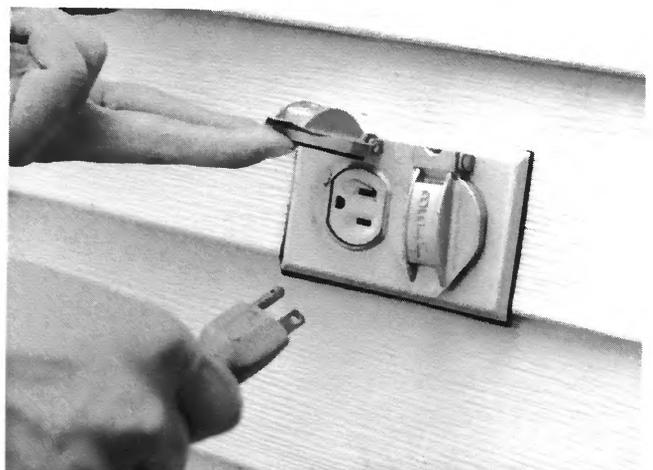


do something hazardous. Incidentally, building codes today require the installation of GFCI-protected circuits in kitchens, bathrooms and in outdoor receptacles. The ones we're discussing are useful in homes built without them. There are several different kinds, and you'd be wise to check out the possibility of using one outdoors or any-

place where water and electricity are likely to mix, such as in kitchens and bathrooms. You can buy a portable GFCI, which plugs into an outlet, and into which you then plug lights or appliances. They're simple to use and inexpensive. Once they "trip," and save your bacon, you need to correct the problem, then press the little "reset" button they have, and you're ready to be protected again.

Another GFCI is built into the end of an extension cord, and is useful when using power tools and the like. They're especially handy when you're working outside. Yet another kind of GFCI is built into the receptacles in the walls, and would be a wise addition to any home. They can be wired to protect just one outlet, or an outlet and all the ones further down the circuit. Be sure to have them installed by a qualified electrician.

A circuit breaker GFCI can be installed in your breaker box, and will protect all the outlets on that circuit. Again, you'd be wise to have an electrician do the installation. Outlets in newer homes should be protected, but homes built before the code change are likely to have no protection at all. Be sure to check out one of the above forms of GFCIs. The portable ones should be cheapest and easiest to use, but less convenient in the long run. Whatever you do, try to get some protection on your kitchen and bathroom as soon as possible!





Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting held April 15, 1996.

All Trustees were present, with the exception of Trustee Rudolphi, also present were Co-operative Attorney Todd, and General Manager Wattles.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held May 20, 1996.

Accepted 18 new members for service.

Canceled 8 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 3 members in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of May, 1996 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of April, 1996 in the amount of \$30,565.66 and authorized Manager Wattles to

present the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Heard reports regarding recent Soyland meetings.

Approved participation in the CFC Integrity Fund

Appointed Trustee Henson as voting representative and Trustee Cammon as alternate to NRECA, Trustee Cammon as voting representative and Trustee Henson as alternate to AIEC, Trustee Cammon as Director and Trustee Henson as Alternate Director to AIEC for two-year terms, Trustee Burkett as Director Designee and Trustee Henson as Voting Delegates to Illinois Statewide Power Cooperative.

Were **Advised** of upcoming NRECA Region 5 meeting.

Approved a refund of Capital Credits to the estate of deceased member Erbin Steele pursuant to

cooperative policy.

Approved Agreement for Purchase of Power Contract-raised minimum as presented to this meeting.

Comprised list of nominating committee members for Districts IV, V and VII.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of May, 1996.

Reviewed data processing proposals.

Resolved that the next regular meeting of the Board be held on July 22, 1996.

Approved a donation for 4-H plaques at the Clay County Fair.

Discussed correspondence from a cooperative member.

Heard a report by Manager Wattles regarding negotiations with IBEW.

Adjournment.

Improve air conditioning cost and comfort

Correctly sizing an air conditioning unit is important. Too large a system will do a poor job of dehumidification and will cost more to purchase and to operate. Too small a system will not cool your home adequately.

Systems are sized to meet peak heating and cooling needs, and units are sized by the "ton," which represents 12,000 Btu of cooling per hour. Factors such as geographical area, building orientation, insulation, windows and doors are considered in sizing the unit.

Air conditioner sizing should never be based merely on an estimate. Methods are available from

professional organizations such as ASHRAE (the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc.) and ACCA (the Air Conditioning Contractors of America). Computer software is also available to assist homeowners in sizing their own air conditioning systems.

Air conditioners are rated by their seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) and the sensible heat fraction (SHF). The higher the SEER rating the greater the efficiency. A minimum SEER of 10 is required by the National Appliance Efficiency Standard. The SHF expresses the unit's dehumidification ability. The

lower the SHF, the better it dehumidified conditioned air. The suggested maximum SHF is 0.80. Units with a higher rating may not adequately dehumidify some homes.

