

New year ... new look!

What better way to start off the new year than with a brand new look! The issue coming to you this month marks a new era with the Illinois electric cooperatives' magazine. As you can see, this publication has a new name, new look and new content.

Over the 53 and a half years of its existence, this publication has undergone mostly gradual, transitional change. Originally the Illinois REA News, it has carried the title Illinois Rural Electric News since September of 1953. We believe the new name—*Illinois Country Living*—will help continue the magazine's record of service while at the same time reflecting the cooperatives' intent to provide their members with a magazine focused on their interests.

Some of the qualities of the *Illinois Rural Electric News* will be carried through to the "new" publication. We will still have articles about cooperative members and plenty of recipes. We are adding special features dealing with horticulture, home projects, safety, energy efficiency,

technology, and personal finance. In addition, Illinois leaders will be asked to provide commentary on matters important to rural Illinois. Gov. Jim Edgar is the first such commentary author. The magazine will be printed on a heavier paper stock, and overall printing quality will be improved.

Cooperatives across the state use the publication to carry local cooperative news directly to their members. The *Illinois electric cooperatives' consumer magazine* will continue to serve as a cost-effective vehicle for the co-ops to deliver the essential local cooperative news to members on a regular, monthly basis.

We want to hear your comments regarding the new publication. Is there something you would like to read about in future issues? Got any ideas? Send your comments and suggestions to: *Edgar Electric Co-operative*, Attn: Member Relations, P.O. Box 190, Paris, IL 61944. Names of correspondents won't be used, except when advance permission is granted. We look forward to hearing from you.

Winter travel? Be prepared

During this time of year, you never know when a winter storm may occur. It is important to take certain precautions and be prepared—especially when traveling.

If possible, you should avoid unnecessary travel before, during and after a storm. But if you must go out, follow these helpful hints:

- * If you go outside, always remember that several layers of clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. And make sure your hands and head are covered.
- * Keep the gas tank full for emergency travel and to keep the fuel

line from freezing.

- * Before every trip, let someone know your destination, route and estimated time of arrival.
- * Keep emergency supplies in the trunk of your car.
- * If you get stuck, remain visible to rescuers by keeping the overhead light on and attaching a brightly colored cloth to your antenna.
- * As you sit in a stalled car, move your arms and legs to keep blood circulating.
- * Keep one window slightly open to let fresh air in.

Published by
**Edgar Electric
Co-operative**
Paris, Illinois

217-463-4145
800-635-4145

**Advantages of
Co-op Membership**

→ 12c

Lighting Tips

→ 12b

**Financial
Report**

→ 12d

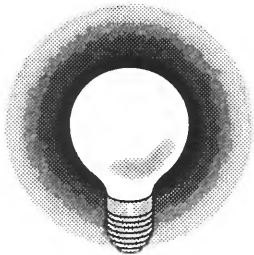
Edgar Electric Mission Statement

Edgar Electric Co-operative, together with its wholly owned subsidiary, EEC Services, Inc., exists to serve the changing needs of its members and customers by improving their quality of life, by actively supporting community development, and by identifying and serving their members' and customers' energy needs.

Tips to help you save on lighting costs

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

- Turn off lights in any room not being used.
- Light-zone your home and save electricity. Concentrate lighting in reading and working areas and where it's needed for safety (stairwells, for example). Reduce lighting in other areas, but avoid very sharp contrasts.
- Consider installing solid-state dimmers or high-low switches.
- Use one large bulb instead of several small ones in areas where bright light is needed.
- Use long-life incandescent lamps only in hard-to-reach places.



- Always turn three-way bulbs down to the lowest lighting level when watching television.
- Use low-wattage night-light bulbs.
- Try 50-watt reflector floodlights in directional lamps.
- Try 25-watt reflector flood bulbs in high-intensity portable lamps.
- Use fluorescent lights whenever you can. They give out more lumens per watt.
- Consider fluorescent lighting for the kitchen sink and counter top areas.
- Fluorescent lighting also is effective for makeup and grooming areas.
- Keep all lamps and lighting fixtures clean.
- You can save on lighting energy through decorating.
- Use outdoor lights only when they are needed.

Learn to recognize hypothermia symptoms

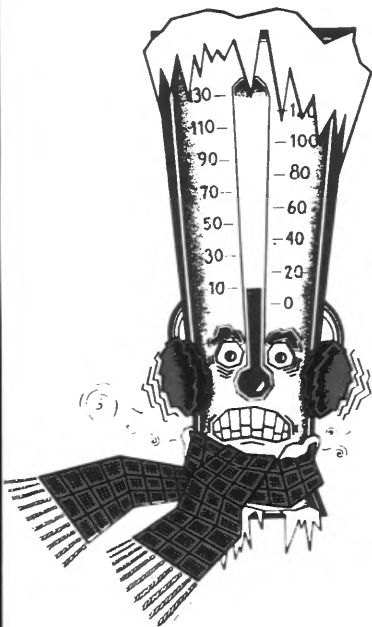
Older people are especially susceptible to hypothermia—a reduced body temperature that can be life threatening. But anyone, any age, can suffer from hypothermia.

Watch for these symptoms in others:

- Poor coordination and slowing of pace
- Thickness of speech
- Amnesia

- Blueness of skin; dilated pupils
 - Weak or irregular pulse
- And, in yourself:**
- Intense shivering; fatigue
 - Feeling of deep cold
 - Intense thirst
 - Poor articulation and coordination

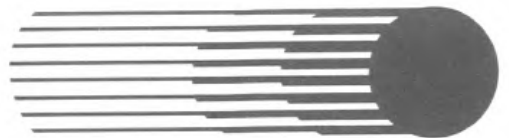
Check with a health-care expert or agency to find out more about hypothermia and the proper first-aid tips you should follow.



For your winter heating needs call
Edgar Propane Supply
A subsidiary of Edgar Electric Co-operative

Phone: 465-5800 or 1-800-343-5800

- ★ 24 hour emergency service ★ Competitive prices
- ★ Budget billing
- ★ Drive-by fills or call-in delivery
- ★ Prompt and courteous service



Cooperative membership: It has its advantages

As a member of Edgar Electric Co-operative, you have many advantages. We offer a number of services that may help you use electricity wisely and more efficiently and save money in the process. Ask us about these services:

- Free Electric Water Heaters—replace your old water heater with a high-efficient water heater from Edgar Electric. The water heater program is a win-win situation. The member wins by replacing an aged water heater that no longer operates properly. The cooperative wins by attaching a switch to the water heater that shuts down the appliance when the cooperative is reaching peak demand, the point where power costs are at their highest. Call for the details on this program!
- Security Light Purchases and Rentals—Let Edgar Electric light up your night!
- Youth to Washington Tour—Got a child in high school who also belongs to 4-H? Each year, the cooperative sponsors two high school students to visit the nation's capitol. Call your county advisor for more information.
- Budget Billing—Edgar Electric's Budget Billing program can help take the peaks and valleys out of your electric bill. Call the cooperative's billing department

for more information.

- Special Rates—Edgar Electric has a variety of specialty rates to suit the needs of farms and businesses. Let our trained professionals pick the best one for you. Call Bud Walls, Assistant Manager of Edgar Electric, for more information.
- Subsidiaries of the cooperative—EEC Services, Inc. and Edgar Propane Supply are here to help both members and non-members alike. EEC Services, the communications division, offers a variety of products. DIRECTV, with the 18-inch mini-dish satellite system, is taking our area by storm. Don't miss out on the "clear choice" for great family entertainment. And for those busy folks who need to stay in touch with family, friends and co-workers, EEC Services offers pagers and mobile radio and phones. Call EEC Services today at 800-642-3332.

Edgar Propane Supply, the area's newest propane dealer, offers a wide variety of products to fit the needs of today's family, including gas fireplace inserts and outdoor grills. The staff of Edgar Propane is willing to fit your deliveries to your needs. Budget billing is also available. Call Edgar Propane today at 800-343-5800.

Don't forget!

**Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, March 9, 1996
Crestwood School, Paris**



Operating statement — October 1995

Account Description	Year-to-date		Current Month
	Last Year	Current Year	
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$5,787,931	\$5,974,465	\$567,259
Cost of Purchased Power	3,693,557	3,720,604	382,382
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	159,563	140,474	13,455
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	395,437	459,964	62,952
Consumer Accounts Expense	232,347	253,515	26,494
Customer Service and Informational Expense	81,175	83,261	8,320
Administrative & General Expense	530,096	702,776	55,851
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	5,092,175	5,360,594	549,454
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	260,739	292,458	32,445
Tax Expense—Property	49,280	9,992	600
Tax Expense—Other	64,146	78,425	6,883
Interest on Long-Term Debt	63,574	297,688	31,316
Interest Expense—Other	88,369	44,394	10,386
Other Deductions	118	(49,972)	(4,942)
Total Cost of Electric Service	5,618,401	6,033,579	626,142
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	169,530	(59,114)	(58,883)
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	107,421	106,893	10,145
Income (Loss) from Equity Investments	-0-	-0-	-0-
Nonoperating Margins—Other	6,648	8,412	710
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	-0-	51,241	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	283,599	107,432	(48,028)

Manager's report to the board — October 1995

Statistics and Revenue Data	October 1994	September 1995	October 1995
Number Connected Consumers	4,970	5,006	5,013
Average kwh Used	1,046.1	1,310.3	988.3
Average Bill	\$109.80	\$142.23	\$111.50
No. kwh Purchased	5,445,951	7,325,749	5,830,209
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	5,199,336	6,559,506	4,954,492
Line Loss Percent	4.5%	10.5%	15.0%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.07107	\$0.05601	\$0.06559
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.07445	\$0.06255	\$0.07718
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.10529	\$0.10881	\$0.11327
Miles Energized	1,476	1,486	1,488
Revenue Per Mile	(\$384.02)	(\$517.62)	(\$388.52)
Total Expense Per Mile	\$399.70	\$430.77	\$420.79

When your power is out . . . *we're on the line!*

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity. Then call Edgar Electric's Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

Local calls — dial 463-4145

Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145



Edgar Electric Co-operative Association

Connection to the Future

Annual Meeting of Members
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Crestwood School
Paris, IL

Member registration begins at	7:00 a.m.
Pancake and sausage breakfast served	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Business meeting begins at	10:00 a.m.



It's for you...the member!

Your meeting!

Edgar Electric's annual meeting is your opportunity to become informed on the events and trends that affect you and your cooperative. This is a privilege not readily available to people served by other types of utilities. You, as a member, have an opportunity to meet with and elect the people who represent you on the cooperative's board of directors.

Want to know more about your cooperative? Want to know more about the services offered by the cooperative and its subsidiaries?

During the business meeting, cooperative management will discuss what the future holds for EECA as well as highlight the activities of the subsidiaries.

Please plan to join fellow cooperative members and the directors and employees of Edgar Electric at your annual meeting.

Door Awards!!

As always, door awards donated by generous area merchants will be

given away before and during the meeting. Prizes this year include savings bonds, household appliances, tools, safety supplies and much, much more!! Plus three grand prize awards will be drawn at the close of the meeting.

Babysitting service!!

To make things easier for our members with children, Edgar Electric provides a "children's room" in the basement of Crestwood School. Games and fun are planned for children under the age of 10 from 9 a.m. until the end of the meeting.

Watch your mail during the month of February for the official notice of the annual meeting. This notice will provide you with more information regarding this year's Edgar Electric Annual Meeting of members.

***Cooperative
Principles
at Work!***

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Paris, Illinois**

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**Snow and Ice
Storm**
→ 16b

**Being a co-op
member**
→ 16c

**Financial
Report**
→ 16d

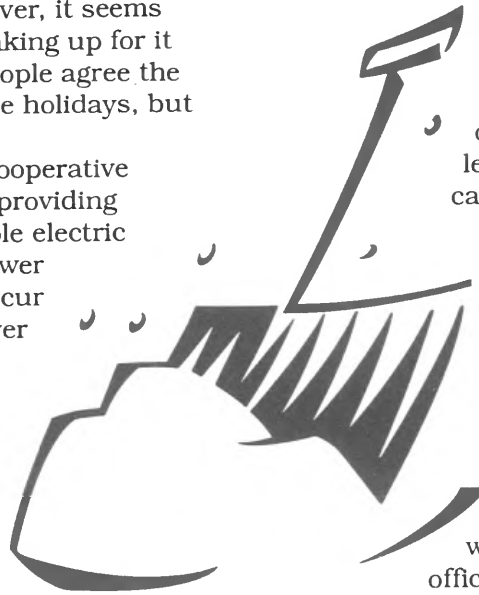
Snow and ice create havoc for Edgar Electric

It has been awhile since central Illinois has seen this much snow accumulation. However, it seems Mother Nature is making up for it this winter. Many people agree the snow was nice for the holidays, but enough is enough!

Edgar Electric Cooperative takes great pride in providing members with reliable electric service. However, power interruptions can occur by circumstances over which we have no control. Mother Nature is one of those!

The holiday season brought Edgar Electric several power interruptions related to the weather. Blowing winds and ice cause most winter outages and create havoc on electrical lines. Ice obviously weighs the line down and causes it to break at the weakest point. High winds cause electrical lines to "gallop." This up and down

movement will eventually cause an outage.



December also brought about what some people call a "unique" type of outage. The problem is a phenomenon called aeolian vibration.

Ice and a slow steady wind cause the line to vibrate which eventually causes the conductor to break.

Cooperative employees realized the problem after several members

who had called the office to report outages reported a loud humming sound at their transformer.

This type of outage does not occur often. Long-time Edgar employees have seen the problem before but not in the magnitude that it occurred over the holiday season.

Do your heating costs go up when the temperatures go down?

You can make the most of your energy dollars in a few simple, inexpensive ways.

- Add moisture to dry winter air with a humidifier--you'll feel more comfortable when the temperature drops.