Finally, join Clay Electric's Switch 'n' Save program. We'll install a FREE radio-controlled switch on the outside unit of your central air conditioner. This switch allows the compressor to be cycled during the hottest summer afternoons. It saves the co-op money and the savings are passed to you.

Phone the Member Service Department for more information.



Three represent Clay Electric on Washington tour

The students who represented Clay Electric Co-operative on the 1996 "Youth to Washington" Tour met Congressman Glen Poshard on Capitol Hill. They were among 70 rural youth leaders and their chaperones from downstate Illinois who toured the nation's capital, June 14-21. A special treat for the group was a visit to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. The annual trip is sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois. From left are Jo Poshard and her husband, Congressman Poshard, Miles Warren of Clay City, Nikki Frost of Louisville, Darla Kuhl of Newton, Marsha and Doug Hockman of Flora, chaperones from Clay Electric. The trip's agenda included stops at many of the capital's monuments and memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian museums, the National Cathedral, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the U.S. Supreme Court. The group also attended a performance at Ford's Theater and cruised on the Potomac River. The tour began with a visit to the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg, PA.

Some other highlights involving the Clay Electric delegation are pictured on this page.



In the photo at left, the group pauses for a snapshot at Gettysburg. At right, a visit to the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, or CFC, was on the agenda. Nikki Frost of Louisville is second from right.

ANNUAL MEETING

of members of
Clay Electric Cooperative
Thursday, September 5, 1996
Charley Brown Park - Flora



Meal and registration begins at 6:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
 Registered members have a chance to win a bar-b-que grill and other fine prizes

The answer: a garage, a bush, and a dog.

The question is, "What kind of things stand between your electric meter and accurate billing?"

Your electric cooperative's meter readers need easy access to your meter so that your billing will be correct. Sometimes, the reader will find that a



garage has been added to a home and the meter is now locked indoors.



grown into a big obstacle right in front of the meter.



Then there's the family dog who's left outside to protect the property.

It not only makes the meter reader's job difficult, but it can make it dangerous, too. Take a moment to check your meter. If you can't get to it, neither can we. If you have questions or need to make arrangements for our access, just call.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer

Fuses, breakers and electrical safety

Probably every house built since the advent of electrical service has had some kind of circuit-overload protection built into its wiring system.

Years ago, fuses were used, and there was a separate one for each circuit. Builders who wanted to "cut corners" could do it easily by cutting back on the number of circuits they provided. Unfortunately, many took advantage of that option, and there are thousands of houses all over the country still grossly under-wired.



Fuses such as these are no longer in widespread use, having been replaced by breakers.

Such a house will give its owner endless headaches in the form of blown fuses and frustrations. Often, a person who wants to plug in a toaster will need to shut off a couple of lamps or unplug a refrigerator or TV set to keep from blowing a fuse. Most of those houses were built years ago, when a radio was the primary form of entertainment, and when a refrigerator was, in all likelihood, the only electric kitchen appliance. Clothes were dried outside on a clothesline. It didn't take many circuits to serve such a house.

Now, we have TV sets—often several in a house—microwave ovens, VCRs, toasters, electric skillets, automatic bread makers, and any number of other gadgets that we enjoy so much.

Now that we all tend to enjoy all those things, many of us have problems with our electricity. Fuses and circuit breakers are designed to protect us from the dangers of short circuits and overloads.

You might think of a fuse as a form of safety valve that pops off when something's wrong. A fuse is intended to be the weakest link in your home's wiring system. If you get an overload and something overheats, any damage that's going to be done will take place in the safety of your fusebox, and will be done to the fuse itself, as it is sacrificed to save the house.

When fuses blow frequently, there is always the

temptation to "outsmart" them by using a higher-ampere fuse than what the circuit was designed for. Don't try it! That just moves the danger spot out of your fusebox and into your wiring system, where it may cause a fire. Using a coin or piece of foil to bypass the fuse will do the same thing.

A stopgap measure to keep fuses from blowing is to use fewer electrical devices, but that's just treating the symptoms. If you have persistent electrical problems, your best bet in the long run is to call a qualified electrician and have him rewire your home, or at least add some circuits.

Make sure he knows what kind of appliances and lights you have and how many of them you're likely to use at one time. And remember that if you're like most of us, you have far more electrical goodies than you had a decade ago, and you'll probably add a few more in the future. There are a few shortcuts an electrician can take advantage of to make your wiring job cheaper, but there's one thing you should insist on. Tell him you want the



Breakers such as these are more convenient than fuses: if they trip often, you still have problems.

job done "to code." He'll know what you're talking about. The National Electrical Code was developed over the years to set standards for safe electrical wiring, and to prevent the construction of houses with just one or two circuits. A house wired to code will have at least the minimum number of circuits to do the job right.

While we've discussed fuses here, they have been replaced to a large extent by circuit breakers. They operate much like fuses, but they aren't destroyed by an overload problem. If a breaker "trips," you can go to the breaker box, reset the breaker, and you're back in business.

Even so, breakers that trip frequently are a sign of problems that need to be cured. You need to avoid an overload, or have an electrician find the short circuit that's causing your breakers to trip. And don't forget to insist that any work be up to code. It's a definite safety necessity, not a luxury.



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

CO-OP PEOPLE

CO-OPS OFFER A SPECIAL KIND OF SERVICE

by Glenn English

Cyberspace . . . infrastructure . . . fiberoptics. Today's highly technical world is being defined by words that couldn't be found in the dictionary just a few years, and even months, ago. The electric utility industry, along with other businesses and industries throughout America, is re-defining itself with these terms and many more in order to keep pace with the rapidly changing and highly competitive environment in which we must operate.

No matter what the future brings, electric co-ops are working hard to meet the challenges of fast-paced changes to their industry. However, your electric cooperative has one characteristic, not shared by other electric utilities that will help it meet those challenges. It is locally owned and operated by the people it serves. That means conducting business the cooperative way by a locally elected board and an annual meeting where policy is set forth and voted on by the member-owners. It's the "people" part—the personal involvement, the grassroots activities—that characterizes what electric co-ops are all about.

Because electric co-ops are so closely linked to their communities, there are countless examples of activities



**Chief Executive Officer
National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

that have the "co-op touch." Conducting safety programs at schools and at the local library, helping elderly citizens repair their homes, sponsoring local fairs, working with community organizations to get new businesses or new housing started,

participating with civic groups in developing and improving health-care and crime-watch programs, contributing computers or satellite dishes to schools, community colleges and the local hospitals—the list goes on and on.

Why would an electric utility be involved in these kinds of activities? Because cooperatives, since their very beginnings, have always played an important role in their communities. Service means not only making sure the electricity is flowing but also making sure that the community and its citizens are thriving and prospering. Service means helping friends, neighbors and business colleagues on Main Street and nearby, the people you see on a day-to-day basis. Service means reaching toward new horizons to make life better for everyone.

Every October, cooperatives of every kind celebrate "Cooperative Month." Their common bond is conducting business the cooperative way. For electric co-ops, that means continuing their proud record of service to 30 million people all across the nation and a commitment to continue expanding their horizons every way they can.



Minutes of board of trustees meeting held July 22, 1996

All Trustees were present, also present were Cooperative Attorney Todd, and General Manager Wattles.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held June 17, 1996.

Accepted 16 new members for service.

Canceled 17 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 3 members in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of June, 1996 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of April, 1996 in the amount of \$9,583.01 and authorized Manager Wattles to present the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Heard reports regarding recent Soyland meetings.

Heard reports of recent AIEC meetings.

Discussed upcoming AIEC

Annual meeting.

Approved labor contract as presented to this meeting.

Resolved that the Board of Directors of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. authorize the adoption of an amendment to its Retirement and Security Program effective August 1, 1996.

Authorized an amendment to the NRECA SelectRE Pension Plan effective July 1, 1996.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of June, 1996.

Adjournment.

Are you ready for the harvest season?

This is the time of year when the concerns of farming weigh heavily on your mind, and you start getting in the crops you've worked all the last year to produce. Before you actually need your crop dryer to work, check it over to make sure it's going to work properly. Take a few minutes now and check out the following points. You may save hours or even days of precious time, when you have a lot of things on your mind and little time to spend on them.

First, inspect all wiring and panels for worn insulation, loose connections and worn-out circuit breakers. Also, check to be sure grounding wires are properly connected and not broken.

Make sure all guards, shields and overcurrent devices are properly installed and secured, and check for worn bearings, pulleys, gear boxes, belts, and shafts. Pay special attention to excess play in motor bearings. Bad bearings can ruin a motor, fast.

Lubricate all equipment before you start it. If you're not sure of where to lube or what type of oil or grease to use, consult your equipment dealer.

Test the equipment. Run through a complete drying cycle to see that all timers and switches operate properly. Let the motors run for several minutes to heat and distribute the new lubricant. Start the dryer at least twice to be sure the starting capacitors perform perfectly.

If you have added motors, be sure to check with Clay Electric's engineering department to make sure the electrical service is adequate to handle the additional load.

And keep in mind that the harvest season is full of hazards just waiting to nail a tired, unwary farmer. You're bound to be hauling your grain somewhere, and you're very likely to be in a hurry. You may be using "that old truck" that you never use any other time, or the dis-

used tractor that you use only to pull the grain wagons. Give them a looking over, too.

Your combine will need the usual inspection. Aside from lubrication, belts and hoses and so on, make sure it's running lights are going, too. And while you're in your fields, remember that combines are bigger than they used to be. **Keep an eye out for guy wires and power lines that may pose a threat.** Remember that most power lines run down property lines, but some don't. You need to be alert at all times, especially if you're using a new combine that may be bigger than the one you're used to. The lines to your grain bins may be a hazard, too.