- Cover fireplace openings with a screen or glass door. Open fireplaces allow heat to rise up the chimney, and cold air is drawn into your home to replace it.

- Caulk or weatherstrip windows and doors. Test for air leaks by holding a lit candle around window and door edges. If the flame dances around, then your energy dollars are dancing away.

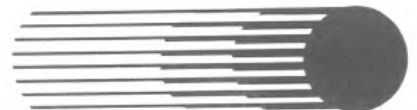
There's lots more you can do to get the most for your money. Simply contact us, and we'll be glad to help keep the heat where it belongs and your energy costs as low as possible.

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A subsidiary of Edgar Electric Co-operative
Phone: 465-5800 or 1-800-343-5800

★ 24 hour emergency service ★ Competitive prices ★ Budget billing
★ Drive-by fills or call-in delivery ★ Prompt and courteous service



Being a co-op member... what it all means

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

When receiving your electric service from an electric cooperative such as Edgar Electric Co-operative, you should know:

- You are a member of the cooperative and as a member you are part-owner of the cooperative.
- You have the right to attend the cooperative's Annual Meeting of Members held each March and to vote for the board of directors which govern the cooperative.
- You have the responsibility to keep up with developments affecting your cooperative.
- Your cooperative was established by local activists at a time

when existing utilities refused or neglected to serve the area where you live now.

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

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

Control yourself!

We're inviting--and reminding--you to be an active co-op member!

That means that as a consumer-owner of your local co-op, you can make your voice heard, tell us what's on your mind, vote at your annual meeting, and much more.

The more you tell us, the better we can serve you. And, because the co-op is locally owned and operated, it's a very special kind of business.

One of the first things you can do is attend your annual meeting, vote for your board of trustees, and maybe even run for office yourself.

So mark your calendar to attend the next annual meeting, chat with your fellow co-op members and offer suggestions and ideas.

We'll be waiting to hear from you. After all, as a co-op member, the control is in your hands!

Edgar Electric Mission Statement

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improving their quality of life, by actively supporting community development, and by identifying and serving their members' and customers' energy needs.

Operating statement — November 1995

Account Description Month	Year-to-date Last Year	Current Year	Current
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$6,576,498	\$6,617,100	\$642,635
Cost of Purchased Power	4,174,941	4,151,570	430,966
Transmission Expense	1,268	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	180,869	155,132	14,658
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	434,813	496,218	36,254
Consumer Accounts Expense	260,511	275,155	21,640
Customer Service and Informational Expense	90,635	90,388	7,128
Administrative & General Expense	613,202	761,152	53,376
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	5,756,239	5,929,615	569,021
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	287,754	325,149	32,691
Tax Expense—Property	54,208	10,591	600
Tax Expense—Other	71,257	86,490	8,065
Interest on Long-Term Debt	149,171	324,991	27,302
Interest Expense—Other	100,093	54,722	10,329
Other Deductions	(4,964)	(54,614)	(4,642)
Total Cost of Electric Service	6,413,758	6,676,945	643,366
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	162,740	(59,845)	(732)
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	117,803	116,865	9,972
Nonoperating Margins—Other	7,439	9,086	674
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	7,098	51,241	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	295,080	117,346	9,914

Manager's report to the board — November 1995

Statistics and Revenue Data	November 1994	October 1995	November 1995
Number Connected Consumers	4,975	5,013	5,018
Average kwh Used	1,445.9	988.3	1,139.9
Average Bill	\$157.22	\$111.50	\$126.56
No. kwh Purchased	7,837,132	5,830,209	6,223,206
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	7,193,298	4,954,492	5,719,964
Line Loss Percent	8.2%	15.0%	8.1%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.06142	\$0.06559	\$0.06925
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.06692	\$0.07718	\$0.07534
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.10915	\$0.11327	\$0.11213
Miles Energized	1,476	1,488	1,488
Revenue Per Mile	\$546.64	(\$388.52)	(\$439.03)
Total Expense Per Mile	\$482.14	\$420.79	\$432.37

When your power is out . . . *we're on the line!*

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity. Then call Edgar Electric's Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

Local calls — dial 463-4145

Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145



Edgar Electric Co-operative Association

Connection to the Future

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**Crestwood School
Paris, IL**

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* Member Breakfast
* Door Awards

*Business Meeting
*Babysitting Service

**It's for you...the member!
Cooperative Principles at work!**

Co-ops and
Distances
• 16b

Spring and
Tornadoes
• 16c

Financial
Report
• 16d

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The challenge of providing power to sparsely populated areas



“Edgar Electric maintains 1,500 miles of lines to serve 5,000 members.”

Before local rural electric cooperatives like Edgar Electric were created, most rural homes did not have power, even though homes in city areas were electrified. The reason: Existing power companies could not or would not serve the sparsely populated rural areas.

The rest is history and today, people are fortunate enough to live almost anywhere knowing electricity will be available.

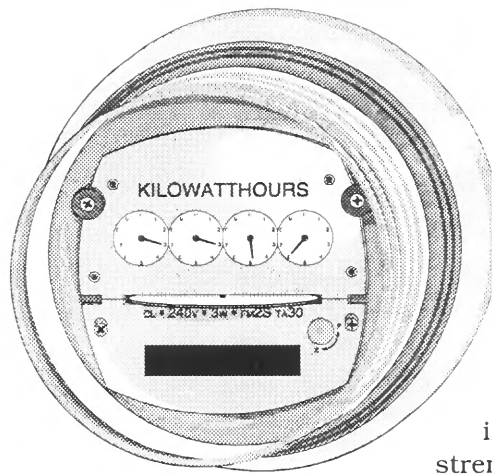
Living in the country certainly has its advantages, but it can also have a few drawbacks. Since rural areas are sparsely populated, your electric cooperative maintains 1,500 miles of power lines to serve 5,000 cooperative members. That is a lot of

wire! In fact, if you'd stretch it one direction, it would reach from Paris to Las Vegas, Nevada. In comparison, to serve the same number of consumers, investor-owned utilities would only need to maintain between 200 to 300 miles of power lines, depending upon their consumer density.

Consequently, the size of Edgar Electric's service territory is more susceptible to wind and storms. However, when Mother Nature does make an occasional outage occur, your cooperative commands all its resources to get service restored as quickly as possible. We know you depend on us, so we will work day and night until the power is restored.

In A Co-Op, What Goes Around Comes Around.

Your local co-op electric meter may look exactly like those of the other utilities. But its actually very different. Other customers pay some huge corporation for their electricity. Co-op members are basically paying themselves for electricity, because co-ops are local no-for-profit



organizations that operate purely to benefit you, the member. And revenues stay in the community, strengthening our quality of life.

Everyone is better off when their meter runs slowly. But when it does pick up speed, only co-op members get more than just a bigger bill in return.

Edgar Electric Co-operative Association
We Get Our Power From You...Our Consumer-Owners.

Spring is just around the corner

Even though spring time means tornado season, most of us are hoping spring will come soon, anyway. 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 to 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 should hit. 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.



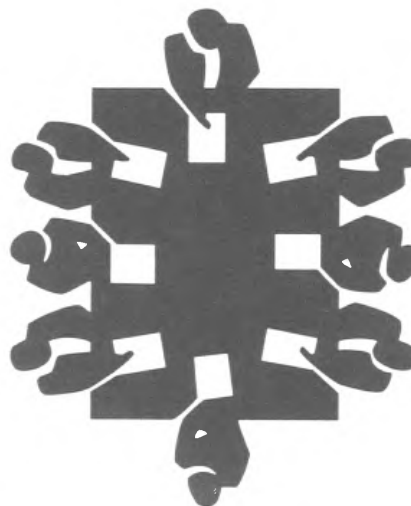
March Motorola Madness

*Tuesday, March 12, 1996
7:00 p.m.
at Edgar Electric Co-operative,
Route 1 North
Paris, IL*

Come learn more about our mobile telecommunications system and see how you or your business will benefit from this system.

***Call June Jacobs at 463-3332
or 800-642-3332***

**Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
for more details**



Operating statement — December 1995

Account Description	Last Year	Year-to-date This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$7,244,121	\$7,262,165	\$645,065
Cost of Purchased Power	4,644,236	4,582,509	430,939
Transmission Expense	1,268	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	197,596	163,136	8,004
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	460,785	545,970	49,751
Consumer Accounts Expense	286,270	298,276	23,122
Customer Service and Informational Expense	97,196	94,440	4,051
Administrative & General Expense	703,045	894,336	133,184
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	6,390,396	6,578,668	649,051
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	315,078	358,287	33,138
Tax Expense—Property	54,968	11,191	600
Tax Expense—Other	78,404	95,274	8,783
Interest on Long-Term Debt	180,473	361,687	36,697
Interest Expense—Other	116,839	67,013	12,290
Other Deductions	(10,202)	(64,795)	(10,180)
Total Cost of Electric Service	7,125,956	7,407,325	730,379
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	118,165	(145,160)	(85,314)
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	128,511	127,777	10,912
Nonoperating Margins—Other	(141,754)	9,875	789
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	7,105	51,241	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	112,027	43,734	(73,613)

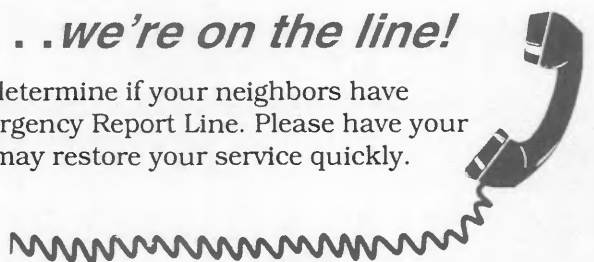
Manager's report to the board — December 1995

Statistics and Revenue Data	December 1994	November 1995	December 1995
Number Connected Consumers	4,959	5,018	5,015
Average kwh Used	1,196.7	1,139.9	1,131.0
Average Bill	\$132.41	\$126.56	\$127.18
No. kwh Purchased	6,862,744	6,223,206	5,913,790
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	5,934,371	5,719,964	5,671,841
Line Loss Percent	13.5%	8.1%	4.1%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.06838	\$0.06925	\$0.07287
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.07908	\$0.07534	\$0.07598
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.11125	\$0.11213	\$0.11343
Miles Energized	1,477	1,488	1,488
Revenue Per Mile	\$459.85	(\$439.03)	(\$441.38)
Total Expense Per Mile	\$470.69	\$432.37	\$490.85

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Service restoration priorities

Although any day in this part of the country can bring severe weather to the area, the spring storm season will soon be upon us. It is important for members to realize how service is restored.

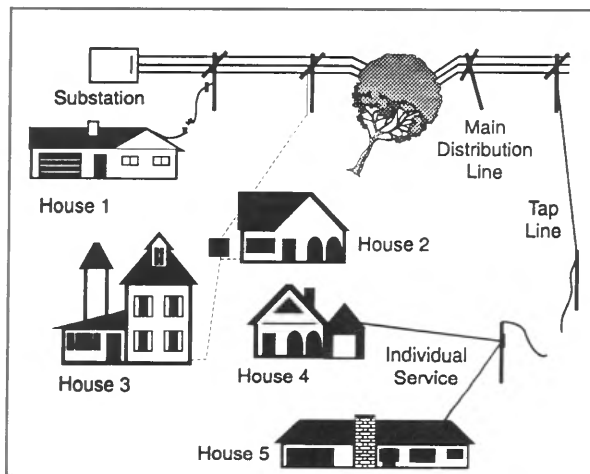
Just how does the cooperative go about prioritizing service restoration? Edgar Electric's policy is like that of many electric utilities in the nation--to restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest time and then repair the damage at individual homes and farmsteads. After more than 50 years in the business, your cooperative has found this procedure to be the most efficient, the most economical and the most accommodating method during and after a major storm.

The accompanying sketch depicts one out-of-service three-phase circuit downstream from a substation. This circuit will run for miles through the countryside. Single-phase tap lines will radiate from this circuit to serve individual neighborhoods. The fallen tree has snapped all the lines. This, no doubt, would be repeated many times along the length of the circuit. Crews would patrol the circuit to remove the trees and splice the lines. When all three phases are again intact, the circuit would be energized. The area containing Houses 2 and 3 (serviced by an underground, single-phase tap line) would have power. The crews would then patrol each single-phase line, repair the damage, and Houses 4 and 5 would have electricity. A crew would then splice the broken wires at House 1.

All members served from that particular circuit would now have electricity, assuming the substation was still receiving power from the transmission line. It, too, could have been dealt the same blows as our distribution lines.

One important factor in restoring service quickly is your help. If you know that your wires are down or the transformer has failed or a pole is broken, tell the dispatcher when you phone in the outage. Be prepared to give the dispatcher your map location number. It saves time when the line crew knows what and where the problem is located.

However, before you call in an outage, check your own breakers or fuses and also check to see if your neighbors are out of service. Members should not call in an out-of-power report if you have a blown fuse. Spares should be kept in the house.



Published by
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Co-operative**
Paris, Illinois

217-463-4145
800-635-4145

Planting Hints
⇒ 12b

DIRECTV
⇒ 12c

**Financial
Report**
⇒ 12d

The offices of
**Edgar Electric Cooperative Association
EEC Services, Inc. and Edgar Propane Supply**
will be closed on Friday, April 5, 1996,
in observance of Good Friday

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY WEEKEND!

Spring—the beginning of the building season

Spring is just around the corner and the long winter season is almost behind us. With warmer temperatures, people are eager to get busy working on new construction projects such as additions, decks or storage facilities. However, before you draw up your plans, Edgar Electric would like to pass on a few words of advice.