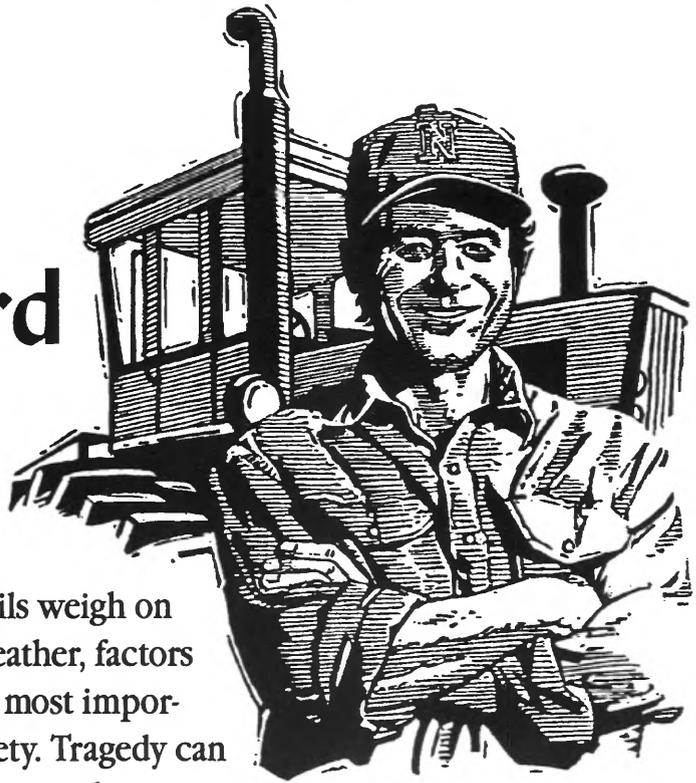
And then there's the auger. It's amazing how long they've become and how high they'll reach. Be especially careful with them near power lines. They're good conductors, and can be very dangerous. Don't move one without looking at where you'll be moving it to!



**To report outages after hours,
weekends and holidays call
1-800-582-9012.**



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.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer

Head off infiltration before winter hits

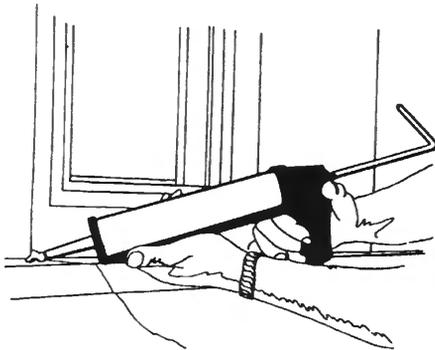
Fall is here, with the turning leaves, shorter days, cooler weather and gentle breezes. For those who enjoy the change of seasons, fall can be a wonderful time. As for the rest of us, we know that winter is nipping at the heels of fall even now, and the cool breezes will be replaced by wintry blasts seemingly straight off the North Pole.

It's true, as we've said here many times, that tightening up your house will save you money all year 'round. But a snug home seems to be more comfortable when the temperature's down in the single digits and the wind's seeking out the little nooks and crannies in the walls of your house. No matter what the time of year, some caulking and weatherstripping will help reduce air infiltration, one of the biggest sources of energy waste.

If your windows leak air around the edges of the window, inside the frame, you can minimize the infiltration by putting in a shrink-fit film on the inside. While it looks difficult, it really isn't. You can buy kits at hardware and home-supply stores, and they usually include double-sided tape and enough film to do one or two windows. They come in different sizes, so you'll need to know how big your windows are. The kits are generic, so you may need to buy a larger film than you actually need and cut it to fit with scissors. One of the hardest parts of this little chore is peeling the backing off the double-sided tape.

After you get the tape up and the plastic cut to size, you apply the film, carefully, and press it against the tape, which you've put around the window frame and peeled the backing off of, naturally! If it's not perfect, you're still okay. You can shrink it to fit with a hair dryer.

No matter how snugly they're built, some homes have problems with infiltration that require somewhat more effort. Weatherstripping may be your next step, and is probably the next simplest up the line of things to do. It involves the use of materials to seal cracks that are supposed to be there,



but that aren't supposed to leak. This includes doors and windows, and weatherstripping should fill those gaps so the window or door can be opened and closed as needed, but air is kept out when it's closed.

There are all kinds of weatherstripping materials on the market, and cost varies considerably. These materials also vary in ease of installation and the quality of the job they do. Look for them in the "insulation" or "weatherization" section of your local home improvement place, and look for good, understandable instructions on the package. And if you're at all unhandy, talk to someone in the store and have them clear up any misunderstandings you have about installing the stuff. They'll be glad to help you. That's what they're there for. Be sure to ask how long you can expect the different materials to last. Usually the ones that cost the most and/or are the most difficult to install tend to last longest.

Caulking is intended to seal cracks that seem to grow between different kinds of construction materials. These cracks

are partly due to settling during the aging process, and partly because different materials expand and contract differently as the temperature changes. As a general rule, caulking should be applied wherever two different materials or parts of the house meet.

Caulking materials, for the most part, come in disposable tubes, and are applied with an inexpensive caulking gun. Since it's as easy to apply a high-quality compound, it makes good sense to use the best caulk you can.

Oil or resin-based caulks are inexpensive, last from one to seven years, and adhere fairly well. They're the least expensive of the caulking materials. Latex, polyvinyl and butyl rubber are better. They adhere better and last two to 10 years, but they're somewhat more expensive. The silicone, polysulfides and polyurethanes are better yet, with excellent adhesion and a 20-year life expectancy. They're more expensive than the other types, too.

You can apply caulking with a few low-cost tools and a little practice. When you load your caulking gun, cut the tube open with a sharp knife at a 45-degree angle near the end of the tapered portion. The ability to lay a nice, uniform bead comes with a little practice. Be sure to scrape away the old materials and clean the surfaces, before you start caulking.

And while you're at it, look for other air leaks through openings where plumbing or electrical wiring go through walls, floors and ceilings.

While there are any number of things you can do, the most important thing is to get started. Get started on some infiltration prevention work soon. Winter will be here before you know it!



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Lower rates coming soon



Members of Clay Electric Cooperative got some guardedly optimistic news at the member-owned electric utility's 52nd annual meeting Thursday, September 5, at Charley Brown Park, Flora.

Alan Wattles, manager, told some 550 members and guests that the co-op should see some rate reductions in the near future, and that the co-op should have very competitive rates within five years.

"Our sole power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, has representatives in Washington, D.C. now. They're negotiating an agreement that will enable them to reduce the size of their debt to the Rural Utilities Service, in regard to the nuclear Clinton Power Station," he said.

"Your cooperative has been losing money for the past two years," Wattles continued, "and we all know that this trend can't continue. We have been cutting costs at the distribution level by job consolidations, attrition of the employee work force, cuts in

The men who were reelected to the Clay Electric board are congratulated by Alan Wattles, manager. From left are Loren Dunigan of Clay City, Richard Rudolphi of Noble, H. Clifford Cammon of Louisville and Wattles.

data processing expenses, and in vehicle usage. We hope that with Soyland's buyout and our cost-cutting efforts, we'll be able to improve our financial standing."

"But we're not counting on just those factors," he continued. "We're branching out into other services. We now offer budget billing, and we're selling lightning surge protectors to protect your home from lightning. We offer home health and environmental monitoring through our answering service, which is well respected nationwide. And we're also offering a PureWater system for your home, if you have a water supply that contains minerals or other impurities."

In his written report, Edwin T. Henson of Xenia, president, noted that the co-op had held outage time per member down

to 5.472 hours during 1995, and that storms had caused 2.4 of those hours, while the co-op's power supplier had been responsible for 2.07 more.

Kenneth Kammeier, vice president/finance & marketing for Soyland Power Cooperative, discussed efforts to seek relief from the burden of the huge cost overruns at the Clinton plant.

"As your manager mentioned," he said, "we have people in Washington right now, seeking to get out from under some of the Clinton debt. And while we believe we're very close to an agreement. I can't tell you any really solid particulars until the agreement is actually signed, but I'm convinced that we'll have some very significant rate relief in the very near future."

Loren Dunigan of Clay City, secretary-treasurer, reported that the co-op's 1995 kilowatt-

hour (kwh) sales had dropped by about 2.5 million as compared to the year before, and that the year was the third in a row with a slippage in kwh sales. Revenues for 1995 were \$4,094,441, up some \$64,197 from the year before. He noted that the reduc-

tion in kwh sales had cut some \$250,000 out of the co-op's projected revenues.

During the business meeting members reelected three area men to the co-op's board of directors. They were Richard Rudolphi of Noble, H. Clifford

Cammon of Louisville and Dunigan. 48

After the meeting the board met in reorganizational session and reelected Henson president, Howard Poehler of Louisville vice president, and Dunigan secretary-treasurer.

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting held August 19, 1996

All Trustees were present, also present were Cooperative Attorney Todd, and General Manager Wattles.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held July 22, 1996 and the special meeting held July 30, 1996.

Accepted 24 new members for service.

Canceled 11 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 2 members in bad standing.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of July, 1996 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved a refund of capital credits to the estate of deceased member Richard Hackman pursuant to cooperative policy.

Resolved that the cooperative establish a line of credit and authorize borrowing from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

Approved three line extension contracts in the form presented at this meeting.

Approved write-offs totaling \$2,437.24.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of July, 1996

Accepted the reports of the nominating committee.

Heard a report from Manager Wattles regarding recent Soyland meetings.

Heard a report from Trustee Cammon regarding recent AIEC meetings.

Accepted Thank You notes from 4-H members.

Authorized Manager Wattles to set up a cycle billing rotation.

Resolved that a special meeting of the Board of Directors to be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 22, 1996.

Adjournment.

What's in your water?

If your water looks murky or is off-color, has a peculiar taste or odor, or causes a white scale accumulation in your cooking pots, you may need PureWater®. If it gives you cloudy looking cubes, or builds crusty deposits on your faucets, you need PureWater.