Keep in mind that you may have underground wiring running to your home near the area where you plan to build your deck or other structure. So, before you get the spade and shovel out of the garage, give Edgar Electric a call and ask to have those

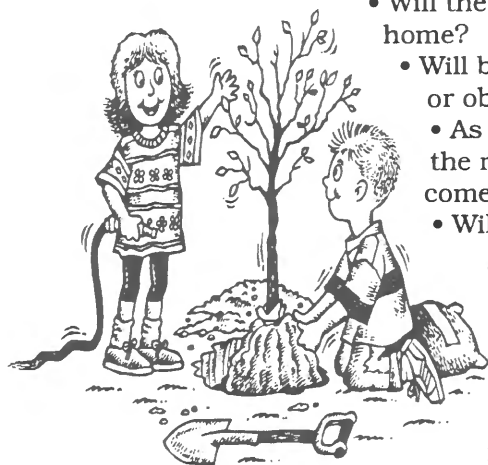
underground lines located.

When planning a deck or room addition, it is important to make sure it will not interfere with access to the meter. Cooperative personnel should have access to the electric meter at all times, so plan accordingly.

Speaking of planning, it is important you contact your electric cooperative in a timely manner if you need any electric line construction or relocation. Spring and summer are very busy times for the cooperative, so it is wise to call the engineering department a couple of weeks in advance of the project's start date.

Plan before you plant and stay untangled

Tree planting is a tradition of spring. Trees not only add beauty to any landscape but add value to your home. Before you plant a new tree around your home, consider these points:



- Will the roots damage the foundation of the home?
- Will branches brush cars using the driveway or obstruct a driver's vision:?
- As the tree grows will branches drag across the roof and drop leaves in the gutter, or come dangerously close to the home?
- Will the new tree or brush damage underground electric wires?
- Will the tree soon grow into electric lines and endanger service to yourself and your neighbor?

Just about everyone likes trees—and everyone needs electricity. But remember, trees and power lines don't mix. If a tree branch is near a line and falls

onto it, you and your neighbors could be without electricity. Remember . . . *plan before you plant.*

Your tax dollars at work.



This year, if the IRS owes you a little something, why not make the most of it? Treat your family to DIRECTV®—the kind of entertainment you've only dreamed about until now. DIRECTV brings you up to 150 channels of digital television, featuring your favorite cable channels as well as dozens of exclusive sports and movie selections all available at the touch of a button. Plus, with our affordable monthly package rates, you can get your dish and your programming for about a dollar a day.*

Now that's the kind of tax break everybody can agree on.

The choice is clear. DIRECTV.

EEC Services, Inc.

a subsidiary of Edgar Electric

Call Roger Hart

217/463-3332 or 800/642-3332



Digital Satellite System



DIRECTV and DSS are registered trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of Hughes Electronics Corporation.

Equipment and programming sold separately. NRTC 1995

*Local financing required; programming packages and prices may vary.

1996 annual meeting information delayed

Due to the timing of the Edgar Electric Annual Meeting of Members and the publication of this magazine, highlights and information regarding the meeting will be featured in the May issue of "Current Highlights."

May we say in advance a big "THANK YOU" to all those members who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the Annual Meeting.

Operating statement — January 1996

Account Description	Year-to-date		
	Last Year	This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$699,083	\$748,272	\$748,272
Cost of Purchased Power	439,450	435,412	435,412
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	24,554	20,358	20,358
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	31,763	54,753	54,753
Consumer Accounts Expense	25,006	27,540	27,540
Customer Service and Informational Expense	9,186	7,426	7,426
Administrative & General Expense	76,532	70,059	70,059
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	606,491	615,547	615,547
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	27,396	32,033	32,033
Tax Expense—Property	760	1,892	1,892
Tax Expense—Other	8,457	12,278	12,278
Interest on Long-Term Debt	27,016	41,357	41,357
Interest Expense—Other	(1,789)	8,438	8,438
Other Deductions	(5,164)	(4,617)	(4,617)
Total Cost of Electric Service	663,167	706,927	706,927
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	35,916	41,344	41,345
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	10,594	10,727	10,727
Nonoperating Margins—Other	800	643	643
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	-0-	-0-	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	47,310	52,715	52,715

Manager's report to the board — January 1996

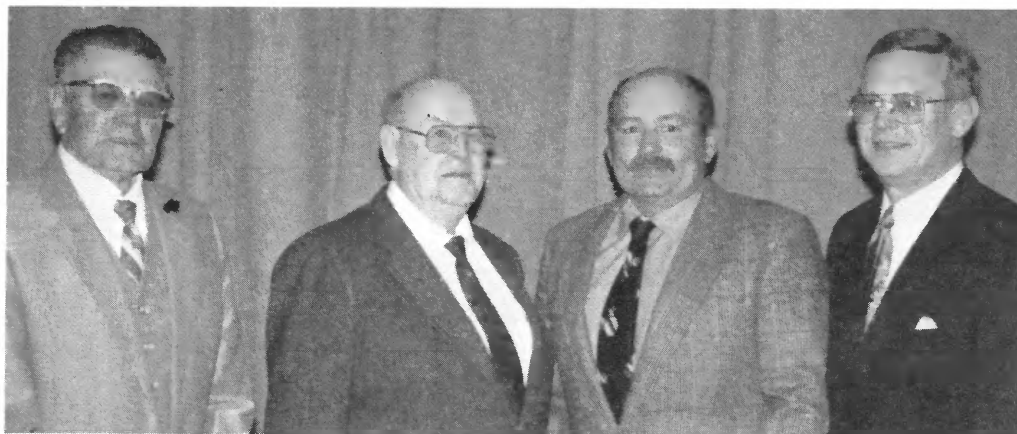
Statistics and Revenue Data	January 1995	December 1995	January 1996
Number Connected Consumers	4,987	5,015	5,010
Average kwh Used	1,245.0	1,131.0	1,319.5
Average Bill	\$139.13	\$127.18	\$147.49
No. kwh Purchased	6,126,629	5,913,790	6,510,214
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	6,209,038	5,671,841	6,610,720
Line Loss Percent	-1.3%	4.1%	-1.5%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.07173	\$0.07287	\$0.06688
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.07078	\$0.07598	\$0.06586
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.11250	\$0.11343	\$0.11263
Miles Energized	1,477	1,488	1,488
Revenue Per Mile	(\$481.03)	(\$441.38)	(\$510.51)
Total Expense Per Mile	\$449.00	\$490.85	\$475.09

When your power is out . . . *we're on the line!*

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity. Then call Edgar Electric's Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

Local calls — dial 463-4145
Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145





EECA members re-elected three men to the board of directors. The election took place at the cooperative's Annual Meeting held Saturday, March 9, at Crestwood School, Paris. From left are Garold Farthing of Hindsboro, Ralph Wright of Paris and Tom Murphy of Marshall, with Edgar Electric's general manager, Tom Hentz, at right.

Seeking ways to lower rates

Committed to reducing electric rates for its members, Edgar Electric Co-operative Association is also preparing to be an active participant in a deregulated electric utility industry. General Manager Tom Hentz discussed Edgar Electric's future during the cooperative's 57th Annual Meeting of Members, held March 9, at Crestwood School, Paris.

Following a pancake-and-sausage breakfast provided by the cooperative, Hentz updated the members and guests on the status of the co-op and its subsidiary services. "It is important to remember what our core business is. We have an electric system that's 50 years old, and it continuously needs renewal and replacement." In 1995, Edgar Electric intensified efforts to improve service, Hentz reported. "We recognize the dedication and excellence of our employees, who have helped us achieve new levels of service reliability."

As for the utility's subsidiaries, Hentz said that DirecTV, with its satellite TV programming, has exceeded the 1,000-customer goal set for 1995. Both DirecTV and Clear Talk Communications Division, which provides two-way radios, cellular phone and local pager services, are showing a profit, he said. Edgar Propane Supply sold one million gallons to 1,450 customers in 1995. While not yet a money-maker, the co-op is planning for the propane

subsidiary to return a profit in future years.

Turning to Edgar Electric's rates, Hentz emphasized that the board of directors, management and employees are dedicated to reducing members' bills. Office and operation efficiency is constantly studied, he said, and a number of beneficial changes have been made, many of them suggested by members. But more importantly, the co-op is seeking more economical sources of wholesale power to purchase. The cost of wholesale power is Edgar Electric's biggest expense, an expense reflected in members' monthly bills.

Hentz said that management and directors are working in conjunction with their current power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, and with legal counsel in an attempt to reorganize Soyland Power and look at other options. Hentz stated that the reduction of residential rates will not be an easy task, said that Edgar Electric is committed to that end.

"I believe members deserve lower rates," Hentz said. "It's in your best interest to maintain this cooperative, but not if we can't provide electricity at a reasonable, competitive rate."

The manager said that the co-op supports "retail wheeling," which would stem from deregulation of the electric

(Continued on page 12c)

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Prize Winners
→ 12cb-c

**Financial
Report**
→ 12d

Door prize listing for March 9, 1996

Grand prizes provided by:

EEC Services, Inc.
Communications
Division

Direct TV Satellite
System with
1 month free
programming

Florence E.
Beauchamp

Edgar Propane
Supply

Holland Gas Grill
with one free
propane cylinder fill

William George

Edgar Electric
Co-Op. Assoc.

\$300 gift certificate
to apply towards
your electric
statement

John & Shirley
Buckner

Gift donated by
Hawkeye Inspection Co.
Ditch Witch
Buck Hiatt—Winters & Associates
Edgar Electric Co-op. Assoc.
Elledge Insurance Co.
Subway
Scotty's Tire Center
Terry Elston—State Farm Insurance
Heartland Pork
Ditch Witch
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Steve Winkler—Winkler Chevrolet
Scotty's Tire Center
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Pool's Service Star
Edgar County Seed Co.
Edgar County Seed Co.
Terry Elston—State Farm Insurance
Heartland Pork
Motorola
Pearman Pharmacy
Ditch Witch
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Vermeer Sales
Buck Hiatts—Winters & Associates
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Illiana Tire
Art Reese Co.
Scotty's Tire Center
Motorola
Terry Elston—State Farm Insurance
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Westinghouse Electric Supply
Scotty's Tire Center
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Vermeer Sales
Chris Patrick
Zimmerly Ready Mix Co.
Pearman Pharmacy
Ditch Witch
Motorola
Terry Elston—State Farm Insurance
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Steve Winkler—Winkler Chevrolet
Vermeer Sales
Bass Mollett Publishing

Vermeer Sales
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Scotty's Tire Center
Viquesney's Office Supplies
Key's Fertilizer
Fletcher—Reinhardt
Motorola
Terry Elston—State Farm Insurance
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Viquesney Office Supply
Edgar Electric
Key's Fertilizer
Pearman Pharmacy
Ditch Witch
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Scotty's Tire Center
Terry Elston—State Farm Insurance
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Steve Winkler—Winkler Chevrolet
Pearman Pharmacy
Ditch Witch
Evansville Truck Center
Scotty's Tire Center
V. R. Myers, Inc.
Edgar County Bank & Trust
Gary Henigman—Henigman Oil
Vermeer Sales
Terry Elston—State Farm Insurance
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Mike Mooney—Paris
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.

Door Prize:
Mechanic drop light
Ditch Witch hat
Travel sports bag
EECA umbrella
3 1/2 Qt. Rival slowcooker
Coupon for 3-ft. giant party sub
Hat
Road atlas with cover
Heartland Pork hat
Ditch Witch hat
Electric knife
Certificate for lube, oil & filter
Hat
Electric griddle
1 gallon odor free interior paint
Vigortone dog food
Hat
Road atlas with cover
Heartland pork hat
Olympic world mug
\$10 gift certificate
Ditch Witch hat
10" skillet with glass lid
Vermeer cap
Travel sports bag
EECA umbrella
Oil filter, and lube change
Tape measure
Hat
Olympic world mug
Road atlas with cover
EECA hat
175 watt dusk to dawn light
Hat
4 quart ice cream freezer
Shirt, hat & 2 koozie cups
Rubbermaid cold 'n dry cooler
Ink pen, tape measure
\$10 Gift certificate
Ditch Witch hat
Olympic world mug
Road atlas with cover
EECA hat
Certificate for lube, oil & filter
Vermeer cap
Barrington folder
with Quantum calculator
Jacket & hat
Fluorescent work light
Hat
First aid kit
2 bags pig ear pet treats
12" oscillating 3-speed desk fan
Olympic world mug
Road atlas with cover
EECA hat
Mini-pack cooler
6 pack Coca Cola
1 bag fertilizer in stock
\$10 gift certificate
Ditch Witch hat
Sony clock radio
Hat
Road atlas with cover
EECA hat
Certificate for oil, lube & filter
\$10 gift certificate
Ditch Witch hat
Rechargeable fire extinguisher
Hat
Freedom sports bag & hat
FM sports clock radio
1 barrel of oil or cash equivalent
Vermeer cap
Road atlas with cover
EECA hat
Certificate for oil, lube & filter
22 cup party perk coffee maker
EECA hat

Winner:
David & Andrea Coulter
Fredric Alwardt

Jack & Cora Crane
Ted & Donna Huber

Curtis Vaughn

Lester & Ann Maxwell
Wesley B. Veach

T. P. Lauher
Rochelle Miller

Ralph Jones

Rene Miller

James & Zelda Curran

Karl & Rochell Bradford

Max & Theresa Rose

James & Wanda Lewsader

Eugene & Jeanette Waller

Margie White

Ned Heltsley

Norman Rhoads

Dean & Grace Poorman

Robert D. Wilhoit

William & Margaret Murphy

Carl & Freda Morgan

Donald L. Bouslog

John H. & Lavena Delap
Raymond & Nancy Parker

Ray & Nancy Waltz

Frances L. Miller

Jim & Sharon Montgomery

Kenneth & Patricia Rankins

Patricia Winans

Mary Barkley

Ella Wallace

Wilbur Baker

Richard Bennett

Alonzo & Mary Balach
Zeddie & Norma Hammond

OFFICE CLOSING



Monday,
May 27,

in
observance of
Memorial Day

Steve Winkler--Winkler Chevrolet
 Scotty's Tire Center
 Alan Viator--Mont Eagle
 Key's Fertilizer
 Vermeer Sales
 Big A Auto Parts (Formerly Linkon Auto)
 Scotty's Tire Center
 Terry Elston--State Farm Insurance
 Furry's Quick Stop
 Citizens' National Bank
 Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
 Rural King Supply
 Buck Hiatt--Winters & Associates
 Joe Keys
 Key's Fertilizer
 Scotty's Tire Center
 Terry Elston--State Farm Insurance
 Heartland Pork
 Illiana Tire
 First Bank and Trust
 Ditch Witch
 Buck Hiatt--Winters & Associates
 Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
 Alan Viator--Mont Eagle Products, Inc.
 Key's Fertilizer

Eric Rienbolt--
 Fred Biggs Electric Supply Co.
 Terry Elston State Farm Insurance
 Heartland Pork
 Illiana Tire Co.
 Ferrel Wright--Lanman Oil Co.
 Chrisman Countryside Chevrolet
 Viquesney Office Supply
 Key's Fertilizer
 Scotty's Tire Center
 Hawkeye Inspection Company
 Ditch Witch
 Shumaker
 Buck Hiatt--Winters & Associates
 Pearman Pharmacy
 Ditch Witch
 Dallum's Service
 Ditch Witch
 Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
 Electric Lab & Sales

Bob's Napa Auto
 Brownstown Electric
 WaterFurnace Midwest
 GS Heavy Duty Electric
 Key's Fertilizer

Vadas Big A
 Scotty's Tire Center
 Faulk's Garage

Drake-Scruggs
 Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
 United Utility Supply
 Altec
 Ditch Witch
 Edgar Electric Co-Op. Assoc.
 Edgar County Bank & Trust
 Gary & Lynn Harris--O & M Services
 Parkway Furniture
 Sherry Fitzgarrold
 Aitken Trucking Co.