Free installation
for first 10 members who buy!
For PureWater call...(618)662-2171



Office closings for November: Our office will be closed Monday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, November 28-29, in observance of Thanksgiving. Enjoy your holidays! Please remember: To report outages after hours, weekends and holidays, please call 1-800-582-9012

It's *never* open season on power lines!

In their enthusiasm for the hunting season, some hunters cause life-threatening situations by shooting at insulators or power lines. Target practice on insulators or birds sitting on power lines is not sporting and may be fatal. Damaged lines can fall to the ground — a hazard to the hunter and anyone else nearby. Cracked insulators can leave members without service, interrupting emergency communications.



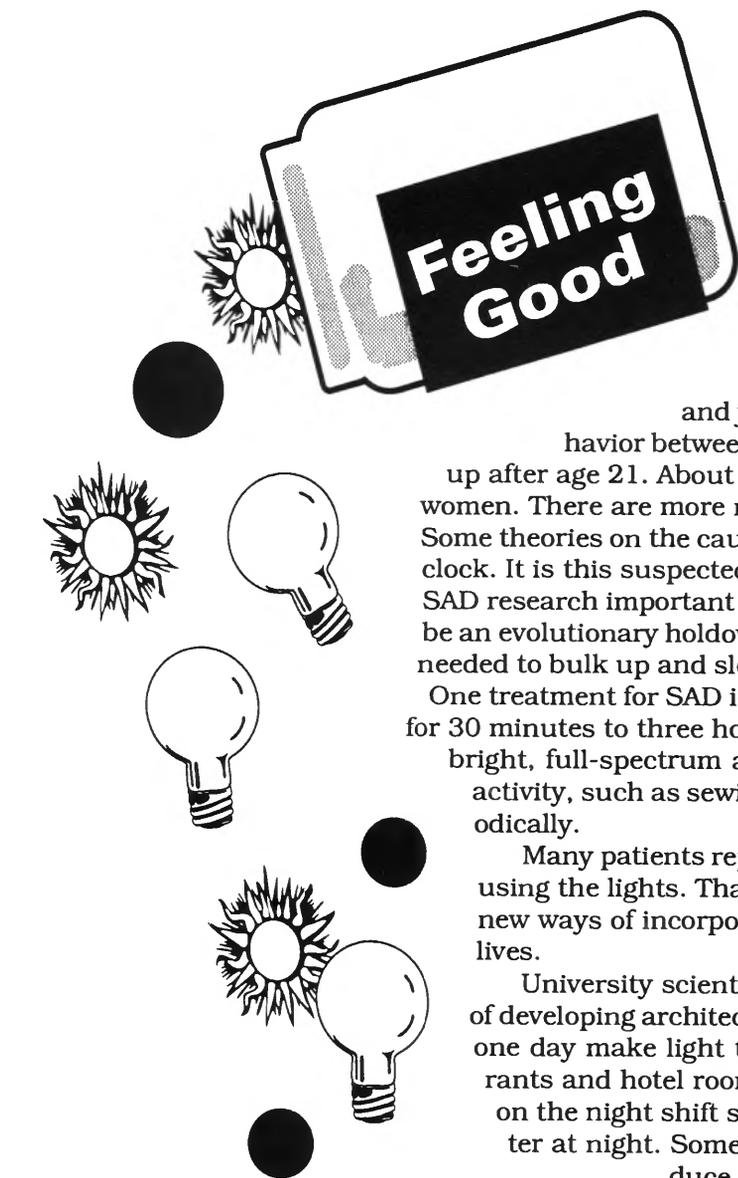
Shooting insulators and other electric equipment is illegal and expensive. It adds to the electric cooperative's operating costs, in which all members share — even the hunter.

Please hunt safely and enjoy the season.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer



When all the reds, yellows and oranges of fall come upon us, about 10 percent of the population get the blues. The moodiness and depression that set in with the first signs of winter now have a name seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. And one of the ways people are fighting this malady is by sitting in front of bright light.

SAD research, which has been going on for about a decade, indicates that millions of people may suffer from severe depression, crying spells, feelings of guilt and helplessness, cravings for sweets

and junk food, listlessness, and even suicidal behavior between September and March. SAD usually shows up after age 21. About 85 percent of the documented cases involve women. There are more recorded cases in the North than the South. Some theories on the cause of SAD suggest a problem with the body's clock. It is this suspected relation to the body clock that could make SAD research important for everyone, even non-sufferers. SAD could be an evolutionary holdover from prehistoric days when cave dwellers needed to bulk up and slow down in order to survive winter.

One treatment for SAD is light therapy. Patients are instructed to sit for 30 minutes to three hours every morning and evening in front of a bright, full-spectrum artificial light. They engage in some kind of activity, such as sewing or reading, and glance into the light periodically.

Many patients report a vast improvement in their moods after using the lights. That is prompting researchers to come up with new ways of incorporating the energizing power of light into our lives.

University scientists and private industry are in the process of developing architectural lighting and portable lamps that could one day make light therapy available in homes, offices, restaurants and hotel rooms. Some claim that therapy helps workers on the night shift sleep better during the day and perform better at night. Some who travel have used the lights to help reduce the sleepiness induced by jet lag. There is growing evidence that exposure to certain intensities of light at specific times of day and for particular durations can cure some kinds of insomnia and improve health.

Dr. Wayne London, a psychiatrist who researches the effects of artificial living conditions, contends there is evidence of a relationship between light and some cancers, premenstrual syndrome and sick days for school children. He cites circumstantial evidence that light may even affect Alzheimer's disease, alcoholism, multiple sclerosis and possibly even fertility.

One new light therapy light looks like an ordinary lamp but can be programmed by a microprocessor to reproduce the intensity of a midsummer Hawaiian sunrise. That, researchers say, could provide a refreshing awakening for an apartment dweller in Manhattan in February. There are also glasses and hats designed to provide the necessary light to the eyes.

Light cures the winter blues



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Soyland completes debt buy out, preliminary power supply contract

Soyland Power Cooperative has achieved a major breakthrough in its long struggle to restructure its debt and lower the cost of wholesale power for its 21 distribution cooperative members, including Clay Electric Cooperative. The end result will be lower retail rates for Clay Electric Cooperative members within a few years.

Joe Firlit, Soyland president and CEO, said the power cooperative has bought out its nearly \$1.2 billion debt with the Rural Utilities Service for a one-time payment of \$235 million. The debt buy out was financed by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. The financing package and debt buy out was completed in mid-September.

At the same time, Soyland and Illinova, the parent company of Illinois Power, announced a preliminary agreement that says a subsidiary of Illinova will acquire Soyland's part ownership of the nuclear Clinton Power Station in exchange for a minimum 10-year contract to supply Soyland's bulk power needs. Details of the Soyland-Illinova agreements will be worked out over the next few months, Firlit said.

Firlit and Alan Wattles, manager of Clay Electric Cooperative, credit the support of Congressman Dick Durbin and other members of the Illinois congressional delegation for breaking a deadlock in Soyland-RUS negotiations. "We were basically at a standstill in our RUS negotiations when our congressional

leaders went to Springfield to convene a meeting of RUS officials with the Soyland negotiating team," Firlit explained. Attending the meeting besides Rep. Durbin were representatives of U.S. Senators Paul Simon and Carol Moseley-Braun, along with representatives of U.S. Representatives Glenn Poshard, Thomas Ewing and Ray LaHood.

"We basically laid out our concerns that our extraordinarily high costs of debt service were hurting our member-cooperatives' rural economic development," Firlit explained. With some form of electric utility deregulation expected within a few years, he added, Soyland leaders made it clear the cooperative had to obtain some form of debt cost reduction. The Rural Utilities Service responded to Soyland's concerns a short time later with the buy-out proposal that met cooperative leaders' goals.

"The RUS leadership is to be commended for this realistic solution," Clay Manager Wattles said. "Soyland has received a reduction in its debt load, and the federal government received a substantial payment under the plan. Our members can finally anticipate some rate relief."

Soyland's debt load climbed rapidly in the late 1970s and early 1980s after cooperative leaders decided to purchase a share of the nuclear Clinton Power Station. "That decision was made by good people with good intentions," Wattles said. The RUS, then

known as the Rural Electrification Administration, encouraged Illinois cooperatives to join in the Clinton project as the lowest cost source of bulk power at a time when electricity use was climbing rapidly. "No one could have anticipated that the Clinton plant would cost 10 times original estimates after the federal government and anti-nuclear activists began their attacks on nuclear projects within the electric utility industry," Wattles added.

The result was Soyland saw its debt load climb to approximately \$1 billion before the buy out. Clinton debt represented 96 percent of Soyland's investment costs while the plant provided only 17 percent of its generation needs. That imbalance of investment cost to generation caused Soyland to have the highest wholesale electric rates of any generation and transmission cooperative in the nation.

The Soyland-Illinova agreements are an important second step in Soyland's long-term plan to reduce local cooperatives' wholesale power costs. Those agreements call for Illinova or an unregulated subsidiary to acquire Soyland's Clinton plant ownership. Illinova Power Marketing Inc. (IPMI) will provide Soyland with firm power requirements and energy needs. The power-supply agreement is proposed to run for 10 years with an option to extend for another 10-year period.

Firlit said many Illinois cooperative leaders contributed to the successful completion of negotia-

Continued on page 12c...

Continued from page 12b...
tions with RUS and with Illinova. "Our negotiating teams, our board of directors and the leadership of our Illinois congressional

delegation all helped to make RUS understand our problems and to realize we had to have some debt relief," Firlit said. He especially thanked Clay Cooperative repre-

sentatives H. Clifford Cammon and Loren W. Dunigan for their service on the Soyland board of directors. "They are making a valuable contribution."