Certificate for oil, lube & filter
 Hat
 40# bag Purina Chow dog food
 2 bags pig ear pet treats
 Vermeer cap
 Fender cover & fluorescent work light
 Hat
 Road atlas with cover
 Certificate oil, lube, filter change
 \$50 savings bond
 9 pack Coca Cola
 Rubbermaid cooler & 6-pack pop
 2 quart ice tea maker
 1 bag fertilizer in stock
 2 bags pig ear pet treats
 Hat
 Road atlas with cover
 Heartland Pork hat
 Certificate oil, lube, filter change
 \$25 in checking account and hats
 Ditch Witch hat
 Travel sports bag
 EECA umbrella
 40# bag Purina Dog Chow
 1 bag fertilizer in stock
 2 bags pig ear pet treats

Ceiling fan
 Road atlas with cover
 Heartland Pork hat
 Certificate oil, lube, filter change
 Case Marathon 10W30 all season oil
 Certificate oil, lube, filter change
 First aid kit
 2 bags pig ear pet treats
 Hat
 Mechanic's drop light
 Ditch Witch hat

10 cup quick drip coffee maker
 \$10 gift certificate
 Ditch Witch hat
 Car wash set
 Ditch Witch hat
 7.2 volt flexible chargeable drill
 Westbend 4 quart
 Butler-Matic II Popcorn popper
 Nappa toy set
 Pruning set
 Electric wok
 Rival little dipper crock server
 1 bag fertilizer in stock and
 2 bags pig ear pet treats
 Mechanic's creeper seat
 Hat
 2 cases Havoline motor oil and
 1 bottle windshield washer fluid
 Portable Hobbs halogen work lamp
 3/8 inch reversible drill
 5 quart Rival crockpot slowcooker
 Car wash set
 Ditch Witch hat
 Toaster-oven broiler
 Coin set
 \$100 gift certificate-Rural King
 Phillips VCR
 2 Longaberger baskets
 \$25.00 gift certificate-L'Auberge

Florence E. Beauchamp

Richard E. Hires

Darin & Erika Kohlmeyer

Howard & Virginia Kiser
 Arthur L. & Bea Mae Camp

Richard & June Cork
 John Taflinger

Mildred J. Burger

Phoebe Walls

Linda K. McMyne

John T. Landsaw, Sr.

Beth Stutler

James & Ruth Rowe

Robert & Ruth Mary Hunter

Carl & Louise Bender

Perle & Katie Robinson

Duane E. & Joanne

Josephine Lamb

Ovid & Mae Swinford

Frank Drake
 Fay J. & Wilma Douglas

Gordon Guymon
 R. B. & Esther Smithson
 Karl Marshall
 Mitch & Kaatje Camp

Marvin & Virginia Miller

Laymon & Sharon Davision

James L. & Dorothy Lang
 Dunlap Church
 Russell E. & Avis Sutton
 Ray Waltz

Linda L. Brinkerhoff
 Symmes Township
 Floyd & Maxine Wright
 Ralph & Ethel Wright
 Robert & Reba Schwartz
 Donald & Faye Camp
 Rosabelle Walters

Thank you!

Edgar Electric Co-operative Association would like to thank all the vendors who donated attendance awards for the Edgar Electric 57th Annual Meeting of Members.

EECA (Continued from page 12a)

industry. Some states are experimenting with retail wheeling, in which customers may select their electricity provider. Hentz said Edgar Electric's board and management are working with government, business leaders and other electric suppliers to develop support for members' choice.

Also during the meeting, the membership re-elected three directors

for three-year terms on the board: Ralph Wright of Paris, Tom Murphy of Marshall and Garold Farthing of Hindsboro.

Reorganizing after the meeting, the board selected officers for 1996-97, with the previous year's officers maintaining their positions. They are David Hollis of Paris, president; Jon Farris of Metcalf, vice president; John Fell of Kansas, secretary-treasurer; and Tom Murphy, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Operating statement — February 1996

Account Description	Year-to-date Last Year	This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$1,219,050	\$1,379,317	\$631,045
Cost of Purchased Power	863,747	849,719	414,307
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	33,338	35,634	15,276
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	59,722	91,788	37,035
Consumer Accounts Expense	51,157	51,270	23,730
Customer Service and Informational Expense	17,581	15,599	8,173
Administrative & General Expense	148,340	151,134	81,074
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	1,173,885	1,195,142	579,596
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	54,860	65,283	33,250
Tax Expense—Property	1,360	2,492	600
Tax Expense—Other	15,264	20,816	8,538
Interest on Long-Term Debt	51,514	67,424	26,067
Interest Expense—Other	(1,789)	16,887	8,449
Other Deductions	(10,328)	(9,485)	(4,867)
Total Cost of Electric Service	1,284,766	1,358,560	651,633
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	(65,716)	20,756	(20,588)
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	21,189	128,926	118,199
Nonoperating Margins—Other	2,385	1,268	624
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	-0-	-0-	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	(42,142)	150,950	98,235

Manager's report to the board — February 1996

Statistics and Revenue Data	Feb. 1995	Jan. 1996	Feb. 1996
Number Connected Consumers	3,989	5,010	5,006
Average kwh Used	1,122.4	1,319.5	1,074.2
Average Bill	\$128.51	\$147.49	\$124.84
No. kwh Purchased	6,369,067	6,510,214	6,693,633
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	4,477,247	6,610,720	5,377,377
Line Loss Percent	29.7%	-1.5%	19.7%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.06662	\$0.06688	\$0.06190
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.09477	\$0.06586	\$0.07705
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.11545	\$0.11263	\$0.11659
Miles Energized	1,479	1,488	1,488
Revenue Per Mile	(\$359.80)	(\$510.51)	(\$503.94)
Total Expense Per Mile	\$420.28	\$475.09	\$437.93

When your power is out . . . *we're on the line!*

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity. Then call Edgar Electric's Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

Local calls — dial 463-4145
Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145





The Great Wall was one of the sites visited by the 21-member Illinois electric cooperatives' delegation that toured the People's Republic of China in March. The group included five who represented Edgar Electric Cooperaive Association. From left are Bud Walls, Paris, assistant manager of the co-op; Don Foltz of Clinton, Indiana; Joe Welsh, Marshall, co-op director; and Bernie and David Schiver, Martinsville, co-op director.

Edgar delegation visits China

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Paris, Illinois

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800-635-4145

Financial Report

► 12d

It is halfway around the world to China, but a group of Illinois electric cooperative representatives brought the Midwestern United States a little closer to the Asian country in March 1996. A group from Edgar Electric Cooperative Association were part of a 21-member contingent that toured the People's Republic of China as an informational exchange. The Edgar Electric group included Bud Walls, assistant manager of the cooperative; David Schiver, a director of Edgar Electric, and his spouse, Bernadine, of Martinsville; and Joe Welsh of Marshall, also a director at Edgar Electric.

Below is an article from Bud Walls, regarding his "China experience:"

The road to China started about two years ago when the Association

of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) was contacted by the University of Illinois at Chicago. The university was instrumental in an exchange program entitled "The America-China Executive Development Program."

The purpose of the exchange was to familiarize Chinese executives with the "American way of doing business." Executives are to receive further study of their professions in the United States. In this instance, the program coordinators were particularly interested in rural electrification and how China could benefit.

The AIEC would coordinate the exchange while the Chinese visitors were in Illinois. However, in order to present a well-rounded program, personnel from individual electric

cooperatives such as Edgar Electric would participate on a local level. Edgar Electric was asked to give a general overview of what "being a cooperative is all about."

It is important to note that while China is a very large country, it is significantly behind the United States when it comes to rural electrification. Less than 10 percent of the homes in rural areas have electricity. It is the goal of the Chinese government to electrify the rural areas, just as America did with the REA in 1936.

Approximately 25 engineers and executives from the Chinese Power Ministry were brought to the United States to receive training in the electrical industry. Edgar Electric had the opportunity to host the Chinese visitors on Aug. 16-17, 1995. Unfortunately, these days turned out to be two of the hottest days we had during the summer.

When our guests arrived, I made this opening comment to them, "We in the Rural Electric Program feel that over the past 60 years, we have made a great contribution in the revolution of American Agriculture. American agriculture is the best in the world. Our Rural Electric Program is also the best in the world. It only makes sense that you would prefer to model your rural electrification program after ours. That is exactly what we desire to help you accomplish. I am proud to be a part of this program, and proud of my association with fellow electric cooperative employees everywhere."

Through an interpreter, we discussed cooperative operations, employees and job responsibilities. They virtually wanted to see everything we did. The group was amazed on the visit to a local farm with all its modern conveniences. They had an opportunity to visit an industrial account that Edgar Electric serves. The balance of the time was spent visiting Edgar substations and work sites, watching construction activities, and discussing operational procedures.

It was not long before cooperative employees realized that this visit was not a one-sided program. Edgar

employees were just as eager to learn about China as our guests were to learn about the United States. This really came to light during the social activities. When you have guests from a foreign country who cannot speak your language, the question is: "How are we going to communicate?" Shortly after getting together, everyone was communicating with facial, hand and body gestures. It was quite a sight! I believe our employees gained as much from these activities as our guests did. Everyone involved did a great job making our guests feel welcome. The Chinese delegation thanked us many times for the warm welcome and "down home hospitality" extended to them.

The day our guests left Paris, I bid them goodbye with the comment, "Nothing would give me more pleasure than to come to your country some day to help you electrify your rural area." Never in a million years did I dream the opportunity would happen. Well, it did.

Not only did we get to visit China as guests of the Chinese Power Ministry, but we met with their leaders. The Chinese organized a very interesting 16-day schedule for us. During our time in China we met with leaders of their electric industry and visited many historical sites. We were able to see firsthand how they had applied what they learned during their visit to our country.

During our scheduled meetings, we heard reports from those who had been to America. All reports ended with a big "thank you" for our willingness to share our technology with them, as well as the vast amount of knowledge they had gained.

I was amazed to see what they had accomplished in a short time. The country has much work ahead of them. However, after seeing their country and people first hand, I am convinced they will get the job done. They are an intelligent, hard-working nation. The Chinese are committed to improving the quality of life in their country. That is a big challenge for a country with a population over one billion people.

We did manage to squeeze some sightseeing into our visit that in-

Grillin' time!

Summer time fun is just around the corner!

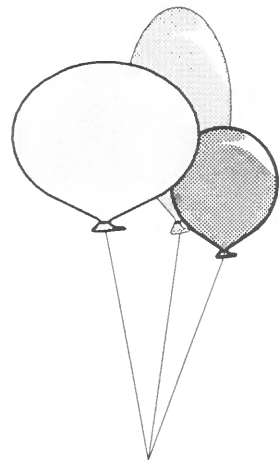
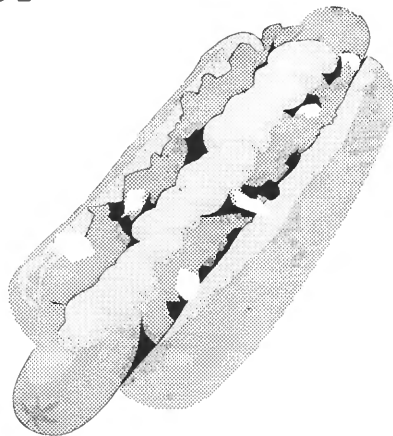
Get your grill ready for the picnic season!

Propane cylinder exchanges available at:

Furry's 76 Quick Stop in Paris
Pool's Servistar in Paris

Propane cylinder fills available at:

T&J Phillips 66 in Marshall
Edgar Propane Supply in Paris



Edgar Propane Supply Open House

Mark your calendars!

Saturday, July 20, 1996
For more information call
(217)465-5800 or (800)343-5800

cluded historical sites and important places. China has a history that goes back 6,000 years. We only scratched the surface during our visit. The Great Wall, Tienmen Square and the Terra Cotta Warrior Museum were very impressive.

There are many ancient temples in China in which the people take great pride. Each temple is revered as if it were the Vatican. The temples are carefully maintained and utmost respect was evident.

One thing was apparent to me. The Chinese people are just like us. A warm smile or friendly handshake goes a long way in China, just as it does in our country. The Chinese people love their motherland just as we love the U.S.A. They are proud of

their 6,000-year history that makes our meager 200-year history trivial. Trivial as it may seem, we are still proud of ours.

The Chinese also appreciate a good meal, although their food is a little different from "meat and taters." I am not sure what I ate at a few meals! It took a little getting used to but we certainly did not go hungry.

In closing, I am proud to have been part of the Chinese-American Executive Exchange. My eyes were opened as to how fortunate we are. I certainly hope we can continue to do what we can to help other countries match our quality of life in these United States of America.

Call
Roger Hart,
DIRECTV
Sales &
Service

(217)463-3EEC
(800)642-3332

GET ALL THIS
AND MORE!



The Disney Channel

*The Choice
is Clear*



Operating statement — March 1996

Account Description	Year-to-date		
	Last Year	This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$1,785,068	\$1,974,933	\$595,617
Cost of Purchased Power	1,227,079	1,205,737	356,018
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	42,272	50,978	15,344
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	97,391	140,665	48,877
Consumer Accounts Expense	73,543	74,841	23,572
Customer Service and Informational Expense	24,373	21,508	5,909
Administrative & General Expense	235,937	238,207	87,074
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	1,700,595	1,731,936	536,794
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	82,546	98,917	33,634
Tax Expense—Property	5,791	3,092	600
Tax Expense—Other	22,672	30,064	9,248
Interest on Long-Term Debt	83,478	103,966	36,542
Interest Expense—Other	932	26,194	9,307
Other Deductions	(15,382)	(14,216)	(4,732)
Total Cost of Elèctric Service	1,880,632	1,979,953	621,393
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	(95,564)	(5,020)	(25,776)
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	30,886	142,462	13,536
Nonoperating Margins—Other	3,148	1,900	632
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	-0-	-0-	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	(61,530)	139,342	(11,608)

Manager's report to the board — March 1996

Statistics and Revenue Data	March 1995	February 1996	March 1996
Number Connected Consumers	4,967	5,006	4,998
Average KWH Used	973.2	1,074.2	1,012.5
Average Bill	\$112.95	\$124.84	\$117.87
No. kwh Purchased	5,496,468	6,693,633	5,850,195
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	4,834,041	5,377,377	5,060,548
Line Loss Percent (12-month average)	9.1%	9.1%	9.3%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.06610	\$0.06190	\$0.06086
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.07516	\$0.07705	\$0.07035
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.11678	\$0.11659	\$0.11731
Miles Energized	1,477	1,488	1,488
Revenue Per Mile	\$390.30	\$503.94	\$409.80
Total Expense Per Mile	\$403.43	\$437.93	\$417.60

When your power is out . . .we're on the line!

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity. Then call Edgar Electric's Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

Local calls — dial 463-4145

Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145





Long-time employees Tom Brock, left, and Lester "Smitty" Smittkamp retired March 31.

Veteran employees retire

Two veteran employees of Edgar Electric who have seen mammoth changes in the cooperative have retired.

Lester "Smitty" Smittkamp and Tom Brock, well-known by both customers and fellow employees, retired March 31.

Smittkamp, who completed nearly 50 years of work, and Brock, who logged more than 40 years, have been with Edgar Electric since the early days of the company. Smittkamp began work in March 1947, as a worker on the line crew, while Brock was hired in June 1954, eventually becoming office manager.

Since then, these two men have had productive careers and have seen many changes at Edgar Electric and in the electric industry.

"There's been a lot of change," Brock says. "We're in the communications business now...DIRECTV, propane and electric utility, and when I started here, it was just electric utility."

According to Smittkamp, who helped set up some of the original electrical lines in rural Edgar

County, the process of setting up and maintaining electricity lines in the country has changed since his early days at Edgar Electric.

"Our work patterns have changed quite a bit," Smittkamp says. "Of course, when I started, you dug the hole by hand, set the pole in with an A-frame truck, and it's sort of progressed since then. We have the bucket trucks now."

Both Brock and Smittkamp have enjoyed their jobs, mainly because of the people they have served and come to know over the years.

"In years past, when I was younger, I liked building the lines," Smittkamp says. "Back years ago, when people didn't have electricity, it was a real joy to see those people's faces light up when the kids would come home from school and turn on the light and know that they were going to have electricity."

Brock felt the same way about working with these people.

"I like serving the rural people. They're nice people to work for," said Brock. "When you work for a coop-

(Continued on page 12b)

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Paris, Illinois

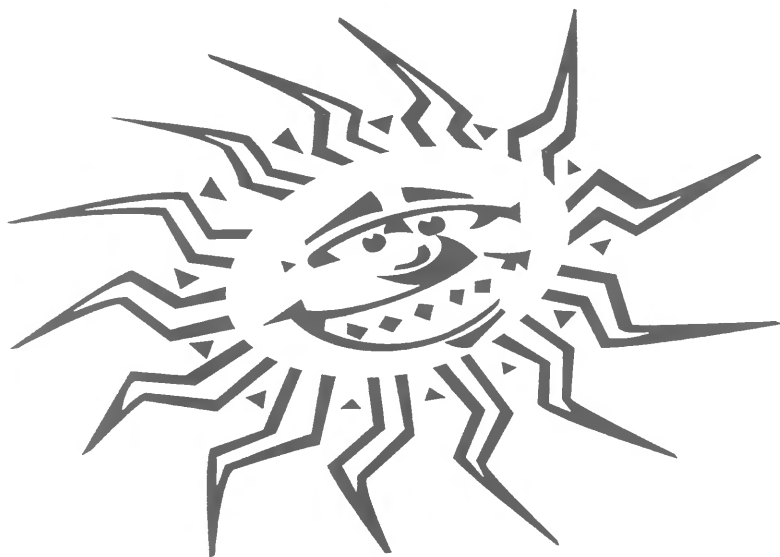
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Cool Summer Tips
→ 12b

**Open House
Events**
→ 12c

**Financial
Report**
→ 12d

Energy tips for a cooler summer



Here are some tips that may help minimize the effect of hot weather on your electric bills:

- Set your air conditioning thermostat at 78 degrees while you're home, raise the thermostat setting five or more degrees when you will be away from home for several hours.
- Don't turn the thermostat to a lower setting to speed up cooling.
- Keep the air conditioner filter clean. A dirty filter causes the unit

to run longer to move the same amount of air.

- Make sure indoor registers are free of dust and clear of furniture and other obstructions, so air can circulate freely.
- Keep the outside unit clear of grass or shrubs to allow proper air flow over the condensing coils.
- Block out sunlight to your windows by closing draperies, blinds, or shades inside.
- Use appliances that produce heat and moisture in the early morning or late evening hours whenever possible.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights. They produce heat that your air conditioner must remove.
- Use a microwave oven, electric skillet or other small appliances for meal preparation. This keeps your kitchen cooler than when using the range or oven.
- Use low-wattage fans to help circulate air indoors.
- Don't run your air conditioner out of habit. On cooler, less humid days, turn the unit off and open the windows.

Veteran employees retire (continued from page 12a)

erative, you're working for people who are appreciative of what you are doing and you don't get lost in the shuffle like you do in a large corporation."

In retirement, Smittkamp's plans include "catching up on some fishing" and traveling to California with his wife to visit their daughter.

Brock also will be doing more traveling, planning to visit his daughters, one who lives in Denver, Colo., and one who lives in Gastonia, N.C.

Both Smittkamp and Brock said they will miss working for Edgar Electric.

"It's an entirely different routine," Brock says. "You get up in the morning for 42 years and work eight hours a day. It's going to be different."

Edgar Electric General Manager Tom Hentz says Smittkamp and Brock will be greatly missed, too, not only by the people they have served throughout the years, but also by their fellow employees and the administration at Edgar Electric.

"These guys are really Mr. Edgar Electric," Hentz says. "They made it what it is today."



Office closed

Thursday,
July 4, 1996
in observance of
Independence
Day

**Safety first on
the Fourth!**

Open house set for Edgar Propane Supply

To show appreciation to its customers, Edgar Propane Supply, a subsidiary of Edgar Electric Cooperative, will once again hold its Annual Open House Celebration. This year's Open House will be held on Saturday, July 20, 1996, at the American Legion Pavilion in Paris. The event hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For that day only, "special" discounted contract pricing is available on propane purchases. The Open House gives individuals and/or businesses the opportunity to sign pre-purchase propane contracts. The minimum contract amount is 1,000 gallons. The special pricing is good that day only. Contract pricing will be available after

the Open House, at a slightly higher price. Door prizes will be awarded on the hour. You must register that day to qualify for the drawing.

All current customers of Edgar Propane Supply will receive an invitation in the mail regarding the event. All persons interested in learning more about the many products and services offered by Edgar Propane Supply or would like an invitation to this year's Open House, should contact Carrie Eveland at 217/465-5800 or 800/343-5800.

The entire staff of Edgar Propane Supply looks forward to seeing you at this year's Open House Celebration!

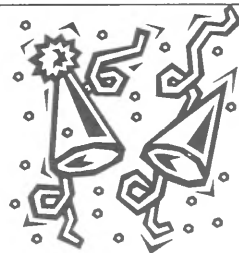
EEC Services, Clear Talk to be at Open House

Persons attending the Open House Celebration sponsored by Edgar Propane Supply on July 20th should visit the booths of EEC Services, Inc. a wholly-owned subsidiary of Edgar Electric, and Clear Talk Communications.

EEC Services, a communications subsidiary, will be at the Open House to demonstrate two products that many cooperative members will enjoy. DIRECTV® and the 18-inch Digital Satellite System® will be demonstrated by Roger Hart. EEC Services has offered DIRECTV since September 1994, and more than 1,200 households in the three-county area have subscribed to the service. The introduction of the satellite system set sales records for consumer electronic products, beating previous records set by the VCR. System sales continue to be strong. It is estimated that by the year 2 million homes will have a direct-to-home satellite system. Stop by the DIRECTV booth to see what everyone is raving about.

EEC Services is proud to announce its newest product lines—cellular and paging services available from Ameritech®. New EEC employee Tracy Quinn, cellular rep, will have a booth at the Open House to demonstrate how cellular phones work and discuss pricing plans to fit all budget levels.

Also attending the Open House, will be new employee, June Jacobs, business manager of Clear Talk Communications. Clear Talk Communications is a joint venture between EEC Services and Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville, Illinois. EEC and Shelby joined forces to create one business, Clear Talk, to operate the two-way mobile radio systems owned by the cooperatives. Clear Talk will soon expand its coverage area by combining all the towers. Stop by the booth and get to know June Jacobs of Clear Talk Communications. If you operate a business or farm, let June tell you how Clear Talk can work for you—saving you time and money.



Edgar Propane Supply Open House Celebration Saturday, July 20, 1996

E.P.S. Edgar Propane Supply offers:

- 24-hour emergency service
- competitive prices year-round
- Drive-by fills or call-in delivery service
- Prompt, courteous service

Operating statement — April 1996

Account Description	Year-to-date Last Year	This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$2,314,062	\$2,555,062	\$580,129
Cost of Purchased Power	1,579,082	1,559,325	353,588
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	56,119	63,321	12,343
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	121,237	186,264	45,599
Consumer Accounts Expense	93,356	98,298	23,457
Customer Service and Informational Expense	29,917	31,033	9,525
Administrative & General Expense	309,317	308,546	70,339
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	2,189,028	2,246,787	514,851
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	110,404	130,387	31,470
Tax Expense—Property	6,391	3,692	600
Tax Expense—Other	29,242	39,346	9,282
Interest on Long-Term Debt	114,412	139,266	35,300
Interest Expense—Other	3,653	35,372	9,178
Other Deductions	(20,472)	(19,083)	(4,567)
Total Cost of Electric Service	2,432,658	2,575,767	595,814
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	(118,596)	(20,705)	(15,685)
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	41,712	149,908	7,446
Nonoperating Margins—Other	3,910	2,514	613
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	-0-	-0-	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	(72,974)	131,717	(7,626)

Manager's report to the board — April 1996

Statistics and Revenue Data	April 1995	March 1996	April 1996
Number Connected Consumers	4,974	4,998	5,012
Average kwh Used	862	1,013	981
Average Bill	105	118	114
No. kwh Purchased	5,127,273	5,850,195	5,968,279
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	4,289,166	5,060,548	4,915,204
Line Loss Percent (12 month average)	9.5%	9.3%	9.5%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.069	\$0.061	\$0.059
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.082	\$0.070	\$0.072
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.123	\$0.117	\$0.117
Miles Energized	1,479	1,488	1,488
Revenue Per Mile	\$365.51	\$409.80	\$395.29
Total Expense Per Mile	\$373.24	\$417.60	\$346.00

When your power is out . . . we're on the line!

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity. Then call Edgar Electric's Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

Local calls — dial 463-4145
Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145



current highlights



The three students who represented Edgar Electric Co-operative Association on the 1996 "Youth to Washington" Tour met with Jim Eichhorst, legislative assistant to Congressman Thomas Ewing, on Capital 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. From left are Eliza Williams of Martinsville, Eichhorst, Matthew Boland of Paris, and Jeremy Welsh of Marshall. 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.

Published by
**Edgar Electric
Co-operative**
Paris, Illinois

217-463-4145
800-635-4145

Help Lighten our Load

→ 12b

Summer Bills

→ 12c

Financial Report

→ 12d

Chill out!

Here are a few tips to help keep you cool during the hot months.

- * Keep your cooling system well tuned with periodic maintenance by a professional service person.
- * When it's humid, set air conditioner fan speed at low; even though you'll get less cooling, moisture will be removed from the air.
- * Keep lights low or off. They generate heat and add to the load on your air conditioner.

Please contact us for more advice.
Don't lose your cool this summer!



Help lighten our load

Here's how you can help. One of the simplest methods of load management is simply limiting your usage during the electric peak.

When everyone uses a lot of electricity at the same time, our electricity "load" grows. The highest point of electric load is called our "peak demand." Big loads cost the cooperative—and you—more money because expensive equipment and fuel must be used to produce the extra electricity people need.

Edgar Electric Co-operative is a summer peaking cooperative. We hit our highest peak demand during the period of June 15 to September 15 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. The highest hour of peak demand is used to determine the cooperative's wholesale power costs throughout the entire year. Wholesale power costs equate to 70 percent of the retail electric rates charged by the cooperative. With load management, utilities and customers can work

together to spread electric usage throughout the day, thus helping to reduce the peak demand.

Here's how you can help. One of the simplest methods of load management is simply limiting your usage during the electric peak. If enough people would do this, peaks would be reduced and we would all save money.

On the hot, steamy days of summer, try using major appliances early in the morning and late at night. Set your thermostat at the highest possible comfortable level. Use your dishwasher and washing machine only when you have full loads. Use all your appliances wisely. The more heat your appliances produce, the greater amount of energy your home uses to keep the air cool.

"But I've been away. Why isn't my bill less?"

Here is a typical case: A family decides to take a vacation and one thing they plan on is a lower electric bill when they return. But they find out it isn't any or much lower. Why?

It could be any number of reasons:

Major appliances. If you did not adjust your electric water heater before you left, it would have continued to run, even with no one at home. The same with your refrigerator and freezer.

Split billing periods.

The time that you were away may have been split between two billing periods. So even if there would be some decrease in electrical usage, it probably would not be noticeable on either bill.

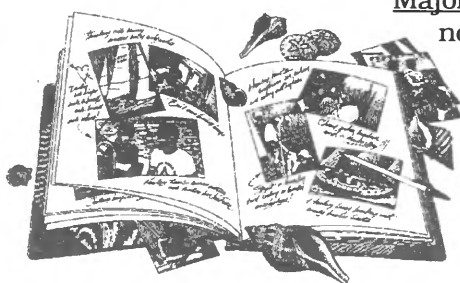
Extra before and after the trip.

This might be laundry or air conditioning.

What can you do while you are away to help control electricity usage in your home? You might start by turning the thermostat down on your electric water heater. Unless you completely empty the refrigerator and freezer, you will probably need to leave them running.

If you like to leave a light on for security, an automatic timer might be useful. One of these timers will periodically turn a light on and off, giving the "lived in" look. And it wouldn't be necessary to burn a light all the time.

We want you to enjoy your vacation this summer, but remember: the electricity is working even while you are away.



In a Co-op, what goes around comes around.

Your local co-op electric meter may look exactly like those of the other utilities. But it's actually very different. Other customers pay some huge corporation for their electricity. Co-op members are basically paying themselves for electricity. Because co-ops are local nonprofit organizations that operate purely to benefit you, the member. And revenues stay in the community, strengthening our quality of life.

Everyone is better off when their meter runs slowly. But when it does pick up speed, only co-op members get more than just a bigger bill in return.



Edgar Electric Co-operative

We get our power from you...

Our Consumer-Owners.

Subsidiary Saturday Hours Announced

Starting July 27, two subsidiaries of Edgar Electric Cooperative Association — EEC Services and Edgar Propane Supply — will offer extended business hours to its customers. Both businesses will be open Saturdays from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.

The announcement, made by Edgar Electric manager Thomas Hentz, stated that the extended hours would be offered through December, 1996. The extended hours will be evaluated at the end of the trial period to determine if the hours should be continued.

"For some time, we have had customers of both subsidiaries ask

for extended hours on Saturdays, so we thought we would give it a try and see how it goes. It's something more we can offer our customers."

Hentz added that Edgar Propane Supply would not be able to fill propane cylinders on Saturdays. Edgar Propane does offer propane cylinder exchanges at two Paris locations; Furry's 76 Service Station and Pool's Service Star.

The parent company, Edgar Electric, will not be open during the extended Saturday hours. Electric members should continue to leave electric payments in the night deposit box.

**"Take a
break"**

**OFFICE
CLOSED
Monday,
September
2, 1996
in
observance
of Labor
Day.**



Operating statement — May 1996

Account Description	Year-to-date Last Year	This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$2,922,337	\$3,104,314	\$549,252
Cost of Purchased Power	1,882,387	1,860,607	301,282
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	66,409	87,040	23,719
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	192,737	244,637	58,373
Consumer Accounts Expense	117,805	122,253	23,955
Customer Service and Informational Expense	35,984	39,614	8,581
Administrative & General Expense	373,087	394,332	85,786
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	2,668,409	2,748,482	501,696
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	138,657	163,466	33,079
Tax Expense—Property	6,991	4,292	600
Tax Expense—Other	37,079	49,387	10,041
Interest on Long-Term Debt	145,013	172,591	33,325
Interest Expense—Other	6,706	46,067	10,695
Other Deductions	(25,563)	(23,816)	(4,732)
Total Cost of Electric Service	2,977,293	3,160,469	584,703
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	(54,956)	(58,156)	(35,451)
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	55,767	157,187	7,280
Nonoperating Margins—Other	4,820	3,373	860
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	16,100	-0-	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	21,731	104,405	(27,312)

Manager's report to the board — May 1996

Statistics and Revenue Data	May 1995	April 1996	May 1996
Number Connected Consumers	4,988	5,012	5,009
Average kwh Used	1,014	981	921
Average Bill	121	114	108
No. kwh Purchased	4,572,791	5,968,279	5,055,864
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	5,059,157	4,915,204	4,612,355
Line Loss Percent (12 month average)	10.6%	9.5%	8.8%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.066	\$0.059	\$0.060
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.060	\$0.072	\$0.065
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.119	\$0.117	\$0.118
Miles Energized	1,480	1,488	1,491
Revenue Per Mile	\$431.99	\$395.29	\$373.84
Total Expense Per Mile	\$368.00	\$346.00	\$392.15

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Local calls — dial 463-4145
Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145



current highlights

In for a change?

For over 50 years at Edgar Electric Co-operative, the employees have done their best to keep the members' lights on, and do it at a reasonable rate. But things are a whole lot different today. We generally take electric power for granted. We do not want any power outages to interrupt our microwave ovens, TVs and satellite dishes, or our computers.

And even though electricity is a better value today for the work it does, nobody likes to see that monthly energy statement come in the mail. Americans are using more and more electricity and its adding up quickly. Parts of the country already see "brown-outs," or "black-outs," temporary power outages when the power demand is higher than supply. In our area, high electric rates add to the problem of high use.

Across Illinois, there are 26 electric distribution cooperatives just like Edgar Electric. A federation of 21 electric cooperatives purchase their wholesale power from Soyland Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative located in Decatur, IL. Therefore, the electric cooperatives own Soyland. Through local electric cooperatives, Soyland Power Cooperative provides electric service to more than 150,000 rural households throughout Illinois.

Each of the local electric distribution cooperatives has an "all power" requirement contract with Soyland Cooperative. Over the last 10 years, the cost of power from Soyland has been one of the highest costs in the nation. While Soyland's Board of Directors, made up of representatives from each cooperative, has worked very hard to reduce these costs during the past few years, costs remain too high. Incidentally, wholesale power costs equate to about 70 percent of retail rates charged to the customer by the local cooperative.

Soyland Power Cooperative is a 13.1 percent owner in the Clinton Nuclear Plant located in DeWitt County, Illinois. Clinton's majority owner is the Illinois Power Company. While energy costs associated from Clinton are relatively low, initial building costs that went considerably over budget and the continuing nuclear liability makes the plant a financial burden. Some financial experts question whether or not the plant will ever pay for itself.

At the last Edgar Electric Annual Meeting of Members held in March, Manager Tom Hentz discussed possible changes at Soyland as well as changes in the electric industry as a whole. Hentz pointed out in his closing remarks that the board and staff of Edgar Electric are committed to reducing retail rates at Soyland—thereby reducing rates to its local members. We still are.

Soyland's mortgage holder is the U.S. Department of Agriculture through Rural Utilities Service (RUS), formerly the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Negotiations with the Federal government concerning a "write down" of Soyland's debt are ongoing. At this time, details on a proposed settlement are not available because they simply have not been worked out.

Deregulation, or restructuring, of the electric industry makes settlement decisions tough. So much is up in the air as to how final legislation will look regarding electric industry deregulation. Congressional debate is not expected until after the first of the year.

As this publication goes to print, more information regarding the Soyland deal will most likely be available. In any event, the coming months will bring many changes at the Soyland Power Cooperative and, hopefully, to Edgar Electric in the form of lower electric rates.

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Edgar Electric Co-operative
Paris, Illinois

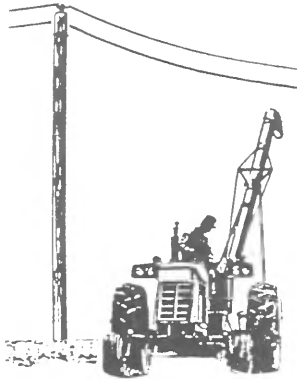
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800-635-4145

Harvest Safety
➔ 12b

Propane Open House
➔ 12c

Financial Report
➔ 12d

Be extra careful during harvest season



Soon farmers throughout the Edgar Electric Co-operative's service area will be hard at work bringing in this year's crop. As always, this is an anxious time for many as they try to beat the rain, the frost and maybe even the market.

We at Edgar Electric Co-operative realize you have an important task on your mind during this time of year. We share in your concerns to complete these tasks. However, today's farm equipment is larger and puts the operator of the

vehicle closer to hazards and obstacles around the perimeter of the field.

This year do yourself and Edgar Electric a favor. Take time to check for hidden obstacles and if you have employees helping you during the harvest season, please be sure to point these obstacles out to them as well.

From the entire staff of Edgar Electric, have a safe and productive harvest season.

Help for harvest time

Harvest time is just around the corner. Not only are you extremely busy, but so is your entire family. One way to improve efficiency on your farm and save yourself some footsteps is with a two-way mobile radio available at E.E.C. Services, a subsidiary of Edgar Electric Cooperative.

These easy-to-use two-way portable radios provide your farm

operation with a totally private means of communications unlike conventional type radios. The radios can also be purchased with an optional "telephone interconnect" which ties the use to a commercial phone line.

So if you want to learn more about these radios, contact Angela Griffin at 463-4145 or 1-800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

Here comes Labor Day!



Labor Day means summer's over, and it's time for one last fling before getting the kids back to school.

As your locally owned and operated electric cooperative, we extend our best wishes nationwide to all co-op employees, directors and trustees, and consumer-owners.

There are 1,000 electric co-ops in 46 states, and all are dedicated to providing service as efficiently and economically as possible the co-op way.

Working hard, meeting challenges, and helping our communities grow and prosper all across America are the key ingredients that make electric co-ops succeed in whatever they do.

So, enjoy Labor Day, and be proud of a job well done.

Office closed: Monday, September 2



Edgar Propane people kept busy transacting business at the event, which drew a good crowd.

Edgar Propane Supply thanks customers at open house celebration

It was a hot day but the savings were cool for customers of Edgar Propane Supply. The company celebrated its fourth year of business with an Open House Celebration on July 20th.

"We really enjoy having the Open House each year," said Mark Comer, manager of Edgar Propane, "It gives us the chance to offer our customers the opportunity to save money on their upcoming propane purchases for the grain drying and winter heating season." For that day only, customers received additional savings on propane contracts for the upcoming year. Minimum purchase requirements was 1,000 gallons.

Comer added that he enjoyed hosting the Open House because it "allows the entire propane staff to personally thank the customers for business throughout the year." He added, "We have two company goals. We strive

to provide excellent customer service and maintain stable propane prices throughout the year."

Comer stated that Edgar Propane's ability to buy propane during the off-season when prices are generally lower and store it through the winter helped keep prices level. The market price for propane generally fluctuates throughout the winter.

Several door prizes, donated by Edgar Propane Supply and area businesses, were given out during the day. Special prizes included a gas grill won by George Step and three dinners for two won by Wanda Smith, Mary Moreland and Sherry Fitzjarrold. EEC Services, a telecommunications subsidiary of Edgar Electric, donated an Ameritech cellular telephone which was won by Mary Mickler. The lucky guess winner was Matt Murphy who came the closest to the number of peanuts in a jar. His prize was 250 gallons of propane.

Thank you from the entire propane staff:

Mark Comer,
Propane Manager

Harold Bradford,
Energy Specialist

Carrie Eveland,
Customer Service Representative

Ken Miller,
Assistant Manager

The cooperative: It's your business

A cooperative is something special—a unique way of doing business. It's an organization providing a service to its owners. Its owners are you.

Your electric cooperative is people working together for people, not profit. That's why your participation is so vital to the co-op's continuing success. It's the leadership you elect—the board of directors—that guides the cooperation of the co-op and sets the kind of policy that puts people first.

Cooperation is based on the prin-

ciple of people working together, pooling their efforts. Many hands and many minds cooperate to provide a needed service—to improve the quality of life for our families, our community.

Local ownership, local control, non-profit operation and cooperation is why we think it's the best way to serve you.

And, if you ever have any comments or questions about your electric cooperative, remember, it's your business. All you have to do is call. We are here to serve you—the member!

Operating statement — June 1996

Account Description	Year-to-date		
	Last Year	This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$3,375,822	\$3,631,845	\$527,531
Cost of Purchased Power	2,181,684	2,152,816	292,209
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	100,664	103,365	16,325
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	260,228	297,270	52,633
Consumer Accounts Expense	149,082	144,448	22,195
Customer Service and Informational Expense	46,264	46,914	7,301
Administrative & General Expense	442,393	461,555	67,223
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	3,180,314	3,206,368	457,886
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	165,691	196,699	33,234
Tax Expense—Property	7,591	4,892	600
Tax Expense—Other	46,863	57,564	8,178
Interest on Long-Term Debt	175,798	207,486	34,895
Interest Expense—Other	11,976	55,745	9,678
Other Deductions	(30,540)	(28,513)	(4,697)
Total Cost of Electric Service	3,557,693	3,700,242	539,772
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	(181,871)	(68,397)	(12,241)
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	65,894	163,418	6,231
Nonoperating Margins—Other	5,544	3,966	593
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	16,100	-0-	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	(94,332)	98,987	(5,418)

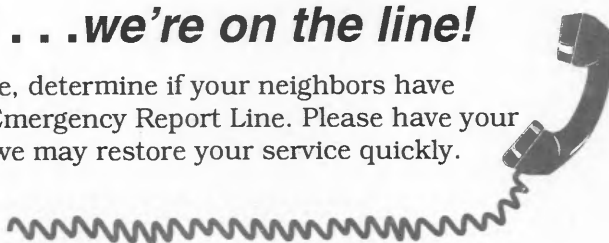
Manager's report to the board — June 1996

Statistics and Revenue Data	June 1995	May 1996	June 1996
Number Connected Consumers	4,992	5,009	5,006
Average kwh Used	710	921	870
Average Bill	90	108	104
No. kwh Purchased	4,501,761	5,055,864	4,927,840
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	3,545,594	4,612,355	4,357,147
Line Loss Percent (12 month average)	9.9%	10.6%	10.2%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.066	\$0.060	\$0.059
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.084	\$0.065	\$0.067
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.127	\$0.118	\$0.120
Miles Energized	1,480	1,491	1,490
Revenue Per Mile	\$313.74	\$373.84	\$358.63
Total Expense Per Mile	\$392.16	\$392.15	\$362.26

When your power is out . . .we're on the line!

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity. Then call Edgar Electric's Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

Local calls — dial 463-4145
Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145



Edgar Electric participates in National Co-op Month observance

Edgar Electric will be one of the nation's 47,000 cooperative businesses celebrating Cooperative Month during October, Tom Hentz, general manager, has announced. The 1996 theme is "Cooperatives—Expanding People's Horizons."

"Cooperatives are found in every state of the union and serve approximately 120 million people—nearly half of the population of the United States," Hentz said. "And 30 million of that number are served by 1,000 electric cooperatives in 46 states," he added. There are 26 electric co-ops in Illinois and Edgar Electric serves 5,000 members in the counties of Edgar, Coles, Clark, Vermillion and Douglas.

Hentz pointed out that providing electric service the cooperative way distinguishes electric co-ops from other kinds of electric utilities. The co-op's consumer-owner has a voice and vote

in cooperative matters and can be elected as a co-op director or trustee.

"Because the co-op is locally owned and controlled means that it plays a major role in the community. Electric co-ops from coast to coast are involved in community activities and programs such as conducting safety programs at school and the local library, helping elderly citizens repair their homes, sponsoring local fairs, helping to get new businesses or new housing started, and contributing computers or satellite dishes to schools, community hospitals," Hentz explained.

"Whatever helps the co-op helps the community and its citizens," Hentz added. "Furthermore, the theme, 'Expanding People's Horizons,' exemplifies what co-ops are all about," he said.

For more information on co-op principles, see page 2.

Applications sought for IEC Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship program to financially assist students among electric cooperative members is seeking applications for the 1997 awards. Edgar Electric Co-operative Association in Paris is a participant in the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

This is the second year that the fund is available to high school seniors pursuing a college education in Illinois. Two scholarships of \$1,000 each are to be awarded. One award goes to the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative members. The other is presented to the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative director or employee. The application deadline is January 1, 1997. The program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

The fund's purpose is to help the children of electric cooperative mem-

bers and provide a means to honor deceased rural electric leaders through memorial gifts, says Angela Griffin, spokesperson for the cooperative. "As a vital part of their community, the electric cooperatives want to make a difference in the lives of local young people. This is one way we can do that."

The recipients are selected according to grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay. A "blue ribbon" panel, selected by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, judges the scholarship applications.

Information on the IEC Memorial Scholarships is available through Edgar Electric Co-operative or the counselors of the local high schools.

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**Edgar Electric
Co-operative**
Paris, Illinois

217-463-4145
800-635-4145

Co-op principles
➡ 12b

Winterize
➡ 12c

**Financial
Report**
➡ 12d

The co-op principles



- **Voluntary and Open Membership**—Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

- **Democratic Member Control**—Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

- **Member Economic Participation**—Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes; developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

- **Autonomy and Independence**—Cooperatives are autonomous self-

help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

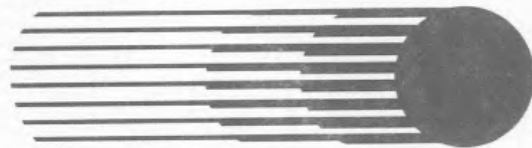
- **Education, Training and Information**—Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public particularly young people and opinion leaders—about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

- **Cooperation among Cooperatives**—Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together, through local, national, regional and international structures.

- **Concern for Community**—While focusing on members needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

COOPERATIVES
EXPANDING
PEOPLE'S 
HORIZONS

For your winter heating needs call Edgar Propane Supply



A subsidiary of Edgar Electric
Phone: 465-5800 or 1-800-343-5800

·24 hour emergency service ·Competitive prices ·Budget billing
·Drive-by fills or call-in delivery ·Prompt and courteous service

Start winterizing your home now

Even though we may have a few more relatively warm fall days ahead of us, now is the best time to start planning for the cold winds of November and the subsequent Illinois winter weather. Since many of us haven't used our furnaces since, oh, perhaps last April, this may be the best place to start.

Heating systems and humidifiers

If you have a humidifier attached to your furnace, it should be cleaned and chlorinated. Replace filters, making sure the water is turned on and the drain is clear. Make sure the humidifier is not leaking into the furnace.

Check all furnace filters to make sure they are clean. If not, either clean them or replace them. In some systems, filters should be replaced on a monthly basis during the regular heating period. Check your owner's manual for recommended replacement time and other maintenance requirements.

If you have a wood-burning stove, check all duct work for possible leaks. Do not vent a wood-burning stove or fireplace in the same flue as a gas, or oil burner, or space heater. Check fireplaces for obstructions or creosote buildup--clean at least once a year. Leave the damper slightly open at all times if you have a gas log or gas starter.

Plumbing and water heaters

Locate your main water shut-off

valves and know how to use them.

Turn off any water lines going to outside faucets and drain the pipes to prevent winter freeze up.

Insulate water lines in your basement or outer walls exposed to cold drafts; however, do not use heat tapes in hard-to-reach areas.

Install a temperature pressure relief valve and metal overflow line on your electric water heater. Consider insulating your heater to prevent unwanted heat loss.

Snow Birds

If you plan on taking an extended vacation over a period of months, consider draining your entire water system and shutting the water off to your home until you return.

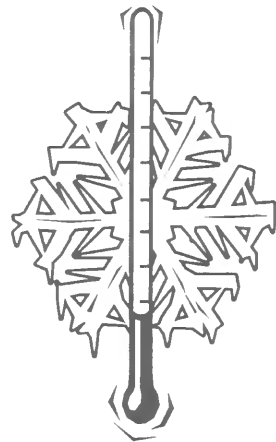
Unplug any large appliances not in use: range, washer, dryer, refrigerator (if empty and defrosted, leave door ajar), television, etc.

Set your thermostat at a minimum of 45 degrees to prevent freeze up.

Ask a friend or neighbor to periodically check your home in case of some unforeseen emergency.

Call the Edgar Electric Co-operative office for more winterizing tips.

By reviewing your winterization needs now, you'll be ready later—when you really need to be—as Old Man Winter is knocking on your door.



Willie says, "Boo to you!"

Willie wants you to have a screamingly fun Halloween, but he also wants you to celebrate as safely as possible.

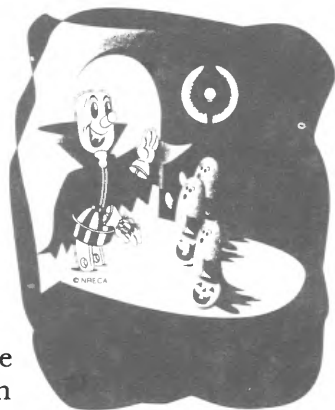
Here are some Willie warnings:

- Trick or treat only at the homes of friends.
- Choose costumes that are nonflammable and light-colored.
- Know phone numbers and

addresses of parties your teenagers might attend.

·Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully; watch for children on roadways, medians, and curbs.

A little caution and common sense are all it takes for a perfect Halloween. And...don't forget to leave the porch light on for the safe return home!



Operating statement — July 1996

Account Description	Last Year	Year-to-date	
		This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$4,002,295	\$4,278,058	\$646,213
Cost of Purchased Power	2,518,360	2,488,853	336,037
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	114,390	116,182	12,817
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	311,223	354,798	57,528
Consumer Accounts Expense	173,059	169,801	25,353
Customer Service and Informational Expense	54,148	53,942	7,027
Administrative & General Expense	506,159	512,249	50,694
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	3,677,338	3,695,824	489,456
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	196,177	230,154	33,455
Tax Expense—Property	8,191	5,492	600
Tax Expense—Other	55,407	66,646	9,082
Interest on Long-Term Debt	207,268	243,521	36,035
Interest Expense—Other	18,793	66,460	10,715
Other Deductions	(35,327)	(33,380)	(4,867)
Total Cost of Electric Service	4,127,847	4,274,718	574,476
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	(125,552)	3,341	71,738
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	76,112	171,663	8,245
Nonoperating Margins—Other	6,288	4,549	583
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	16,100	-0-	-0-
Patronage Capital or Margins	(27,051)	179,553	80,566

Manager's report to the board — July 1996

Statistics and Revenue Data	July 1995	June 1996	July 1996
Number Connected Consumers	5,000	5,006	5,034
Average kwh Used	1,014	870	1,107
Average Bill	124.27	104.00	127.01
No. kwh Purchased	5,267,268	4,927,840	5,700,011
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	5,069,077	4,357,147	5,571,200
Line Loss Percent (12 month average)	10.2%	10.1%	9.9%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.064	\$0.059	\$0.059
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.066	\$0.067	\$0.060
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.123	\$0.120	\$0.115
Miles Energized	1,485	1,490	1,491
Revenue Per Mile	\$429.25	\$358.63	\$433.41
Total Expense Per Mile	\$383.94	\$362.26	\$328.27

When your power is out . . . *we're on the line!*

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity. Then call Edgar Electric's Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

Local calls — dial 463-4145
Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145



How to get the most out of your water heater

Water heater efficiency

Your water heater is at work 24 hours a day. When the temperature of the water in the tank drops below a certain level, the thermostat turns on the heat until the desired temperature is reached. Thus, your tank is always prepared to provide you with hot water at the twist of a tap.

There are several easy ways you can improve the efficiency of the water heater. You can lower the thermostat setting to a range appropriate for your household's daily needs. Be careful that you are not overheating your water. For most people, a 140 degree F setting is fine for a home with a dishwasher. Without a dishwasher, the water temperature can be set much lower, at 110 degrees F. Reducing the thermostat setting from 140 degrees to 110 degrees can save about 20 percent in your hot water heating bill.

If your hot water thermostat has settings of "warm," "medium" and "hot" in place of temperature levels, hold a cooking thermometer under the hot water faucet to determine the temperature of your hot water.

Be very cautious about raising the temperature of your hot water. Tap water at 156 degrees F will cause a third degree burn—the worst kind—in just one second.

Since your water heater stores hot water over long periods of time, you can greatly increase its efficiency by adding a blanket of insulation. Just as a blanket or coat helps maintain your body temperature, an extra layer of insulation around your water heater will maintain water temperature better and longer. If you add an extra 1½ inches of insulation to an existing tank, you can expect to save about 400 kilowatt hours per year for your electric water heater. Often, this means a payback rate of from one to three years!

You can purchase special packaged kits for refitting water heaters with insulation. Be sure to follow the

manufacturer's directions for installation and be sure to purchase the kit that is safe to use on your type of water heater.

As a final step in improving the efficiency of your water heater, drain a few gallons of water from the tank to remove sediment. Sediment can build up in the bottom of the tanks, creating a barrier between the heating element and the water. This means that less heat is transferred to the water, reducing the efficiency of your unit. To correct this problem, draw several gallons of water from the tank through the heater's drain faucet.

Conserve hot water

Try a shower instead of a bath. A shower generally requires less hot water than a bath. The average shower uses about 10 gallons of water. The average bath requires about 20 gallons—twice as much.

Extended hot showers, however, can use much more water than baths.

If you are not sure how much water you use, try a simple test. The next time you take a bath, mark your water level before you get in with a piece of adhesive tape. Then, when you shower, plug up the drain and see how far up to the line the water level reaches.

Flow restrictors. A small metal device that looks somewhat like a washer and fits in the shower head is called a flow restrictor. Flow restrictors cost as little as 75 cents each, are easy to install, and can help reduce the water flow by as much as one-third, thus saving substantial amounts of hot water, and without loss of comfort.

Stop up the sink. Letting the water run while shaving or washing dishes is a waste of energy. Stop up the sink and you will cut in half the hot water needed for washing.

(Continued on page 12c)

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Paris, Illinois

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Ameritech Dealer
→ 12b

**Energy Help
Available**
→ 12c

**Financial
Report**
→ 12d

EEC Services is now Ameritech dealer

Ameritech

EEC Services, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Edgar Electric

Cooperative, that provides the community and surrounding areas with DIRECTV and local paging service has once again expanded. As of May, EEC is the local dealer for Ameritech Cellular and Paging. As a full service agent, EEC will carry a wide range of Motorola personal communications equipment.

Ameritech Cellular and Paging was not represented by a local dealer in Paris though many individuals had their service. Customers were required to travel to Danville or Mattoon to see a dealer. Edgar Electric saw the need for a local Ameritech dealer and felt the EEC division would be an ideal environment to fill this need. Being in the telecommunications business with the two-way radio system and a local paging system, the services provided by Ameritech complement the services already offered. EEC will continue to provide customers with the local paging system as well as the new Ameritech paging. "The Ameritech paging system will provide customers with a wider coverage area and more options including alphanumeric paging," according to Tracy Quinn, Ameritech representative. Quinn was added to the EEC staff to handle Ameritech business.

Ameritech is currently promoting the new "Match & Win" game.

Ameritech is giving away the new Motorola StarTac wearable cellular phone along with fifty years of cellular service which is valued at \$13,000. The StarTac is the newest Motorola cellular phone. It can be folded to the size of a pager, worn on belt or shirt pocket, and has all of the regular cellular features. Other prizes include batteries and accessory gift certificates. For those people who did not receive a game piece in area newspapers, Quinn invites those interested to stop in and pick up one at EEC while quantities last. Several other specials are available under the current promotion including free local air time, usage credit, and free phone offers. For those who want cellular service but do not want the contract, Ameritech offers the new "No Term" package which provides cellular service without the contract.

"Many people assume cellular service is costly which is very misleading. Now with several free phone giveaways and free airtime the cost is very low," says Quinn. "Ameritech offers state plans which apply to state and city employees as well as those employed by the school system. Special plans for employees of local businesses are also available." Quinn is available Tuesday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm and now EEC is open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. to better serve those who can not make it in during the week. Quinn encourages everyone to stop by EEC or call (217)463-3332 for more information.

NOW OPEN SATURDAYS!

For your convenience,
EEC SERVICES, INC.

and

EDGAR PROPANE SUPPLY

have new office hours

Monday through Friday; 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday; 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

*Edgar Electric is not open on Saturdays,
payments should be left in the night depository box*

(continued from page 12a)

Try cold cycles. There are special detergents for clothes designed to work well in lower wash temperatures. Try washing in warm, rinsing in cold, and, if that proves successful, try to wash and rinse in cold water.

Turn down your water heater while you are away. There's no sense in paying for hot water that you won't be needing or using. When you leave home for an extended period, turn the water control to the lowest setting possible...but in

winter, remember to set it at the minimum temperature to prevent freezing, not "off."

Fix all leaks

A dripping faucet wastes water, wastes the energy needed to heat that water, and wastes money.

Repair your leaky faucets as quickly as possible. A faucet that leaks 90 drops a minute can waste up to about 1,000 gallons of water per year. Usually, the problem is nothing more complicated than replacing a worn washer.

Low income energy assistance available

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist eligible households pay for winter energy services. LIHEAP will provide a one-time benefit to eligible households to be used for energy bills. The amount of the payment is determined by household size, fuel type and income.

What do you have to do? Contact the local agency that serves your area. The agency that serves east-central Illinois is the Embarrass River Basin Agency (ERBA) at 465-4911 in Edgar County or 826-5663 in Clark County.

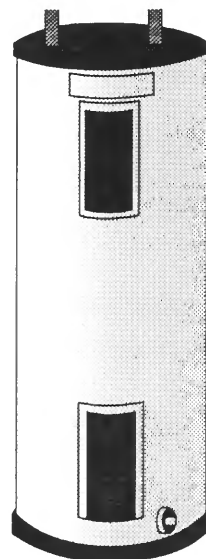
Applications for assistance are accepted on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. When you apply for assistance you need the following: (1) Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period prior to application date; (2) A copy of your current heat and electric bills; (3) Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members; (4) If a member of your household

received AFCD, you must bring their "Medical Eligibility Card"; (5) If you rent your home, proof of your rental agreement, which must state your monthly rent amount.

The agency will determine if you are eligible for assistance. If you are eligible, ERBA will make the appropriate payments to your energy provider(s) on your behalf or, in some cases, directly to you.

Below are some of the income eligibility guidelines for the ILHEAP program. For more detailed information, contact the office nearest you.

Income eligibility: 30-days period to application	
Family size	30-day income
1	\$ 806
2	1,079
3	1,352
4	1,625
5	1,898
6	2,171

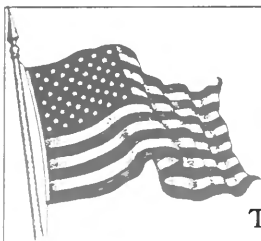


Special offer for Edgar Electric Members only

FREE ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

**Call for details!
(217)
463-4145
•
(800)
642-4145**

**M-F
8:00 am to
5:00 pm**



Office closing

Monday, Nov. 11, 1996,
in observance of Veteran's Day
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29,
1996 in observance of Thanksgiving



Operating statement — August 1996

Account Description	Last Year	Year-to-date	
		This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$4,683,970	\$4,911,127	\$633,069
Cost of Purchased Power	2,927,897	2,871,484	382,631
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	116,717	128,648	12,465
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	358,487	411,358	56,561
Consumer Accounts Expense	200,775	192,824	23,023
Customer Service and Informational Expense	63,501	62,439	8,497
Administrative & General Expense	576,540	588,857	76,608
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	4,243,916	4,255,609	559,785
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	228,049	263,891	33,737
Tax Expense—Property	8,791	6,092	600
Tax Expense—Other	64,476	73,569	6,923
Interest on Long-Term Debt	236,066	278,031	34,510
Interest Expense—Other	26,263	77,614	11,154
Other Deductions	(40,244)	(38,047)	(4,667)
Total Cost of Electric Service	4,767,318	4,916,759	642,041
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	(83,348)	(5,632)	(8,972)
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	86,724	178,088	6,425
Nonoperating Margins—Other	6,915	5,522	973
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	16,100	46,920	46,920
Patronage Capital or Margins	26,391	224,898	45,345

Manager's report to the board — August 1996

Statistics and Revenue Data	August 1995	July 1996	August 1996
Number Connected Consumers	5,002	5,034	5,050
Average kwh Used	1,188	1,107	1,075
Average Bill	135.40	127.01	123.67
No. kwh Purchased	6,566,765	5,700,011	6,109,548
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	5,943,897	5,571,200	5,428,774
Line Loss Percent (12 month average)	9.4%	9.9%	10.1%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.062	\$0.059	\$0.063
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.069	\$0.060	\$0.070
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.114	\$0.115	\$0.115
Miles Energized	1,485	1,491	1,494
Revenue Per Mile	\$466.61	\$433.41	\$423.74
Total Expense Per Mile	\$430.62	\$328.27	\$429.75

When your power is out . . . *we're on the line!*

Check your circuit breakers or fuses. If possible, determine if your neighbors have electricity. Then call Edgar Electric's Outage and Emergency Report Line. Please have your account number and location readily available so we may restore your service quickly.

Local calls — dial 463-4145
Outside Paris — dial 1-800-635-4145



current highlights

One Snowy Christmas Eve

"Twas the night before Christmas and out on the ranch
 The pond was frozen over and so was the branch.
 The snow was piled up belly deep to a mule;
 The kids were all home on vacation from school,
 And happier young folks you never did see,
 Just sprawled around a-watching TV.
 Then suddenly sometime around eight o'clock
 The power went off; the TV went dead!
 When Grandpa came in from out in the shed
 With an armload of wood, the house was all dark.
 "Just what I expect," they head him remark.
 "Them REA lines must be down from the snow.
 Seems sorter like times on the ranch long ago."
 "I'll hunt up some candles," said Mom.
 "With their light
 And the fireplace I reckon we'll make out all right."
 The teenagers all seemed enveloped in gloom.
 Then Grandpa came back from a trip to his room,
 Uncased his old fiddle and started to play
 That old Christmas song about bells on a sleigh.

Mom started to sing, and the first thing they knew
 Both Pop and the kids were all singing it too!
 They sang Christmas carols, they sang "Holy Night,"
 Their eyes all a-shining in the ruddy firelight.
 They played some charades Mom recalled from her youth.
 And Pop read a passage from God's Book of Truth.
 They stayed up 'till midnight, and would you believe
 Those youngsters agreed 'twas a fine Christmas Eve!
 Grandpa arose early, sometime before dawn,
 And when the kids awakened, the current was on.
 "The REA sure got the line repaired quick,"
 Said Grandpa—and no one suspected his trick;
 Last night for the sake of some old-fashioned fun
 He had pulled the main switch—the old son-of-a-gun!

Reprinted from Tennessee Magazine—
 author unknown

The directors and employees of Edgar Electric and its subsidiaries wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Jon Farris, vice president
John Fell, secretary

Tom Murphy, treasurer
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► 12b
 Scholarships

► 12c
 Energy efficiency

► 12d
 Financial reports



Applications sought for IEC Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship program to financially assist students among electric cooperative members is seeking applications for the 1997 awards. Edgar Electric Co-operative Association in Paris is a participant in the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

This is the second year that the fund is available to high school seniors pursuing a college education in Illinois. Two scholarships of \$1,000 each are to be awarded. One award goes to the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative member. The other is presented to the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative director or employee. The application deadline is Jan. 1. The program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

The fund's purpose is to help the children of electric cooperative

members and provide a means to honor deceased rural electric leaders through memorial gifts, says Angela Griffin, spokesperson for the cooperative. "As a vital part of their community, the electric cooperatives want to make a difference in the lives of local young people. This is one way we can do that."

The recipients are selected according to grade-point average, college-entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay. A blue ribbon panel, selected by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, judges the scholarship applications.

Information on the IEC Memorial Scholarships is available through Edgar Electric Co-operative or the counselors of the local high schools.

Now open Saturdays!

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Home, sweet energy-efficient, home

The holidays are a time for families and friends to gather near and far. Whether you are traveling out of town for Christmas or having your family into your home, there are many ways to make this an energy efficient holiday. Here are some great holiday tips:

Going Out of Town

Heating. Lower your heating thermostat to 50 degrees since you won't want to heat unoccupied areas of the house. We recommend a setting of no lower than 50 degrees due to the risk of frozen pipes in colder weather.

Water Heater. If you're going to be away for more than three days, it pays to turn your water heater off. Turn your electric water heater off at the circuit-breaker panel. Remember, you'll need a few hours to heat the tank when you return.

Lighting. Install photocells or timers on lights for security and energy conservation. Photocells will turn the lights on at dusk and turn them off at dawn. Timers will turn the lights on and off at the times you choose. You can purchase timers that plug into wall outlets at most hardware stores for \$5 to \$10. Fluorescent lights use far less electricity than incandescent, but may not work on photocell devices.

Water Bed. Unplug your water bed heater, or lower the thermostat to 70 degrees when away from home seven days or more. Like water heaters, water beds will take time to warm up again.

Electronic Equipment. Unplug your electronic equipment such as your VCR, television, computer, and others as they draw power even when not in use.

Fireplace Use

- Before using your fireplace, make sure a burning ban has not been announced on your area.
- Make sure the flue is clean and free of creosote.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood.
- Don't burn holiday wrappings or garbage.
- Use a fireplace cover such as glass doors to reduce heat loss. Keep doors open during burning and closed when the fire dies down.



Cooking and Baking

- Plan your oven use to prepare as many meals and baked goods at one time as possible.
- Cook with lids on pots. (Trapped steam cooks food faster.)
- Keep vent fans running to reduce moisture buildup.
- When baking, turn off the oven a few minutes before the dish is done. Let the stored heat do the rest.

Decorating

- Use strings of new miniature lights rather than old-fashioned higher wattage bulbs. They use less energy.
- Use mirrors, foil, and tinsel for reflective decorations to reduce the need for additional lights.
- Use outdoor lights after sunset only and shut them off when you retire for the night.
- Unplug lights when trees are being watered.

Operating statement — September 1996

Account Description	Last Year	Year-to-date This Year	This Month
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$5,407,206	\$5,568,861	\$657,734
Cost of Purchased Power	3,338,222	3,239,251	367,767
Transmission Expense	-0-	-0-	-0-
Distribution Expense—Operation	127,020	148,454	19,807
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	397,013	468,285	56,927
Consumer Accounts Expense	227,021	215,307	22,483
Customer Service and Informational Expense	74,940	70,034	7,596
Administrative & General Expense	646,925	658,408	69,552
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	4,811,140	4,799,740	544,131
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	260,013	297,753	33,862
Tax Expense—Property	9,391	6,692	600
Tax Expense—Other	71,542	81,431	7,862
Interest on Long-Term Debt	266,372	319,084	41,053
Interest Expense—Other	34,008	83,251	5,638
Other Deductions	(45,030)	(42,615)	(4,567)
Total Cost of Electric Service	5,407,437	5,545,337	628,578
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	(231)	23,524	29,155
Nonoperating Margins—Interest	96,748	186,281	8,193
Nonoperating Margins—Other	7,701	6,212	690
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	51,241	54,967	8,047
Patronage Capital or Margins	155,460	270,983	46,084

Manager's report to the board — September 1996

Statistics and Revenue Data	September 1995	August 1996	September 1996
Number Connected Consumers	5,006	5,050	5,066
Average kwh Used	1,310	1,075	1,138
Average Bill	142.23	123.67	128.41
No. kwh Purchased	7,325,749	6,109,548	6,380,149
No. kwh Sold and Used by Co-operative	6,559,506	5,428,774	5,748,790
Line Loss Percent (12 month average)	10.1%	10.1%	10.0%
Cost Per kwh Purchased	\$0.056	\$0.063	\$0.058
Cost Per kwh Delivered	\$0.063	\$0.070	\$0.064
Member Cost Per kwh	\$0.109	\$0.115	\$0.113
Miles Energized	1,486	1,494	1,495
Revenue Per Mile	\$517.62	\$423.74	\$439.96
Total Expense Per Mile	\$430.77	\$429.75	\$420.45

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