Board meeting report

Minutes of board of trustees meeting held Sept. 16.

All Trustees were present, also present was General Manager Wattles.

The board:

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held Aug. 19, the special meeting held Aug. 22 and the organizational meeting held Sept. 5.

Accepted 18 new members for service.

Canceled 12 members no longer receiving service.

Expelled 4 members in bad standing.

Approved the financial,

maintenance and outage report for the month of August presented by manager Wattles.

Approved the list of work orders for the month of July in the amount of \$36,769.55 and authorized manager Wattles to present the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Approved a refund of capital credits to the estates of deceased members Mabin and Viva Specht and Delbert Gill pursuant to cooperative policy.

Approved a line extension contract for one member in the form presented at this meeting.

Reviewed the Annual Meet-

ing of Members held Sept. 5.

Discussed cost of service study and new rate design study and **Authorized** manager Wattles to enter into a contract with AIEC engineering department to perform those studies.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of August.

Discussed data processing systems and **Authorized** Manager Wattles to continue to negotiate with a data processing firm.

Reviewed a quote from another auditing firm with no affirmative action being taken.

Adjournment.

Appleknocker Arts and Science Festival

Appleknocker '96 is now but a memory but the joy and smiles it brought to young faces will long be remembered. The popular festival, usually held the last weekend in September, is sponsored by the Flora Academic Foundation and was designed for kids, but has wide appeal for young and old alike. Consisting of science demonstrations sponsored by local industry and science groups, just-for-fun activities such as the archeological dig, sand and face painting and gobs of food booths, Appleknocker has grown by leaps and bounds. Held outside in the streets and the campus area of the local high school and in the gymnasium, the festival atmosphere is highlighted by strolling mimes, jugglers and fictional, costumed characters from popular children stories. A petting zoo, pony rides, the aroma of homemade apple dumplings, pork burgers and Japanese stir-fry add to the appeal for all ages. All of the hands-on activities are free; the food booths charge for their products. Each year attendance records grow, and plans already are underway for Appleknocker '97.

The Flora Academic Founda-

tion was begun in 1984 by then Unit District Superintendent Floyd Henson. It was one of the first academic foundations in the state and since its inception has sponsored over \$150,000 in school projects which are over and above the unit district's budget. Teachers submit proposals for projects and, if approved, are funded by the foundation. The foundation also serves as the vehicle for the administration of six Scholastic Scholarships and has reserves of close to \$200,000. The foundation board of directors consists of 18 people from the community of Flora and surrounding area and fund-raising activities include the annual membership drive, a "radiothon" in conjunction with the local radio station, a popular Festival of Trees at Christmas time and local bowling and basketball competitions. In addition, the board brings entertainers into

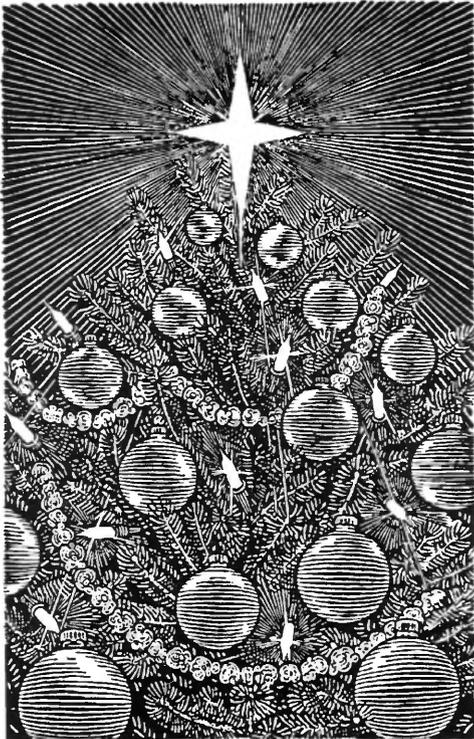
the area such as the Tommy Dorsey Band, the Medicare Jazz Band, the Air Force Band and last year sponsored a circus on the jr. high school campus. Its primary goal is to improve the academic climate in the unit district system of the Flora area and it takes great pride in that. Last year at the annual spring Academic Awards Banquet, almost 50 percent of the entire student body made the A-B honor roll three semesters out of four.

The phenomenal success of Appleknocker and the Flora Academic Foundation is primarily due to a community-wide belief that our children are our most important product and that belief is put into action through the community support given to the foundation and all of its many activities.

Article written by Dr. Donald L. Bunnell, Academic Foundation president



This young lady learns just how hard it is to make your own electricity. The "exercise bike/generator" and a safety demonstration were supplied by Clay Electric Co-operative.



The light fantastic.

It just wouldn't be Christmas without them. Like sugar cookies, rolls of wrapping paper and familiar carols, those strands of colorful lights help make up that mixture that is Christmas. The main ingredients, though, remain faith and hope for mankind. The yuletide celebrates this optimism, renewing our dedication to the principles and goals that brighten our lives and the lives of our neighbors. And, your electric cooperative sends to you our deepest wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer