

## Across the manager's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
General Manger

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**

## Will competition lower your electric rates?

It all sounds so simple and enticing. Proponents of what is called "competition" in the electric utility industry imply that in the not-too-distant future electric consumers will be able to "shop" for low-cost electricity from whom-ever they choose.

This so-called competition draws on deregulation for its appeal. The telephone, airline and bus industries have been through deregulation. Sort through that package of billing statements with your telephone bill. Understand all of it? Check on fares and schedules for airline service from the Quad Cities, or Peoria, or other small market cities. You will pay more and there are fewer flights. I don't have to tell you about the effects of bus deregulation. Small towns and rural areas have been left out. "Competition" of this type has not done much to make things less complicated or less expensive for those of us who live and work in rural areas.

This rush toward electric utility deregulation was given a push by federal legislation approved in 1992 and subsequent actions by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Large industrial consumers of electricity are leading the charge toward what is called "retail wheeling," a concept that would, for example, allow a large factory to "shop" for electricity anywhere in the country. The power purchased elsewhere would be transmitted to the factory over the nation's power transmission grid and the distribution lines of the local utility that serves the area. The local utility would be able to compete for the factory service load and would be allowed to recover costs associated with delivering the power from the other supplier. Traditional service territories—in which electric suppliers are obligated to serve all consumers—would disappear. We in the electric cooperative segment of the industry are concerned that this concept would lead to reduced responsibilities to small consumers and that this is not true competition. It will not reduce costs to all consumers. Small users—homeowners, small businesses and farmers—are not going to be the most-sought-after customers for the "retail wheelers." The best pros-

pects are the big industrial users, and a small number of these big users will be able to negotiate low electric prices. Guess who gets to cover the costs of these discounts? Right—the small users.

During a meeting of farm leaders several years ago, the subject of electric costs came up. One farmer, a member of an electric cooperative, said he had heard that the investor-owned utility (IOU) in his area of the state was interested in serving rural accounts. Across the table sat a friend—also a farmer and fellow electric cooperative member—who, without having to think that over, responded, "Bill, it's not your farm they want to serve. It's that large load at the grain elevator down the road they want."

Consider, too, that this competitive climate already is resulting in reductions in utility work forces. You say that doesn't affect you? Cuts in maintenance and safety personnel suggest decreased reliability, increased outages and compromised safety.

We do not argue that competition is not the cornerstone of our American system. You must compete effectively in business, or you likely will fail. Illinois Valley Electric has served its widely dispersed—3 meters per mile of line—membership for more than 55 years. This is one-eighth as many meters per mile of line as the IOUs have in Illinois.

Our rates are higher than your board and management would like for them to be, but we at Illinois Valley Electric believe we are indeed competitive. I ask that you examine closely the list of services and electric rate options on page 12f. Your electric cooperative is not just a supplier of power. It is a supplier of electricity and a whole host of other things that are important to rural residents. You can obtain electricity at a rate as low as 4.0 cents per kilowatt-hour for electric heat, save \$80 a year by controlling your water heater and air conditioner for 4 months, purchase satellite television programming services rivaling those available in town on cable, contract for two-way radio, telephone and paging communication services, or subscribe to emergency response services. Illinois

Valley Electric is competitive, and it will continue to seek ways to be of even greater value to you.

We know how easy it is for new ideas to get our attention, especially if there is a pocketbook issue. We believe rural areas such as Illinois Valley Electric's service territory would suffer under many of the "competition" ideas floating around. Real competition is nothing new to electric cooperatives; and, Illinois Valley Electric has become a nationally recognized leader in innovative competi-

tive thinking and implementation of rate incentives and non-electric programs designed to benefit all cooperative members. In addition, Illinois Valley Electric has been a leader in working for economic development throughout the counties in which it serves, regardless of who the electric supplier will be. Imagine how little interest some "wheeler dealer" utility hundreds of miles from Illinois will have in north-central Illinois economic development and your future.



## Board Room Report

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by chairman John Scott at 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 1995, with all directors present but Ralph Freebairn. President and CEO T.L. Christensen and attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. IVEC had a WaterFurnace Field Day on October 12, 1995, in the Hennepin area. Approximately 25 people attended and several were interested in learning about the geothermal heating system.

2. A motion was made and approved to contribute to the 1996 Illinois Youth Tour and Washington Youth Tour Program.

3. A motion was made and approved to participate in a safety announcement program on WHOI-TV out of Bloomington and Peoria. This safety announcement would be shared with Corn Belt Electric, Spoon River Electric and Menard Electric.

4. A motion was made and approved to adjust the employees wage and salary plan.

The next board meeting was scheduled for November 28, 1995. The December board meeting will be on December 21, 1995. The January board meeting will be held on January 23, 1996.



## The storm has passed but danger still lingers

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

Power lines that have been snapped or pulled down as a result of a storm present a serious, even deadly threat. If you come across a downed wire, stay completely away from it — don't touch the wire, the pole to which it is attached or anything else

in contact with the wire. Call Illinois Valley Electric immediately — don't assume someone else will call or has already called. We want to know about downed wires as soon as possible so we can send our trained linemen to make the needed repairs.

We encourage you to take a few moments to teach your children about the dangers of downed electric wires. Instruct them to tell you or another adult as soon as possible about the problem and to warn other children to stay away. Never assume a wire is harmless — let us make the determination and repairs. With your help, together we can continue to keep our community safe from electrical accidents.

# Now serving over 1,100 radio users in north-central Illinois!!!

**Portable or mobile radio and telephone service**

from

## Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative



Agent for  
Central States  
Communications



Providing  
**MOTOROLA**  
COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

• Financing available — 15% down • 24 months • 9 1/2% APR

★ **Two-Way  
radio service**

★ **Offering  
area-wide coverage**

★ **Reach your people  
in the field or on the road**

### The Radio System features the following specifications:

- The 800 MHZ Frequency Trunking System "pools" several radio channels so that all users in a given area have automatic access to any free channel.
- A trunked system provides added privacy to conversations.
- Interruptions from outside conversations are almost impossible.
- Operation is simple: After the volume level is set, the push talk button is the only control needed.

**All these features for as little as \$7.00 per month.**

### Optional Telephone Interconnect

• If your two-way radio is equipped for telephone, by merely the push of the phone button, your radio connects you to a commercial telephone line. After the dial tone is heard, your radio "becomes" a telephone.

**This feature for as little as \$11.45 per month.**

### Paging Services

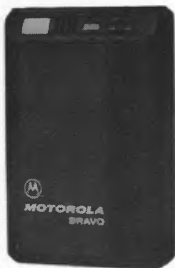
**Wide Area Paging Service for People on the Go  
from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative**

#### Types of pagers available:

- Tone only
- Tone & Voice
- Digital Display

**For as little as \$10.50 per month**

—OPTIONAL FEATURES AVAILABLE—



## Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

For information about or ordering radio equipment....

Call Toll Free 800-654-1088

ask for the Member Services Department

# The value of a kilowatt-hour

Quantities designated by familiar measures such as cup or pound are easily appreciated because they can be seen.

Not surprisingly, few people can appreciate the quantity described by the measure called a kilowatt-hour. The commodity is invisible.

In order to visualize a kilowatt-hour (kwh), the following relates to the amount of work done by a person.

In a home, a person would have to beat a batter mixture at an incredible speed, steadily, for 10 hours, to generate energy equal to one kwh.

Using an old-fashioned treadle sewing machine, a person would have to pedal at top speed for 13 hours to generate energy equal to one kwh.

A person working steadily with a hand pump for one hour can pump 4,000 gallons of water out of a 25-foot well. A 1 kwh motor running for one hour, pumping out of a 25-foot well, will pump 10,000 gallons.

A person shoveling a foot of snow off a driveway 10 feet wide does about 23 foot-pounds of work per shovelful (assuming one cubic foot of snow equals six pounds per shovelful). The person would have to clear a driveway two miles long to generate energy equal to one kwh.

Imagine a 150-pound person climbing a 1,000-foot flight of stairs. He would have to climb the stairs nearly 18 times to generate enough energy equal to one kwh.

Using these comparisons, it becomes obvious that the price of electricity is an excellent bargain.

A USA TODAY survey found that 34 percent of all Americans feel electricity was the greatest invention of all times; the next closest was the wheel at 11 percent.

**You could be a  
prize winner!!!**

**Is this your account number?  
0000439500**

**If your name appears in this  
center section, mixed in with  
copy, you will receive  
a nice prize.**

**Call toll-free — 800-654-1088**

**Install  
a  
Geothermal  
System.**

You can escape the high cost of propane!!!

The efficient alternative is Geothermal Heating, Cooling and Water Heating.

This underground system is 4 times as efficient

**You're  
not  
locked  
in.**

**Install  
a  
Geothermal  
System.**

as fossil-fuel furnaces and 30 percent more efficient than other air-conditioning methods.

Contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative to find out more about geothermal systems.

**Ask for Member Services • 1-800-654-1088**

# If you worry about your parents living alone . . .



Pendant

**For more information  
Call Illinois Valley  
Electric Cooperative  
"toll free 800-654-1088"**

or

**Perry Memorial Hospital  
Princeton  
815-875-2811**

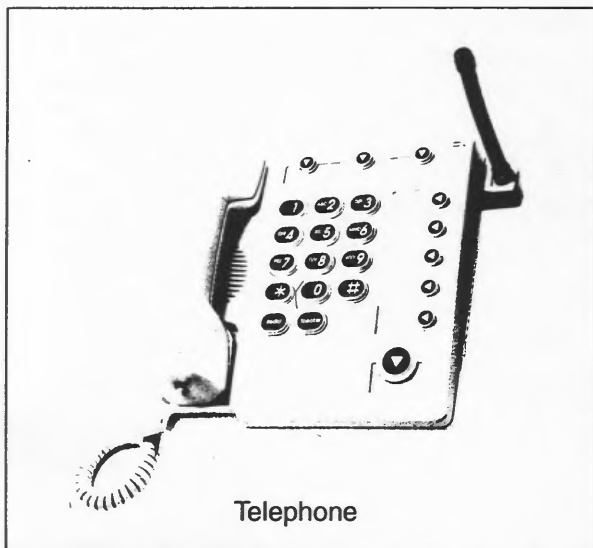
**St. Margaret's Hospital  
Spring Valley  
815-664-5311**

.....talk to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative about its new personal emergency response system.

**Your parents get the extraordinary life-saving service.  
You get the peace of mind.**

IVEC's MainStreet Messenger telephone/personal security system will instantly connect your parents to someone who can help, anytime of the day or night. By simply pushing the special alert key on the telephone unit or the large button on the portable pendant, a call will be placed immediately to the cooperative's response center via a toll-free "800" emergency number.

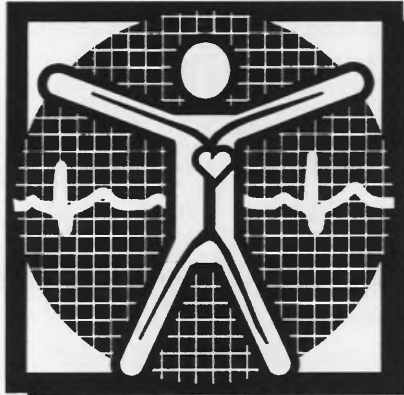
From virtually anywhere in their home, your parents can be in voice communication with a cooperative service representative within seconds. And since they have all the medical and emergency information about your parents in their computer, the co-op representative will be able to summon the appropriate help — no matter what the need may be.



Telephone

**\*\*\* Available options and programs \*\*\***

## **For Illinois Valley Electric members**



**\*\*\* Featuring this month \*\*\***

**If you depend on life-support equipment, we need to know**

Your cooperative needs to know the names and locations of cooperative members who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of life-support members, and it is important that this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life support systems.

### **Available programs for IVEC members**

- Off-peak space heating with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation
- All electric residential rate — for controlled energy usage.
- Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate — back-up heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods
- General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only — \$125.00 rebate if controlled when “on-peak” periods occur
- A \$10 per month off peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
- Up to 400% efficiency — ★ ground source ★ better than gas furnace ★ clean energy ★ off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating ★ economical/affordable ★ \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 150 channels — DSS digital satellite system
- Rural TV satellite program subscription packages — Economy Pack \$8.95 mo. — Basic Service \$11.95 mo. — HBO \$7.95 mo. — Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo. — other program selections available — Dish Antenna Systems — C-Band (24 channel) — Ku-Band (32 channel)
- Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month — no maintenance headaches
- Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help you budget electric usage in your home
- Two-way radio systems and telephone interconnect service — low monthly rates
- Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience
- Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- Installation of home lightning protection equipment
- Paging Service — wide area coverage in Illinois
- Providing personal emergency response systems — hands free, two-way communication service

**If you want more information about the above programs,  
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.  
Ask for the Member Services Department — toll-free 800-654-1088.**

# Two IVEC employees announce retirement

Charles "Chuck" Teel, an 11-year employee of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, and Willis Hand, a 35-year veteran, will have retired by the end of 1995, or shortly after. Teel's last Day was December 1, while Hand's is January 14.

Teel, who came to the co-op in 1984 as office manager, kept that position—with additional duties—to retire as coordinator of office services and accounting.

Born in the small McDonough County town of Industry, Teel attended schools there, and went to work for McDonough Telephone Cooperative, Colchester, in 1966. He has been in the utility business ever since.

He notes that he plans to take a "badly needed, long-overdue vacation," immediately after retirement, and he and his wife, Patricia, plan to travel as much as possible. "We plan to stay in the area," he says, "and we want to keep in touch with all our friends here. And we'll be close to some of our grandchildren, who live in Hennepin."

Teel remarked that his tenure at IVEC has been interesting, challenging and enjoyable, with many changes for the better. "And we've gotten into many new programs that were not even dreamed of when I came here," he says. "We've entered into the radio / telephone communication business, load management, paging service, DIRECTV, satellite TV equipment, emergency response, and other ventures. And we're looking at getting into the propane business, too."

I feel good to have been part of an industry change



Charles "Chuck" Teel



Willis Hand

that will benefit IVEC members and communities in north central Illinois.

Willis Hand, general foreman, was born and raised in Bureau County. He started his career in 1950 working for Allied Telephone, working for 92 cents an hour "I worked there for two years," he says,

"and then I went to work for an electric cooperative in Indiana in 1952. I came here in 1960 as a journeyman lineman."

Hand and his wife, Pearl, had two sons and two daughters, one of whom died several years ago. They have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

"There have been a lot of changes," Hand says, "especially in the amount of electricity people use. When I came to work here, there were a lot of houses wired for 50-amp services. Now, 200 is the norm, and there are some 600-amp services out there, serving a lot of appliances."

Hand notes with a chuckle that co-op crews have spoiled many a Christmas or birthday surprise while upgrading services. "We'd have a man come in and tell us he wanted to buy his wife a washing machine or clothes dryer, or maybe an electric range. With things like that, they needed a bigger service, and when we'd go to install it, the wife would know something was up. I don't think it ever disappointed anyone very much, though."

Hand remarks that he plans to spend much of his free time at a relatively new hobby—hunting Indian artifacts. "And I plan to do a little trapping, too," he says.

## New Budget Payment Plan

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce a new service that will offer an additional option to its membership.

A Budget Payment Plan has been introduced that would "normalize" monthly electric bill payments over a 12-month billing cycle. Upon written request from a member, a budget plan will be applied to his/her account. The member may enroll in any month during the year. For example, a Budget Payment Plan beginning in

June would be for June kwh usage billed in July and ending with the June billing on the following year. If a budget payment is not received in accordance with the plan, the member will be removed from the program.

If you are interested in the Budget Payment Plan, please call toll free 800-654-1088 and ask for the billing department. Also, you may submit a written request for application into the program.

Elmer Cohrs

# WE'RE SERVING UP THE HOTTEST DISH IN TOWN.

★ from \$579  
to \$749



★ financing  
available

★ self install or  
professionally  
installed

## COME IN TODAY FOR A TASTE OF DIRECTV.

DIRECTV™ gives you access to 150 channels of the very best in entertainment, sports, movies, and information – all through an affordable 18-inch receiving dish the size of a large pizza. Come in today for a sample.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. DIRECTV.



Call Member Services .....  
**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Telephone 800-654-1088  
Princeton, IL 61356

Rt. 6 & 34W

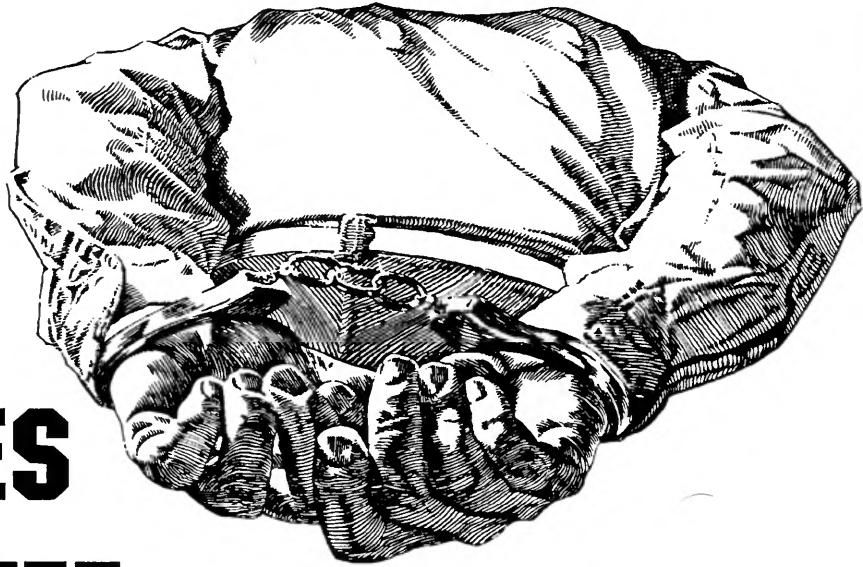
**DSS**  
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM

**DIRECTV.**

DIRECTV and DSS are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of GM Hughes Electronics.  
Equipment and programming sold separately. © NRTC 1995



# IT TAKES A THIEF...



to tamper with meters!

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

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

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



***Electric Cooperatives of Illinois***

**\*\*\*Available options and programs\*\*\*  
**For Illinois Valley Electric members****

**\*\*\*Featuring this month\*\*\***

**Illinois Valley Electric offers  
SurgeGuard home lighting  
protection.**

If you have a houseful of standard or sensitive electronic equipment and cringe every time a big storm rolls in, you are a prime candidate for Illinois Valley Electric's newest program, SurgeGuard.

This protection may also enable you to obtain a discount on your homeowner's insurance premium; contact your insurance carrier to be sure.

"For as little as \$174.71."



**Available programs for IVEC members**

- Off-peak space heating with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation
- All-electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods
- General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur
- A \$10 per month off peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
  - ★ Up to 400% efficiency—ground source ★ better than gas furnace ★ clean energy ★ off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating ★ economical/affordable ★ \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS digital satellite system
- Rural TV satellite program —C-Band (24 channel)—Ku-Band (32 channel) subscription packages: Economy Pack \$8.95 mo.—Basic Service \$11.95 mo.—HBO \$7.95 mo.—Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo.—other program selections available.
- Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help you budget electric usage in your home
- Two-way radio systems and telephone interconnect service—low monthly rates
- Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience
- Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- Installation of home lighting protection equipment
- Paging Service—wide area coverage in Illinois
- Providing personal emergency response systems—hands free, two-way communication service
- Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.

**If you want more information about the above programs,  
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Call toll-free 800-654-1088.**

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## DIRECTV is your window on a world of choices

Illinois Valley Electric is pleased to offer you the best television programming you're going to find anywhere, and at rates that you can live with.

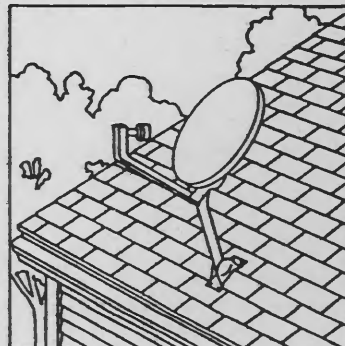
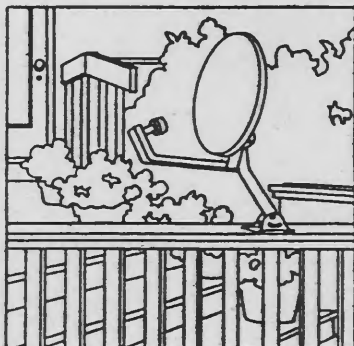
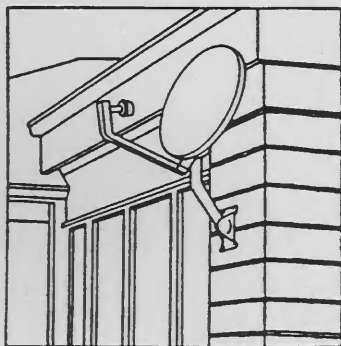
One of the most extraordinary features of DIRECTV® is its Digital Satellite System™ receiving unit, or DSS™. By using state-of-the-art technology, designers have shrunk the size of the dish you need to receive quality programming to just 18 inches. That's about the size of a garbage can lid.

But the dish isn't just small and attractive. It's

available and inexpensive!

With the ability to deliver up to 150 channels, DIRECTV offers a menu of choices for every appetite. You can watch college, professional and worldwide sporting events, movies, 24-hour news, family entertainment, music and much more; all at the touch of a button.

If you want to watch an award-winning family program, turn to The Disney Channel. If you're curious about what kind of weather your friend in South Dakota is enjoying, choose The Weather



*The DSS Digital Satellite System, with its unobtrusive design, can be tastefully mounted on the side of a solid wood or brick home, a deck rail, a short in-ground pole, a chimney or roof.*

also easy to use. If you're at all handy, it's a snap to install. You can put it on a window sill, porch railing, or even in a flower bed. Once you've installed it, you never need to move or adjust it.

The system includes an attractive in-home receiver and a remote control designed to blend perfectly with other home electronics, from stereos and CD players to integrated entertainment systems.

And, the multi-function remote control allows you to choose your programming from an on-screen, interactive menu guide. First-rate television has never been so easy or so much fun—or so

Channel. Want to watch a classic? Just flip to Turner Classic Movies.

To find out more about your opportunity to own the hottest new consumer electronics product to hit the market since the VCR, call us toll-free 800-654-1088. We'll get you started in a television programming system you'll have to see to believe. And speaking of seeing and believing, we have a unit set up in the lobby of the IVEC office. Next time you're in Princeton, stop in and have a look. You'll be glad you did!

# Fuse box safety and you!

To protect your personal safety when replacing a blown fuse at the electrical box in your home, follow two simple rules:

1. Stand on a piece of dry wood when you change fuses, especially if the fuse box is located in a basement or garage area with a damp floor.

2. Keep one hand on your hip or in your pocket while you change the fuse with the other hand. This is to keep the unoccupied hand from coming in contact with anything that would ground it, such as a pipe, sink, or the fuse box. If the hand is grounded, there is the danger of a possible fatal short circuit traveling through your chest.

Here are some of the rules to follow when replacing fuses: **Alan Duttlinger**

- Never stick a coin behind a blown fuse to get the fuse to work again. This defeats the safety valve effect at the fuse and can cause an electrical fire.

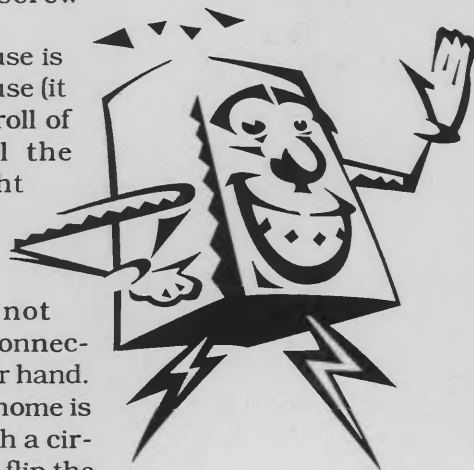
- Use the proper fuse for the circuit. For example, if the blown fuse is a 15-amp, replace it with a 15-amp. Do not use a larger capacity fuse. The amperage rating of a fuse is usually on the tip

of the screw threads.

- If the fuse is a cartridge fuse (it looks like a roll of coins), pull the fuse straight out of the connectors in the entry box. Do not touch the connectors with your hand.

- If your home is equipped with a circuit breaker, flip the toggle switch to the "reset" or "on" position to reactivate the circuit.

- If the fuses continue to blow or the circuit breaker continues to trip, call in an electrician to check the circuits in your home. Overloaded circuits have the potential of causing electric fires.



## Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, below are the meter reading dates for January and February. We hope you will use this information so any necessary arrangements

can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter will certainly be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

## You could be a prize winner!!!

Is this your account number?

0004059503

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call Toll-free — 800-654-1088

# New Illinois Valley Electric program offers SurgeGuard home lightning protection

If you have a houseful of standard or sensitive electronic equipment and cringe every time a big storm rolls in, you are a prime candidate for Illinois Valley Electric's newest program, SurgeGuard.

To find out more about this protection, call member services at toll-free 800-654-1088 for assistance.

This protection may also enable you to obtain a discount on your homeowner's insurance premium. Contact your insurance carrier to be sure.



## \*\*\*Meter socket adapters\*\*\*

A. Surge protection for member electric appliances and equipment. Included is a total home protection warranty against consequential damages to all standard home equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, pumps, etc. Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative will install device at meter socket upon order from member.

\* MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector

Meter Socket Plug-In Device .....	\$128.20
Labor to Install Device .....	38.50
Tax .....	8.01
	<u>\$174.71</u>

\* Includes adapter, installation and 10 year product warranty which includes replacement of unit if destroyed while protecting home.

## \*\*\*Plug-in protectors—optional\*\*\*

B. Protects sensitive electronic equipment such as TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos and other home devices requiring more protective shielding. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

* Two outlet TTC 215 Transient Tamer .....	\$62.55
Tax .....	3.91
	<u>\$66.46</u>

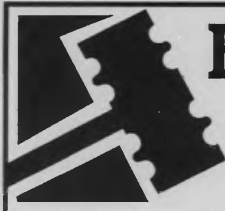
\* Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to all electronic equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

C. Provides dial-up phone line protection including FAX machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

* Two outlet TTM 215 Transient Tamer .....	\$69.00
Tax .....	4.31
	<u>\$73.31</u>

\* Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to phone line equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

**Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.**



## Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the board of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by chairman John Scott at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 1995 with all directors present but Joe Danielson. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

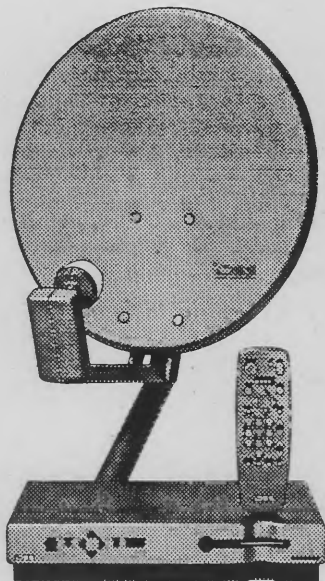
Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. Due to board member conflicts the December meeting was changed to December 28, 1995.
  2. A motion was made and approved to draw up a resolution to change signatures on the bank signing cards for any bank transfers, check signing and withdrawals.
  3. A motion was made and approved to approve the Soyland Power Requirement Study done by AIEC.
  4. A motion was made and approved to contract with ELASCO to do meter testing in 1996.
  5. A motion was made and approved to retain Larson, Allen, Weishair and Company for the 1995 audit in 1996.
  6. A motion was made and approved to renew membership in United Telecommunications for 1996.
  7. A motion was made to authorize IVEC's attorney and management to continue negotiations for the purchase of additional radio frequencies and equipment from a bordering company.
- The next board meeting was scheduled for December 28, 1995. The January board meeting will be held on January 23, 1996. The February board meeting will be held on February 27, 1995.

## Your direct link to a world of choice



**"Excitement you can't get on Cable or PrimeStar."**

- Access to over 175 channels of programming on DIRECTV
- Extraordinary picture
- CD-quality sound
- Easy-to-use system
- Remote Control Point and select program guide
- Parental control of rated movies
- Per program spending limits on Pay-Per-View

**Contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative at toll-free 800-654-1088 to learn more or to arrange for a demonstration in our office.**

Equipment prices start at \$579 and programming starts at about \$1 per day. RCA DSS and DIRECTV are registered trademarks of Hughes Electronics, Inc. PrimeStar is a registered trademark of PrimeStar Partners, Inc.

**— DIRECTV —  
Seeing is believing**

## Water heater credit — save \$40.00

**Did you know that your electric water heater can save you \$40.00 a year on your electric bill?**

**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's Switch Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Program does just that — saves you \$40.00 a year.**

### Who qualifies?

Members with at least a 40-gallon electric water heater who use at least 400 kwh per month may participate.

### How does it work?

Illinois Valley Electric will install a load management switch on your electric water heater. This switch is a radio-activated switch that can control your water heater during peak demand periods. During those peak periods which occur from June 15 to September 15, a radio signal will be sent to your water heater to interrupt the power to it for a two to four hour period. Normally, you can expect 2 to 6 control periods during the year. You will still have a full tank of hot water when the switch is activated. Therefore, you would experience little inconvenience.

### Cost?

The member incurs no cost for the installation of the load management switch.

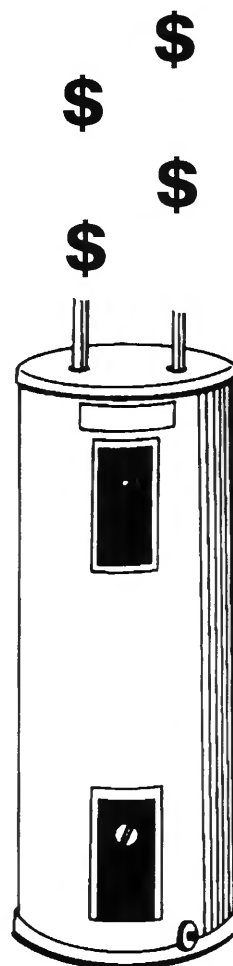
### Benefit?

Members will receive a \$10.00 per month credit on their electric bill (as long as they use 400 kwh during the month) for the months of June, July, August and September. The cooperative benefits by being able to reduce its wholesale power costs by controlling the amount of usage during peak periods.

### How do I participate?

Simply fill out the coupon below and return it to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. You will then be contacted to set up an appointment to install the switch on your water heater.

If you prefer to call, use the toll free 800-654-1088 number, ask for a Member Services Representative.



### Switch Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Installation Request

I have an electric water heater. Please contact me to set up an appointment to install the load management switch on my water heater.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Location No. \_\_\_\_\_

*(on your electric billing statement)*

Please also send me information on saving another \$40.00 if a load management switch is installed on my central air conditioner.

Please contact me about how to qualify for a free 60- or 80-gallon electric water heater.

# Plugging those little air leaks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

shut nature.

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

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

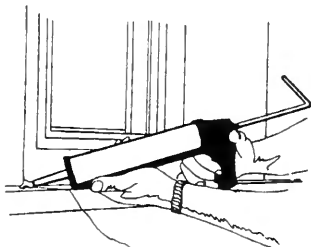
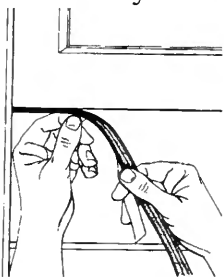
While it looks like a difficult task, the hardest part actually is peeling the backing off the silly double-sided tape!

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

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

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

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





## When you flip a switch, you're buying power

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

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

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

### *Water heating*

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

Ask yourself these questions:

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

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

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

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

### *Space heating and cooling*

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

and basement fans also contribute to our energy consumption.

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

to buy a little less electricity.

### *Family size*

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

### *Appliance use*

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

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

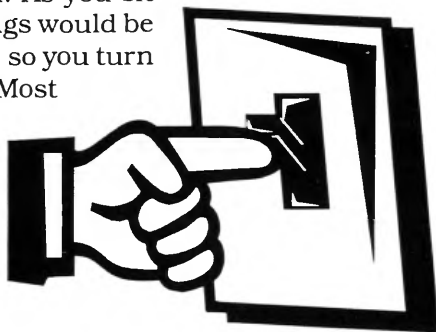
For example, ask yourself questions like these:

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

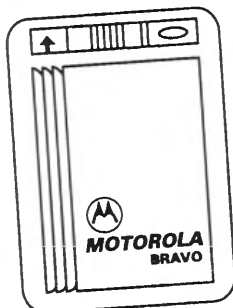
"Do I leave my oven on 'warm' for an extended period of time, or do I cook many dishes at once and then turn the oven off?"

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

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



# For Illinois Valley Electric members



**FEATURING . . .**

## **PAGING SERVICES**

**Wide Area Paging Service for People on the Go from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative**

### **TYPES OF PAGERS AVAILABLE:**

⇒Tone only    ⇒Tone & Voice    ⇒Digital Display

**For as little as \$10.50 per month**

**--Optional features available--**

## **OTHER PROGRAMS FOR IVEC MEMBERS**

★Off-peak space heating with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation

★All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.

★Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods

★General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)

★High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when “on-peak” periods occur

★A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment

★All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems

- Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
- better than gas furnace
- clean energy
- off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- economical/affordable
- \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation

★DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—150 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System

★Rural TV satellite program-subscription packages—Economy Pack \$8.95 mo.—Basic Service \$11.95 mo.—HBO \$7.95 mo.—

Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo.—other program selections available—dish antenna systems—

C-Band (24 channels)—Ku-Band (32 channels)

★Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment

★Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches

★Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in your home

★Two-way radio systems and telephone inter-connect service—low monthly rates

★Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience

★Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members

★Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage

★Installation of home lightning protection equipment

★Paging Service — wide area coverage in Illinois

★Providing personal emergency response systems — hands free, two-way communication

★Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans

**If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.**

**Ask for the Member Services Department — toll-free 800-654-1088.**

## Across the President's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
President/CEO

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**

## Demand Side Management: for Water Heaters and Air Conditioners

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative offers qualifying members the opportunity to save \$20 per month on their water heating and central air-conditioning costs. If you are an IVEC member, and want to look into the possibility of substantial savings, I urge you to call our Member Services Department soon.

Here's how it works. If you authorize us to install a control switch that allows service to your electric water heater and central air conditioning system to be interrupted during peak demand periods, we will allow you a \$20 per month credit on your electric bill during the months of June through September each year.

This program helps us control peak demand, which, in turn, helps us control our power costs; and, we pass those savings on to you. Peak demand periods occur from June 15 to September 15 each year.

**WHO QUALIFIES?** If you have an electric water heater equal to or greater than 40 gallons in capacity and central air-conditioning on a dedicated electrical circuit, you're eligible to take advantage of these programs. Your electric service must be installed and wired in a safe and orderly fashion in accordance with the National Electrical Code.

**HOW DOES IT WORK?** The control switch is installed on the water heater and air-conditioner by Illinois Valley Electric Service personnel. At the time of peak demand, we interrupt the electrical supply to your equipment for short periods of time until the peak demand period is past.

**COST?** You do not pay for installation of the control switches, and if you allow us to control your water heater and air conditioner, you will receive a monthly credit of \$10 for the water heater and \$10 for the air-conditioner during the times they're subject to control (June, July, August and September.) This is a total annual benefit of \$80. The control must be installed on an operational electric water heater and air conditioner before the first

of the month in order for you to receive full credit for that usage month. Disconnect of service anytime during a month will cause the credit to stop. I should mention that even in the worst weather, we only control most units 4 to 6 times a year, and always for short periods.

### WHEN SHOULD YOU REPLACE YOUR WATER HEATER?

You probably haven't thought much about your water heater lately. It's no doubt sitting there, providing you and your family with hot water at the turn of a tap. However, what should you do if it stops working?

Should you replace your water heater if you have cold water or if you run out of hot water often?

If you have cold water, you more than likely have an element or thermostat problem that can be repaired for less cost than the price of a new water heater. Assuming your wiring and circuit breaker are working properly, you may have a bad top element or thermostat, if you don't have as much hot water as usual. If you run out of hot water frequently, you should have your bottom element and thermostat checked. Unless you are experienced, we recommend that you call a plumber, especially if you have equipment designed for 240 volts.

Some homes go through elements quickly, while others don't. This is often due to the condition of the water, which may be hard, or contain sulfur. If you are changing the element(s) every year or so, we suggest changing tanks.

On the other hand, you might not have any leaks, and your elements may be fine. But if your tank is 20 years old and you're worried about a leak, you might want to consider a new electric water heater. For example, if the tank is located where a leak would cause damage, you might be

*(Continued on page 16f)*

# The affordable choice

## What is a Dual Energy Heating System?

It is a system that combines two energy sources — electricity as the primary source for heating purposes and an alternate fuel, such as gas or oil, as a secondary source to be used when interruptible on-peak periods occur. If you presently have a gas or oil system, you can benefit by adding an electric system for your primary source. A wood burner/fireplace would also qualify for the secondary source.

## What is an All-Electric heating system?

It is a system that will use electricity for the primary and secondary source of energy for heating purposes.

For example, you can use resistance electric heat such as baseboard (or plenum heaters) or choose higher-efficiency electric heat such as the air-to-air heat pump or geothermal ground source system for primary heating. The secondary source must be the electric thermal storage heating unit. This unit stores heat during off-peak hours to be used during interruptible on-peak periods.

## What is the electric heat rate?

A very attractive electric rate is available when heating with Dual Energy or All-Electric systems.

**This off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents/kwh.**

This rate applies only to kwh's used in a Dual Energy or All-Electric application. Kilowatt-hours to be billed under this rate must be metered by a submeter to be interrupted only during peak alert periods. The submetering equipment is to be installed by the member's electrician who must be qualified to set up a Dual Energy or All-Electric system. The regular household consumption is still billed under the general service rate as recorded on the master meter.

**Darrell Efnor**

## Cash rebates for installation

• IVEC will rebate \$75 per kw up to \$400 maximum for a Dual Energy Heating installation. The homeowner is allowed to use another fuel source for backup to the primary electric heating.

• IVEC will rebate \$75 per kw up to a \$3,000



maximum for the All-Electric residence. The primary and backup heating must be electric. For example:

• If a 30 kw electric furnace is installed in a residence for primary heat...rebate would be calculated as follows: 30 kw x \$75 = \$2,250

• If a 4 kw electric thermal storage heater is installed in a residence for backup...rebate would be calculated as follows: 4 kw x \$75 = \$300

Total rebate ..... \$2,550

## What are the direct benefits of an off-peak Dual Energy Heating or All-Electric system?

Participants will realize immediate and future savings from reduced annual heating bills. But they'll also save by creating new kilowatt-hour sales, thus spreading the fixed costs of the cooperative across a broader base. Such new sales hold down the cost of electricity today and tomorrow for you and your neighbors.

The off-peak concept will reduce the cost of electricity (cost of heating) for the member who uses electric heat (peak shaving) and encourage the sale of more kilowatt-hours.

## Whom do I contact for more information?

Contact the Member Services Department at Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for information on how Dual Heating Systems can be installed in your home. Learn first hand why Dual Heat is an economical and affordable choice.

**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356  
Telephone--Toll Free 800-654-1088**

# WE'RE SERVING UP THE HOTTEST DISH IN TOWN.

- DSS equipment**
- ★ from \$579 to \$749
  - ★ financing available
  - ★ self install or professionally installed

- DIRECTV programming**
- ★ For as little as \$14.95 per month



## COME IN TODAY FOR A TASTE OF DIRECTV.

DIRECTV gives you access to 150 channels of the very best in entertainment, sports, movies, and information - all through an affordable 18-inch receiving dish the size of a large pizza. Come in today for a sample. THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. DIRECTV.



Call Member Services...  
**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
 Rt. 6 & 34W • Princeton, IL 61356  
 Telephone 800-654-1088

DIRECTV and DSS are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of GM Hughes Electronics. Equipment and programming sold separately. ©NRTC 1995



## Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, below are the meter reading dates for March and April. It is our hope that you will utilize this information so that any necessary

arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter will certainly be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0001044000

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free--800-654-1088



# Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 28, 1995, with all directors present. President/CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed

and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to authorize the hiring of a consultant to review subsidiary options for non-utility services and to review liability, etc.

2. A motion was made and approved for IVEC to allow anyone buying a DSS TV dish to finance the dish through the cooperative. This would not include installation.

3. Dates for the IVEC Annual Meeting were discussed. The Board plans to try to have the meeting in July on a Saturday if all facilities are available.

4. A motion was made and approved to write off all uncollectible accounts received for 1994.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 23, 1996. The February Board Meeting will be held on February 27, 1996. The March Board Meeting is scheduled for March 26, 1996.

## It pays to pay on time!

Did you know that about 18 percent of our members waste money when they pay their electric bills? That's about 1,100 members! All of these folks could save money and trouble if they would take one simple step: pay their electric bills on time.

Our due date is the 20th of each month to pay the net amount. After the 20th, the gross amount is due which is a 5% payment penalty. The penalties can really add up over several months!

There are members who waste even more money. These folks fail to pay their bills prior to the disconnection dates listed on the delinquent notices we mail out around the 25th of each month. When we do not receive payment after 5 days, we send a serviceman to collect the bill or disconnect the service. There is a \$45.00 service charge each time we send a serviceman on a "collect or disconnect" trip.

Unfortunately, there are even a few folks who are disconnected for non-payment. They must pay trip charges in order to have service restored. Reconnect fees range from \$45.00 during regular business hours to \$70.00 for a reconnection after 4:30 p.m. There is a \$140.00 charge for week-ends and holidays. This is the biggest waste of all!

We realize that circumstances can arise to cause bill paying problems for members who normally pay on time. If you unexpectedly find that you have a problem paying your bill, please call our billing department as soon as possible. We'll try to work something out. (A previous good payment record will help.) Don't wait until the ser-

viceman is on his way to "collect or disconnect" before you call. You could still be faced with a trip charge.

If we could get all of our members to pay on time, we could save everyone some money! It pays to pay on time!

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*(Continued from page 16c)*

wise to install a new tank before there's a problem.

It's difficult to predict tank life because water conditions vary so much. We do know that the average life of an electric water heater is 15 to 17 years, while natural gas or propane tanks tend to last two or three years less.

IVEC, of course, would like to help you with your water heater decision, and we have energy-efficient 60 - or 80 - gallon Sepco water heaters for the discounted price of \$125 for co-op members only. And if you decide to buy one of our units and have the control device installed, you will receive a \$125 rebate after 30 days. And you still receive the \$10 per month credit on your electricity bills during the four summer months!

If you think you might be interested in a new water heater, please give us a call. Call our Member Services Department at 1-800-654-1088. The call is free and, if you allow us to install a control switch, so is the water heater.

## Don't miss out on your chance to save \$80 a year on electric water heating and air-conditioning costs!

### What is IVEC's Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program?

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative purchases power and sells it to you at the lowest cost possible. The price of the power is especially high during the peak months of June, July, August and September. "Peak usage" simply describes those times when people use the most electricity — such as when it's hot outside and most air-conditioners are running or when water heaters are being used at certain times of the day. Peak usage by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative members during these months increase wholesale power costs charged to the cooperative. Under our previous wholesale power agreement, we were concerned about winter peak usage, too. But our new contract is only concerned about summer peak usage because of impact on power cost.

Our Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program, which controls water heaters and central air conditioners, will help decrease electric peak usage, which in turn reduces the cost of wholesale power. When you participate, you will receive a credit for the months of June, July, August and September on your electric bill. All members will benefit by seeing stable rates through the long-term savings in wholesale power costs.

### How does it work?

- If you have a central air conditioner and an electric water heater with capacity of 40 gallons or more, you are eligible to participate in the program.

- A radio-controlled switch will be installed on the water heater and air-conditioner at **No Charge** to you.

- You will receive a \$20.00 credit for June, July, August and September on your electric bill for the controlled water heater and central air conditioner.

- During peak usage periods, a radio signal sent from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office will automatically switch off the water heater and air conditioner. Power interruptions will only last long enough to hold demand down. You will experience little or **No** inconvenience. However, if for some reason you are not satisfied with the program, the

radio-control switches will be removed at no cost to you.

- The water heater and air conditioner credit is available only for accounts with a minimum of 400 kilowatt-hours usage per month over a period of 12 months in a calendar year.



### How do I sign up for Switch Makes \$Cents\$?

It's easy. And the installation is free! Just call us at 1-800-654-1088 or complete and return this coupon to: Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356, Attention: Member Service Department.

**YES**, please send me information on the \$20.00 per month electric water heater and air conditioner credit. Total benefit—\$80 per year.

**YES**, I am also interested in the free 60- or 80-gallon water heater program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Call \_\_\_\_\_

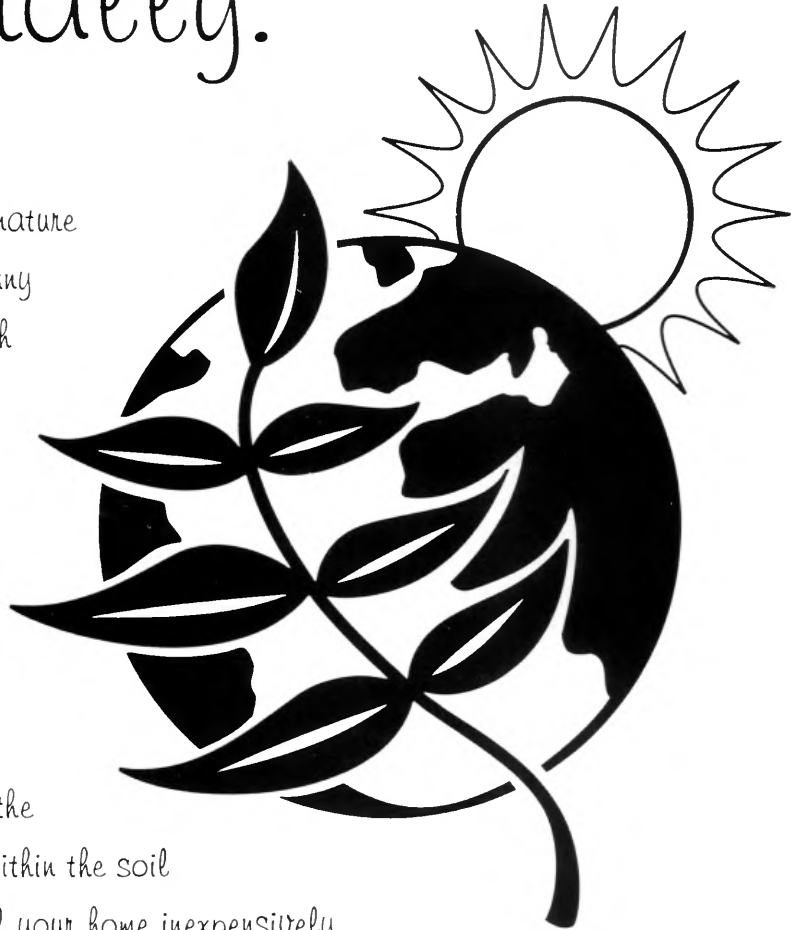
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location Number \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Location number is on your electric billing statement.**

# Heat and cool your home, naturally.

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



***Electric Cooperatives of Illinois***

*An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer*



## Spring is time to think geothermal

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

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

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

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

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

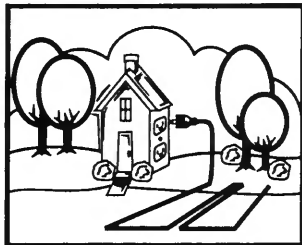
If the air-to-air heat pump has a disadvantage, it's that it starts losing its efficiency at about 10 degrees F., so you have to rely on another heat source to make up the difference.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

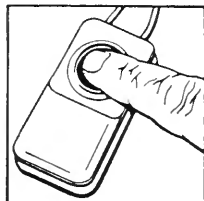
Don't let that deter you. They will save you so much money on your heating, cooling and water-heating costs that they'll pay for themselves much sooner than any other kind of system that's likely to be available to rural electric consumers. Ask the people at your electric cooperative for more information.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

# \*\*\*Available options and programs\*\*\* **For Illinois Valley Electric members**

## \*\*\*Featuring this month\*\*\*



Telephone



Pendant

### IVEC provides "Personal Emergency Response Systems" MainStreet Messenger Telephone & Pendant

The easy to use MainStreet Messenger telephone combines everyday features with special emergency response and monitoring functions.

In an emergency, the Main Street Messenger® set provides hands-free, two-way communication.

**Call Illinois Valley Electric's  
Members Services Department  
—Toll Free 800-654-1088—**

### Other programs for IVEC members

- Off-peak space heating with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation
- All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods
- General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur
- A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
  - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source ★ better than gas furnace ★ clean energy
  - ★ off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating ★ economical/affordable
  - ★ \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System
- Rural TV satellite program—C-Band (24 channels)—Ku-Band (32 channels) subscription packages: Economy Pack \$8.95 mo.—Basic Service \$11.95 mo.—HBO \$7.95 mo.—Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo.—other program selections available.
- Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- Rental security lights for as low as \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help you budget electric usage in your home
- Two-way radio systems and telephone interconnect service—low monthly rates
- Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience
- Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- Installation of home lightning protection equipment
- Paging Service — wide area coverage in Illinois
- Providing personal emergency response systems — hands free, two-way communication
- Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans

**If you want more information about the above programs,  
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.  
Ask for the Member Services Department — toll-free 800-654-1088.**

## Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
President/CEO

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**

## Certified Home Program information available

If you are building a new home or even thinking about it, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative has a new feature that might interest you called the Certified Comfort Home Program.

The program is based on a flexible set of construction standards. These standards are contained in a booklet called "A Builder's Guide to Energy Efficient Construction for Year-round Comfort." This booklet is available to all members at no charge.

The Certified Comfort Home Program is designed to help you build a home that is comfortable to live in, as well as energy efficient, without adding considerable construction costs.

The booklet describes, in layman's terms, many of the techniques and applications that can be used in the construction process to ensure that the new home will be comfortable while keeping energy consumption at the lowest level possible.

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

Should you decide to have a home built to these standards, we will work with your builder to ensure that they understand the program and its components.

The advantages to the energy efficient standards are many:

\*Your house will be a more comfortable home in which to live. The more energy efficient your home is, the lower the heat loss/gain. In other words, if your home does not lose heat as rapidly in the winter, the less drafty the home will feel. In

*(Continued on page 12e)*

A Guide to  
Energy Efficient  
Construction Standards



## Nominating committee appointed

The annual meeting of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative will be held Tuesday, July 16, 1996, at the Princeton High School Auditorium, 103 S. Euclid, Princeton. An election of board members will be part of the business meeting. A nominating committee has been appointed to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors. Members of the committee are: Wilbur Bennett, P.O. Box 16, Neponset, IL 61345, (309)594-2191; Marion Rieker, RR 2, Sheffield, IL 61361, (815)454-2332; Dean Ganschow, RR 2, Walnut, IL 61376, (815)379-2029; Aletha Morrison, 36th Road, Utica, IL 61373, (815)667-4550; Debra Vaughan, RR 1, Box 117, Sheridan, IL 60551, (815)496-2751; John Kennedy, 3528 E. 12th Rd.,

Ottawa, IL 61350, (815)433-4134; David Mallery, RR 2, Box 48A, McNabb, IL 61335, (815)882-2671; August Boelens, 8187 County Highway 5, Kewanee, IL 61443, (309)854-9541 and James G. Lair, 8076 Oak Run Drive, Dahinda, IL 61428, (309)879-2579.

If an Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative member has a candidate for this committee to consider, please contact a representative to make your suggestions.

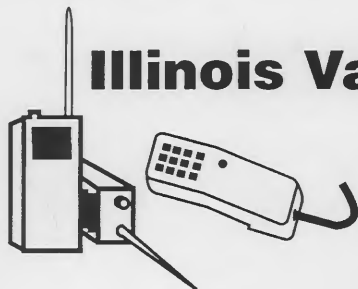
The Nominating Committee for the 1996 IVEC Annual Meeting will meet at Cooperative headquarters on Tuesday, April 23, 1996, at 3 p.m. More information regarding the annual meeting will be reported in the next ICL publication.

# Now serving over 1,200 radio users in north-central Illinois!!!

**Portable or mobile radio and telephone service**

from

## Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative



Agent for  
Central States  
Communications



Providing  
**MOTOROLA**  
COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

• Financing available — 15% down • 24 months • 9 1/2% APR

★ **Two-Way  
radio service**

★ **Offering  
area-wide coverage**

★ **Reach your people  
in the field or on the road**

### The Radio System features the following specifications:

- The 800 MHZ Frequency Trunking System "pools" several radio channels so that all users in a given area have automatic access to any free channel.
- A trunked system provides added privacy to conversations.
- Interruptions from outside conversations are almost impossible.
- Operation is simple: After the volume level is set, the push talk button is the only control needed.

**All these features for as little as \$7.00 per month.**

### Optional Telephone Interconnect

- If your two-way radio is equipped for telephone, by merely the push of the phone button, your radio connects you to a commercial telephone line. After the dial tone is heard, your radio "becomes" a telephone.

**This feature for as little as \$11.45 per month.**

## Paging Services

**Wide Area Paging Service for People on the Go  
from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative**

### Types of pagers available:

★ Digital Display/Vibrate    ★ Alpha/Numeric/Vibrate

**For as little as \$10.50 per month**

—OPTIONAL FEATURES AVAILABLE—



## Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

For information about or ordering radio or paging equipment....

Call Toll Free 800-654-1088

ask for the Member Services Department

Save \$\$

# Don't miss out on your chance to save \$80 a year on electric water heating and air-conditioning costs!

Save \$\$

## How does it work?

\* If you have a central air conditioner and an electric water heater with capacity of 40 gallons or more, you are eligible to participate in the program.

\* A radio-controlled switch will be installed on the water heater and air-conditioner at NO CHARGE to you.

\* You will receive a \$20.00 credit for June, July, August and September on your electric bill for the controlled water heater and central air conditioner.

\* During peak usage periods, a radio signal sent from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office will automatically switch off the water heater and air conditioner. Power interruptions will only last long enough to hold demand down. You will experience little or NO inconvenience. However, if for some reason you are not satisfied with the program, the radio-control switches will be removed at no cost to you.

\* The water heater and air conditioner credit is available only for accounts with a minimum of 400 kilowatt-hours usage per month over a period of 12 months in a calendar year.

*(Continued from page 12c)*

an energy-efficient home, you will notice that the temperatures seem to be more constant.

\*Because the heat loss/gain is lower, you may be able to decrease the size of the heating/cooling equipment. This means lower installation costs.

\*As our society becomes more energy conscious and the costs of energy rise, energy-efficient homes will command more return on investment in the marketplace. You may find it easier to sell your home. As this is a statewide program for the Electric Cooperatives of Illinois, more and more people will become familiar with the Certified Comfort Home Program and will look for homes that are built to its standards.

## How do I sign up for Switch Makes \$Cents\$?

It's easy. And the installation is free! Just call us at 1-800-654-1088 or complete and return this coupon to: Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356, Attention: Member Services Department.

YES, please send me information on the \$20.00 per month electric water heater and air conditioner credit. Total benefit--\$80 per year.

Yes, I am also interested in the free 60- or 80-gallon water heater program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Call \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location Number \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Location number is on your electric billing statement.*

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

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

Contact our member services department at toll-free 800-654-1088 to receive your free booklet regarding home building construction guidelines.



## Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the board of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by chairman John Scott at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 1996 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to amend

the Duel Energy Space Heating Rider DE rate schedule. This schedule defines the members to whom the availability of this rate existed and also adds a phrase that allowed the control of electric space heating equipment in the future.

2. A motion was made and approved to amend the Schedule I rate schedule (Irrigation Service). This rate allows for a change from 50 kva to 49 kva and allows for controlled and uncontrolled operation of equipment.

3. A motion was made and approved to amend Rate Schedule SL, Rental Security Light to include 400 watt high pressure sodium lights. Only unmetered lights will be eligible for this rate.

4. A motion was made and approved to set the IVEC Annual Meeting date for July 16, 1996 at 1:00 p.m. at the Princeton High School. More details of the meeting will be in later Illinois Country Living Magazines.

5. Due to the NRECA and CFC National Meeting, the March Board Meeting has been changed to April 2, 1996.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 27, 1996. The March Board Meeting will be held on April 2, 1996. The April meeting is scheduled for the 23rd.

## Peak Alert Season June 15--September 15

Our wholesale power costs from Soyland Power Cooperative are related to Soyland's system demand peaks between June 15 and September 15.

During this period, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative members should be alerted for peak demand announcements.

There are several factors which are working to contribute to Soyland's peak. The most important of these will be temperature. We believe that the days when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees are the most likely days for Soyland to peak. Because of Soyland's loads, the time of day for the peaks to occur will be between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

When peak conditions are near, Soyland will

notify Illinois Valley Electric of a peak alert situation. On days when peak alerts are called by Soyland, Illinois Valley Electric will attempt to notify our members through brief radio announcements. John Ferrario

Illinois Valley Electric members should be conscious of these periods and attempt to control their individual demands by wisely using their air conditioning, major appliances and other electrical equipment.

By working together cooperatively and lowering our system peak, we can continue to have a positive effect on our present and future power costs from Soyland.

**You could be an ICL  
magazine prize winner!**

**Is this your account  
number?**

**0001110003**

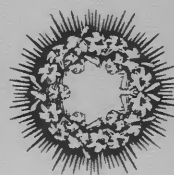
**If your name appears in this center  
section, mixed in with copy,  
you will receive a nice prize.**

**Call toll-free--800-654-1088**



### "Notice"

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative office and its area stations will be closed in observance of the following holiday:



**Good Friday, April 5, 1996**

Please call toll free 800-654-1088 to report emergencies--24 hour day monitoring and dispatching service.

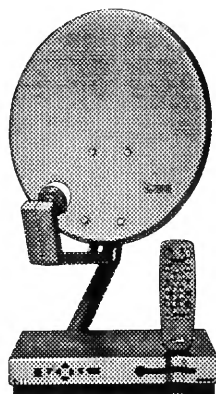
# WE'RE SERVING UP THE HOTTEST DISH IN TOWN.

★ **DSS Satellite  
Equipment  
from \$579  
to \$749**

★ **DIRECTV  
programming  
packages from  
\$14.95/mo.**

★ **financing  
available**

★ **self install or  
professionally  
installed**



## COME IN TODAY FOR A TASTE OF DIRECTV.

DIRECTV™ gives you access to 150 channels of the very best entertainment, sports, movies, and information — all through an affordable 18-inch receiving dish the size of a large pizza. Come in today for a sample.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. DIRECTV.



Call Member Services . . .  
**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Telephone 800-654-1088

Princeton, IL 61356

Rt. 6 & 34W



DIRECTV and DSS are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of GM Hughes Electronics  
Equipment and programming sold separately © NRTC 1995

# Geothermal

It's closer than you realize.

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



**Electric Cooperatives of Illinois**

**Getting the job done . . . TOGETHER**



## 'Invisible' light is useful stuff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Some energy-efficiency experts use them to de-

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

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

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

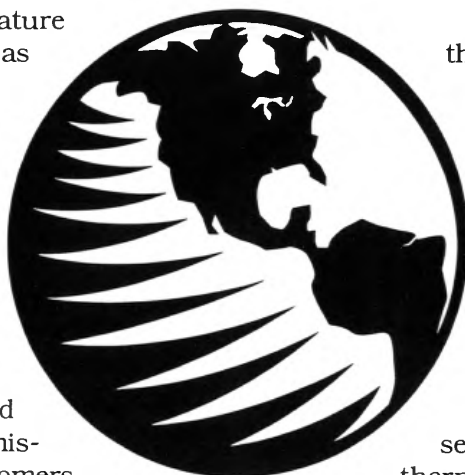
An infrared image is essentially a composite picture of the thermal images given off by a scene or person, and represents the internal temperature. While faces will look like faces, they will look very different from those viewed by light in the normal spectrum. Warmer parts, such as eye sockets, will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

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

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

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

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



## Available options and programs

# For Illinois Valley Electric members



### Dual Energy—Off-Peak—Low Rate...

### SAVE WITH THE AFFORDABLE CHOICE

What is a Dual Energy heating system in the "off peak" concept?.....

It is a system which combines two energy sources—electricity as a primary source and an alternate energy system such as electricity, gas or oil, as a secondary source during interruptible periods. If you have a gas or oil system in your home now, you can benefit by adding an electric system as the primary source.

★The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents kilowatt-hour.

★\$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for installation.—Primary Electric

★\$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000.00 for installation—All Electric Dual Energy System—(Alternate energy must be electric)

All-Electric or Dual Energy Heating Systems, Competitive, Economical and Affordable!!

## OTHER PROGRAMS FOR IVEC MEMBERS

★Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3000.00 for installation.

★All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.

★Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods

★General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)

★High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur

★A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of peak-control equipment

★All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems

- Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
- better than gas furnace
- clean energy
- off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- economical/affordable/competitive
- \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation

★DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—150 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System— programming from \$14.95 mo.

★Rural TV satellite program-subscription packages—Economy Pack \$8.95 mo.—Basic Service \$11.95 mo.—HBO \$7.95 mo.—Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo.—other program selections available—dish antenna systems—

C-Band (24 channels)—Ku-Band (32 channels)

★Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of peak-control equipment

★Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches

★Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home

★Two-way radio systems and telephone inter-connect service—low monthly rates

★Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience

★Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members

★Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage

★Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment

★Paging Service — wide area coverage in Illinois

★Providing personal emergency response systems — hands free, two-way communication

★Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans

**If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.**

**Ask for the Member Services Department — toll-free 800-654-1088.**

## Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
President/CEO

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**



The four students who represented Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative in the nation's capital last year are pictured with Congressman Lane Evans of Rock Island. From left are Rachel Dale of Wyanet, Melissa Steward of Toulon, Congressman Evans, Nathan Sondgeroth of Mendota and Angela Kerber of Sheffield.

## IVEC sponsors youth tours

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is again offering the chance to win "the trip of a lifetime" to a select group of students in its service territory. We are one of several electric cooperatives sponsoring the Youth to Springfield and the Youth to Washington, D.C. this spring.

IVEC wants to encourage high school students to learn more about government and their role in it. To accomplish this, the cooperative is providing student leaders a chance to get a close-up look at their government.

IVEC and other electric cooperatives across the state have sponsored these programs for 37 years to introduce students to government and the political process. Today, many "alumni" of these programs work in state or federal government or have gone on to serve as elected officials, including two current members of the Illinois General Assembly.

IVEC will sponsor two sophomore or junior students from each high school in its service area on an all-expense paid bus trip to Springfield on Wednesday, May 1. Governor Jim Edgar has declared that day as Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day. On that day, students and their counterparts from other Illinois high schools will meet their elected senators and representatives at the Capitol and learn first-hand about the workings of state government. The students will be honored at a special luncheon, and the group also hopes to meet with Governor Edgar.

## Youth to Washington

At the close of the Springfield trip, four students will be selected to represent IVEC on an all-expense paid trip to the nation's capital June 14-21 as grand prize winners in the cooperative's Youth to Washington leadership competition.

The four students will be selected during interviews conducted at a dinner banquet following the day-long Springfield activities.

The Washington tour winners will be part of a group of about 80 high school juniors and chaperones from across the state who will represent the electric cooperatives on the 1996 tour. This year marks the 37th consecutive year that the Illinois electric cooperatives have sponsored the student trip to Washington, D.C.

During the tour, the students will visit the Civil War battlefields at Gettysburg, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution museums, Arlington Cemetery, National Cathedral, Supreme Court, Department of Agriculture, Mount Vernon, and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. They will meet many members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation on Capitol Hill.

**You could be an ICL prize winner!  
Is this your account number?**

**0001208000**

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

**Call toll-free — 800-654-1088**

# If you worry about your parents living alone . . .

**FIRST CALL**  
Personal Emergency Response



Portable Pendant

.....talk to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative about its new personal emergency response system.

**Your parents get the extra ordinary life-saving service. You get the peace of mind.**

IVEC's MainStreet Messenger telephone/personal security system will instantly connect your parents to someone who can help, anytime of the day or night. By simply pushing the special alert key on the telephone unit or the large button on the portable pendant, a call will be placed immediately to the cooperative's response center via a toll-free "800" emergency number.

From virtually anywhere in their home, your parents can be in voice communication with a cooperative service representative within seconds. And since they have all the medical and emergency information about your parents in their computer, the co-op representative will be able to summon the appropriate help — no matter what the need may be.

**For more information  
Call Illinois Valley  
Electric Cooperative  
"toll free 800-654-1088"  
or  
Perry Memorial Hospital  
Princeton  
815-875-2811  
or  
St. Margaret's Hospital  
Spring Valley  
815-664-5311**



MainStreet Messenger Telephone

# Meter tampering is a dangerous crime

Most cooperative members would never consider stealing electricity; however, there are a few members who occasionally steal electricity by re-connecting their electric service without authorization. By tampering with their meter in this way, they are breaking the law and are driving up electrical costs for all honest members.

Bypassing or tampering with a meter can be a Class IV felony in the State of Illinois. This makes the offender liable for punishment by fine, imprisonment or both. In addition, the law provides that the guilty party can be held liable for triple damages for the amount of lost revenue, damage to utility equipment as well as administrative costs.

Tampering with a meter is not only illegal, but it is also extremely dangerous. Attempts to bypass or alter an electric meter can result in shock, fire, explosion or electrocution. Even if the thief doesn't get hurt, the tampered meter is usually left in such

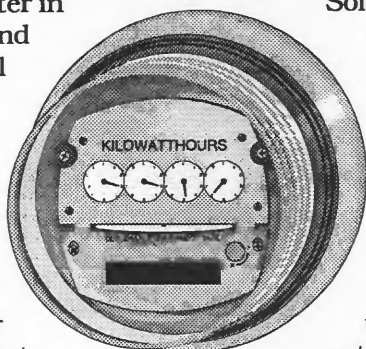
condition as to be a potential danger to others.

Those who tamper or bypass their meter, even if only temporarily, seem to think the risk of punishment, injury or death is worth their effort.

Some members seem to think their altering or tampering will never be detected. This is not true. Our operations personnel have been trained to detect meter tampering and energy thefts.

The energy thief steals from all the honest, paying members, driving up energy costs for everyone the same way shoplifters drive up the price of merchandise. The honest customer ends up paying for the thief's "free" service.

If you suspect someone is tampering with a meter, please give your cooperative a call. You do not have to give your name. Your information could help your cooperative reduce costs for all members; and, help prevent a possibly dangerous situation from turning tragic.



## Say goodbye to an old flame

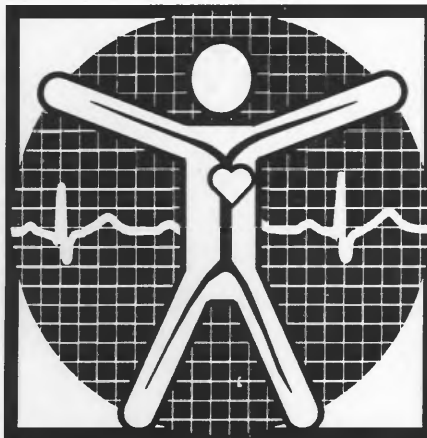
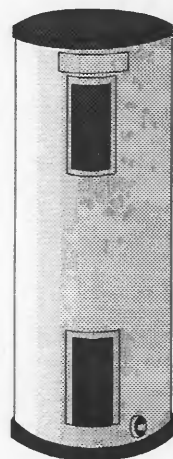
**Replace your GAS water heater with a 60 or 80 gallon electric water heater from Illinois Valley Electric and get the water heater free.**

To qualify, you must agree to have a load management control switch installed on your new electric water heater. Illinois Valley Electric will install the load management control switch free of charge.

**What if you currently have an electric water heater and it needs to be replaced?**

You will qualify for a free water heater by replacing it with a 60 or 80 gallon electric water heater from Illinois Valley Electric if you agree to have a load management control switch installed on it. This is a big savings that you cannot afford to miss!

For more information about Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's free water heater program, call the Member Services Department at toll free 800-654-1088.



### If you depend on life-support equipment, we need to know

While Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of outage time, occasional outages, either planned or uncontrolled, do occur.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative needs to know the names and locations of members who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of such members, and it is important that this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life-support systems.

If you or a member of your family depend on life-support equipment, please call us as quickly as possible at toll free 800-654-1088.



# Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 1:20 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 1996 with all Directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, Attorney Gary Barnhart, CFC Representative Jim Kaufman and Robert Loftus were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration. John Gustafson

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the

past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to nominate John Scott and President Christensen to serve on the Soyland Board of Directors for 1996. Joe Danielson will serve as alternate until his term expires on the IVEC board in July, 1996.

2. A motion was made to approve the tower climbing school program for the linemen.

The March Board meeting will be held on April 2, 1996. The April Board Meeting will be held April 23, 1996. The May Board Meeting will be May 28, 1996. The June Board Meeting is scheduled for the 25th.

## WE'RE SERVING UP THE HOTTEST DISH IN TOWN.

**DSS equipment**  
 ★ from \$579 to \$749  
 ★ financing available  
 ★ self install or professionally installed

**DIRECTV programming**  
 ★ For as little as \$14.95 per month  
 ★ Other program selection rates are available



### COME IN TODAY FOR A TASTE OF DIRECTV.

DIRECTV gives you access to 175 channels of the very best in entertainment, sports, movies, and information - all through an affordable 18-inch receiving dish, the size of a large pizza. Come in today for a sample.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. DIRECTV.

Call Member Services...

**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Rt. 6 & 34W • Princeton, IL 61356

Telephone 800-654-1088



**DSS**  
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM



DIRECTV and DSS are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of GM Hughes Electronics. Equipment and programming sold separately. NRTC 1995

## ---Notice of holiday closing---

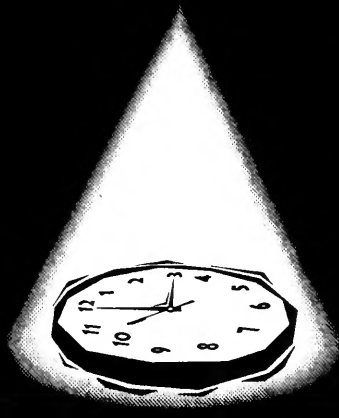


The Illinois Valley electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holiday:

**Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th**

Please call toll-free 800-654-1088 to report emergencies—24 hour per day monitoring and dispatching service

# Lighting... YOUR way...



**From dusk to dawn, for confidence, safety and reliability, a security light costs just pennies a day.**

### Rental Security Lighting for...

- Security** Outdoor lighting protects your family and property from criminals.
- Safety** Lighting illuminates your late-night arrival home.
- Curbside Appeal** Lighting accents distinctive features of your home or business.
- Extending the Day** Lighting stretches the daylight hours for barbecues, driveway basketball and after-dusk chores.
- Economy** Outdoor lighting is easy, efficient, and costs just pennies a day.
- YOUR Way** Home, farm or business: outdoor lighting can soon be Lighting...YOUR Way.

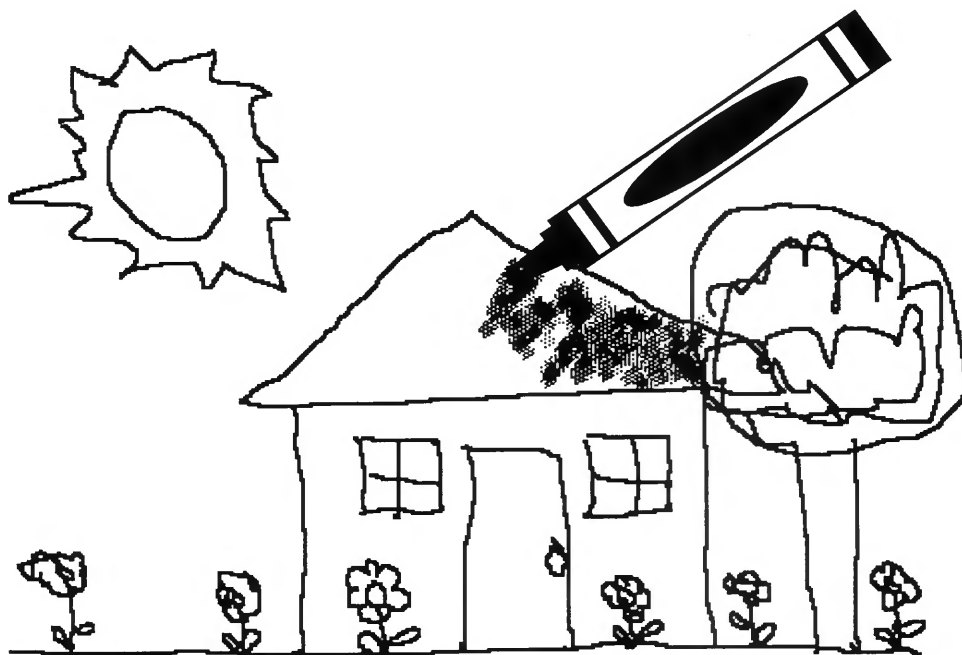
**Rent a high pressure sodium, 100 watt security light from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for under \$12.00 per month, and protect your home and family.**

**Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and theft. Rental lights are installed on meter poles or transformer poles — installation and maintenance — are free!!!**



*For more information, call.....*  
**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative**  
**Toll-Free 1-800-654-1088**  
**And ask for the Member Services Department.**

# A different color



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

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



***Electric Cooperatives of Illinois***

*An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer*



## Little energy-saving steps add up

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

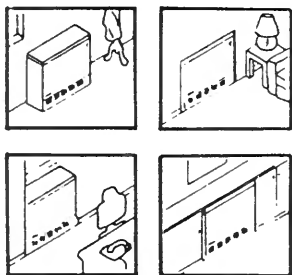
It takes about 30 gallons to fill the average tub, and a shower with a flow of three gallons a minute uses only 15 gallons in 15 minutes. If you use half cold and half hot water for bathing, you would save about five gallons of hot water every time you substitute a shower for a bath.

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

## Available options and programs

# For Illinois Valley Electric members

**\*\*\*Featuring this month\*\*\***



Example of...  
Warm room concept  
installations

## OFFPEAK E.T.S.

*Relax, it's electric...and cheap!*

Electric thermal storage heating is a clean, safe, comfortable and reliable secondary method of heating your home during "on peak" times when primary electric heat is interrupted. This heating choice provides consumers with considerable savings in heating costs. These savings are realized by members taking advantage of off-peak electric rates offered by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.



- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents kilowatt-hour.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for installation.--Primary Electric
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000.00 for installation.--All Electric

### All-Electric or Dual Energy Off-Peak Heating Systems

## Other programs for IVEC members

★Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric--\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.

★All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.

★Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods.

★General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).

★High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur.

★A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of peak control equipment.

★All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems

- Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
- better than gas furnace
- clean energy
- off-peak rate of 4.0 cents kwh with ETS secondary heating
- \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation.
- economical/affordable/competitive

★DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System—Programming from \$14.95 per month.

★Rural TV satellite program subscription packages—Economy Pack \$8.95 mo.—Basic Service \$11.95 mo.—HBO \$7.95 mo.—Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo.—other program selections available—dish antenna systems--C-Band (24 channels)--Ku-Band (32 channels).

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★Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.

★Paging Service — wide area coverage in Illinois.

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**If you want more information about the above programs,  
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.**

**Ask for the Member Services Department — toll-free 800-654-1088.**

## Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
President/CEO

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**

## China trip, member letter, electric rates and negotiations

Your manager was pleased recently to be included among Illinois electric cooperative leaders to travel to China as part of a training program developed by Chinese rural electric leaders and coordinated by the University of Illinois — Chicago. Several groups from China have visited Illinois electric cooperatives to learn how we provide electric service to rural areas and to see if any of our methods could be transferred to the Peoples Republic of China. Chinese officials invited Illinois rural electric leaders to tour parts of their country to increase our understanding of the problems and opportunities they face in order to enhance our technical exchange.

A "Letter to the Editor" in a local newspaper raised several questions about that technical exchange trip and IVEC operations. I want to share with all members through this column our answers to those questions.

First, members of the cooperative paid no part of the cost of that technical exchange trip. The Peoples Republic of China paid your manager's expenses and Mrs. Christensen paid all her own expenses. This is true of all cooperative leaders participating in the exchange. The Chinese government made this investment because China has high hopes of extending electric service further into its rural countryside using the United States' highly successful electric cooperative model.

The second question dealt with our Board of Directors actions to deal with our high rates to serve our rural service territory. I will quote the words of Board Chairman John Scott to give you our answer to that question:

"During the past 10 years, your board of directors and management have implemented a number of cost-cutting measures and efficiencies resulting in a reduction in the number of employees at Illinois Valley Electric from 46 to 26 and at the same time reducing the number of power outages to its members.

"Illinois Valley has recently explored and continues to explore the possibility of mergers, consolidation and shared services with other electric cooperatives in an effort to further defer cost of electric service. . . .

"Also, your board and management are very active in current negotiations of future wholesale power contracts that could result in as much as a 50 percent reduction in wholesale power costs to Illinois Valley Electric."

We at Illinois Valley take very seriously our obligation to provide your electric service at the lowest possible cost. We also take seriously any questions you may have about your electric service. If you have any questions about your cooperative please call on us. Easy questions we'll answer on the spot, complicated questions may take some "digging" but we will get you an answer.

## Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, below are the meter reading dates for May and June. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any neces-



sary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc.

Your assistance in this matter will certainly be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

## New automatic payment plan IVEC Members — Tired of writing checks?

In response to requests from members, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative has adopted the automatic payment plan. By enrolling in this plan, a member's electric bill automatically will be paid directly from his/her bank account each month.

This new plan saves time and the expense of writing checks and mailing a payment each month. This is especially beneficial for vacationers and those who are frequently away from home.

To enroll in this plan, a member need only sign

an authorization form and tell Illinois Valley Electric what day the electric bill is to be paid. Remember, this date must be prior to or on the 20th of each month to avoid a penalty charge.

Illinois Valley Electric will then implement the automatic payment plan. There is absolutely no extra charge to the member.

If interested in signing up for this automatic payment plan, please contact your cooperative at 800-654-1088—ask for the billing department.

## Budget billing available

Any residential member with a primary residence may join the cooperative's budget billing plan. To qualify, a member must have a satisfactory credit rating or furnish acceptable references.

The member may enroll in any month during the year. For example, a budget payment plan beginning in June would be for June kwh usage billed in July and ending with the June billing on the following year.

After paying these 12 equal payments for your electricity, any adjustment due to any overpayment or underpayment of the actual bill for the year will be rolled into the next 12 monthly payments. Power

cost adjustments are not included in the budgeted amount.

In the event the member becomes delinquent in budget payments, the member will then automatically forfeit the privilege and revert back to regular billing.

**Thomas Hoffman**

If you are interested in the budget billing plan, contact the cooperative office. Please call toll free 800-654-1088 and ask for the billing department. Also, you may submit a written request for application into the program. Our cooperative personnel will contact you to explain the benefits and obligations of the plan and work out budget payments.

## Notice

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holiday:

**Independence Day, Thursday, July 4, 1996**

Please call, toll-free 800-654-1088 to report emergencies —  
24 hour a day monitoring and dispatching service.



## **IVEC MEMBERS!!!**

**Control air-conditioning costs  
Join the switch makes \$cents\$ program!!!**

**"Call your cooperative member services department at  
toll-free 800-654-1088"**

- ★ **Enjoy the summer season and keep cooling expenses economical with electricity.**
- ★ **Help reduce summer peak demand and earn "credit" on your electric bill.**

**Save on air conditioning costs with a  
\$10.00 credit for the  
months of June, July, August and September.  
\$40.00 over four months**

## **Your direct link to a world of choice**

**"Excitement you can't get on Cable or PrimeStar."**



- Access to over 175 channels of programming on DIRECTV
- Extraordinary picture
- CD-quality sound
- Easy-to-use system
- Remote Control Point and select program guide
- Parental control of rated movies
- Per program spending limits on Pay-Per-View

***Seeing is believing!!!***

**Contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative at  
1-800-654-1088 to learn more or to arrange for a  
demonstration in our office.**

*Equipment prices start at \$579 and programming starts at about \$1 per day.  
RCA DSS and DIRECTV are registered trademarks of Hughes Electronics, Inc.*

## **You could be an ICL prize winner!**

***Is this your account number? 0001350000***

**If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.**

**Call toll-free — 800-654-1088**



# Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 1996 with all Directors present except Joe Danielson. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board concerning the activities in their respective depart-

ments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to contract with Poor Boys' Catering for the IVEC Annual Meeting on July 16, 1996.

2. A motion was made to approve a donation in past Director Thomas Coles' name to the NIU Foundation/IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund.

3. A motion was made to approve the non electric policy on DIRECTV.

4. A motion was made authorizing the continued expansion and upgrade of IVEC's communications network.

5. A motion was made approving the Strategic Plan goals for 1996-97.

The April Board Meeting will be held on April 23, 1996. The May Board Meeting will be held May 28, 1996. The June Board Meeting is scheduled for the 25th.

## Illinois Valley Electric meter testing planned for June and October

The annual meter testing program has been scheduled to begin in June 1996.

Beginning on June 3; and again in October, contract meter testing personnel from Electric Labs and Sales Corporation of Mattoon, Illinois will be conducting random tests on approximately 600 single-phase meters and 350 three-phase meters at various locations over the service area.

The meters are inspected and tested to check if there is lightning damage, to determine accuracy, to check the condition of minor parts

such as seals, bearings and gaskets, and the general overall condition of the metering equipment. Any meters determined to be unrepairable in the field will be replaced. Results of all tests will be provided to Illinois Valley Electric for review.

Personnel doing the testing will carry proper identification and magnetic signs will be attached to their vehicle. If there are any questions relating to the testing program, please contact Illinois Valley Electric at 800-654-1088.

### IVEC members... Mark your calendar!!!

## 1996 Annual Meeting

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative  
Tuesday, July 16, 1996

#### Schedule of events

- Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.
- Lunch available beginning at 11:00 a.m. in cafeteria
- Annual meeting to begin at 1:00 p.m.
- Registration prize—\$5.00 credit coupon
- Marketing and load management exhibits
- Entertainment in auditorium from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

★ ★ Prizes ★ ★

Drawing for prizes  
after adjournment.

*Must be present to win!!!*

**Princeton High School Auditorium**  
**103 South Euclid Avenue, Princeton, Illinois**

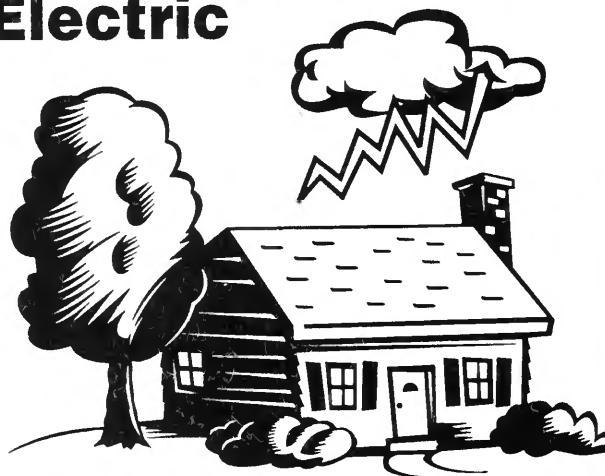
# SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Illinois Valley Electric offers several options and warranties with its SurgeGuard program. You can choose the package you want to protect part or all of your electric items, such as refrigerators, pumps, TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos, fax machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems.

Enjoy one of nature's great shows, the thunderstorm, without the worry of lightning damage to household equipment.

This lightning protection may enable you to obtain a discount on homeowner's insurance. Contact your insurance carrier.

Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative toll free at 800-654-1088 and ask for the Member Services Department.



**Your house: 1    Lightning: 0**

*That's the score with SurgeGuard, protecting your appliances and electronic equipment from lightning.*

## \*\*\*Meter socket adapters\*\*\*

A. Surge protection for member electric appliances and equipment. Included is a total home protection warranty against consequential damages to all standard home equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, pumps, etc. Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative will install device at meter socket upon order from member.

\*MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector

Meter Socket Plug-In Device .....	\$128.20
Labor to Install Device .....	38.50
Tax .....	<u>8.01</u>
	\$174.71

\*Includes adapter, installation and 10 year product warranty which includes replacement of unit if destroyed while protecting home.

## \*\*\*Plug-in protectors—optional\*\*\*

B. Protects sensitive electronic equipment such as TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos and other home devices requiring more protective shielding. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTC 215 Transient Tamer .....	\$62.55
Tax .....	<u>3.91</u>
	\$66.46

\*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to all electronic equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

C. Provides dial-up phone line protection including FAX machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTM 215 Transient Tamer .....	\$69.00
Tax .....	<u>4.31</u>
	\$73.31

\*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to phone line equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

**Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.**

.....

Getting the job done

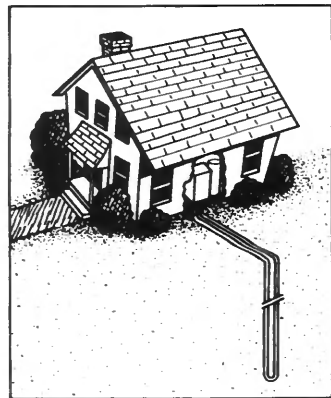
# TOGETHER

Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

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

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

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



**Electric Cooperatives of Illinois**

Good for ALL Illinois



## Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
President/CEO

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**

## Restructuring in the electric utility industry

You hear a lot about "restructuring" in the electric utility industry these days, and if you believe everything you hear, you'd think "retail wheeling" would cure all the world's ills. Advocates argue that consumers should be free to choose their power supplier. We believe that this concept is fraught with problems for consumers.

There's no doubt about it: retail wheeling would provide many benefits for those who are promoting the concept. It will give large industrial consumers even greater leverage than they already enjoy. This will enable them to extract lower rates from utilities, which will still have very substantial fixed costs, just as they have now. Residential consumers will be the likely ones paying for those costs.

And residential consumers served by relatively small electric utilities like cooperatives will be particularly vulnerable to rate increases. Cooperatives have relatively few large industrial users, and if their large loads are lost as a result of retail wheeling, the remaining residential consumers could be hit very hard.

While there might conceivably be benefits to consumers from the deregulation of the electric utility industry, there is a very real need for a careful study of costs and benefits. The costs of restructuring the distribution sector to allow retail wheeling would be substantial and the benefits questionable.

Specifically, I recommend that before moving ahead with any federally mandated retail wheeling scheme, the Congress ensure that there is a thorough study of the impact it would have on current utility investment in generation, transmission and distribution facilities.

In addition, I believe the Congress should investigate the increased transaction costs associated with unbundling of retail service and full "customer choice," as well as the impact of the loss of local utility franchises on the future financing of needed transmission and distribution lines.

While retail wheeling and its attendant costs/benefits are mandated by the federal government, states currently regulate the retail sale of electricity, as they have for decades. For the federal government to mandate a practice is a usurpation of the state's authority.

At present, two-thirds of the states are examining the issue of retail competition through their public utility commissions. Federally mandated retail wheeling legislation would "federalize" these important functions, leaving the states with no real role in determining the future of an industry that's vitally important to each and every state's economy and environment.

Congress must not usurp the states' rights to balance all the competing interests at stake in electric industry restructuring, simply to benefit industrial customers and those power suppliers who want to serve them directly.

In order to justify the idea of competition in the electricity industry, proponents often point to the supposed success of the telecommunications industry. If you'll recall, all consumers were to receive dramatically lower telephone bills as a result of that government intervention.

Whatever the case, the two industries are different in their technology and the service they provide to the public. First, there are no technologies now available to deliver electricity to the ultimate consumer other than the transmission and distribution "wires" now in place.

Duplicating such wire networks would be extremely expensive and would raise complex environmental, zoning and aesthetic issues.

In summation, I urge you to strongly resist those who would rush to embrace federally mandated electric utility deregulation and mandated retail wheeling. This concept may appear attractive at first glance, but it would be most detrimental to rural areas and residential consumers—those at the "end of the line."



# Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 1996, with all Directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or

moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to authorize management to have a territorial service area study done.

2. A motion was made to approve amending Operational Policy #7 on Discontinuance of Service.

3. A motion was made to approve a partnership of IVEC's C Band T.V. subscribers with AstroStar, a subsidiary of Morrow Electric Cooperative in Mt. Gilead, Ohio. **Charles Irwin**

4. A motion was made to accept and approve the nominees by the nominating committee as follows: District 3--Charles Meisenheimer, Rt. 1, Box 127, Walnut, IL 61376; District 6--Robert Angus, RR 4, Ottawa, IL 61350; District 8--Don Rogers, RR 1 Box 81, Altona, IL 61414.

The May Board Meeting will be held on May 28, 1996. The June Board Meeting will be held July 2, 1996. The IVEC Annual Meeting will be July 16, 1996. The July Board Meeting will be July 23, 1996. The August Board Meeting is scheduled for the 27th.

## Quarterly operating statement Report for January 1 to March 31, 1996

Account Description	1996	Statistics and Revenue Data	1996
Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital .....	\$2,228,898	Number Connected Consumers .....	5,907
Cost of Purchased Power .....	1,214,856	Average KWH Used .....	2,880
Distribution Expense—Operation .....	75,229	Average Bill .....	\$377.33
Distribution Expense—Maintenance ...	94,184	No. KWH Purchased .....	18,519,492
Consumer Accounts Expense .....	47,428	No. KWH Sold & Used by Co-op .....	17,092,583
Customer Service and Informational Expense .....	5,272	Line Loss Percent .....	7.70%
Sales Expense .....	24,755	Cost Per KWH Purchased .....	6.56¢
Administrative & General Expense .....	204,755	Cost Per KWH Delivered .....	5.94¢
Operation & Maintenance Expense .....	1,666,479	Member Cost Per KWH .....	13.10¢
Depreciation & Amortization Expense .	118,682	Miles Energized .....	1,770
Tax Expense—Property .....	3,875	Revenue Per Mile .....	\$1,259.26
Tax Expense—Other .....	53,585	Total Expense Per Mile .....	\$1,257.58
Interest on Long-Term Debt .....	383,288	Total Cooperative Payroll .....	\$335,896.21
Cost of Electric Service .....	2,225,909	Total Expenses	
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins 2,989		Reimbursed to Employees .....	\$2,954.44
Nonoperating Margins—Interest .....	9,944	Total Director Per Diem Days .....	104
Nonoperating Margins—Other .....	47,594	Total Director Per Diem Amount .....	\$12,050.00
Extraordinary Items .....	-0-	Total Expenses	
Patronage Capital or Margins .....	60,527	Reimbursed to Directors .....	\$5,612.50

## You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?  
0000942001

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy,  
you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free--800-654-1088

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

## 1996 Annual Meeting Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Princeton High School Auditorium  
103 South Euclid Avenue · Princeton, Illinois  
Tuesday, July 16, 1996

- ★ Registration Begins at 11:00 A.M.★ Meeting will start at 1:00 P.M.
- ★ Complimentary lunch to be served in cafeteria beginning at 11:00 A.M.



### \*\*\*Complimentary Lunch Menu\*\*\*

- \* Ribeye or Pork Chop Sandwich Plate
- \* Baked Beans
- \* Choice of Lemonade, Iced Tea or Coffee
- \* Potato Salad
- \* Cole Slaw
- \* Dessert



### \*\*\*Registration Prize\*\*\*

\$5.00 credit coupon to be awarded to IVEC members upon registration. This credit can be used on your next electric bill.



### \*\*\*Entertainment prior to meeting in auditorium\*\*\*

#### Featuring: Crazy for Gershwin

Crazy for Gershwin is a very popular show which has been presented throughout the area at dinner theaters, conventions, etc. It features the classic tunes of George and Ira Gershwin--all styles and types for every taste.

### \*\*\*Exhibits and Programs\*\*\*

- Marketing and load management displays
- Energy\$Teller exhibit for auditing electric usage in your home
- High blood pressure check—American Red Cross
- Soyland Power Cooperative information table
- DIRECTV and DSS satellite dish program
- 800-MHZ radio system and telephone interconnect program
- Area-wide paging service information
- SurgeGuard home lightning protection

### Special Display

New Emergency Response System for elderly or handicapped persons "Main Street Messenger" telephone and pendant

#### Electrical safety demonstration

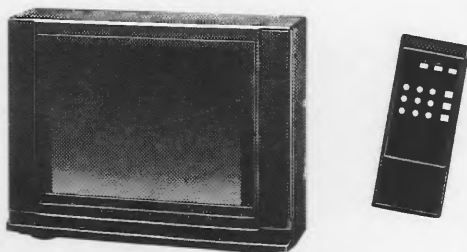
A trained operator will show what can happen if you are careless with electricity.

#### Pedal power exhibit

Try your hand at producing enough electricity to light up household-size light bulbs.

#### Drawing After Meeting For Grand Prize

TV



20-inch color stereo television with remote control. Plus many other prizes.

#### See our DIRECTV Exhibit

DSS

DIRECTV.



★ DIRECTV programming packages

★ DSS Satellite equipment

18-inch receiving dish  
DIRECTV gives you access to 175 channels of the very best in entertainment, sports, movies and information.

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

## Don't miss out on your chance to save \$80 a year on electric water heating and air-conditioning costs!

### What is IVEC's Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program?

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative purchases power and sells it to you at the lowest cost possible. The price of the power is especially high during the peak months of June, July, August and September. "Peak usage" simply describes those times when people use the most electricity — such as when it's hot outside and most air-conditioners are running or when water heaters are being used at certain times of the day. Peak usage by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative members during these months increase wholesale power costs charged to the cooperative. Under our previous wholesale power agreement, we were concerned about winter peak usage, too. But our new contract is only concerned about summer peak usage because of impact on power cost.

Our Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program, which controls water heaters and central air conditioners, will help decrease electric peak usage, which in turn reduces the cost of wholesale power. When you participate, you will receive a credit for the months of June, July, August and September on your electric bill. All members will benefit by seeing stable rates through the long-term savings in wholesale power costs.

### How does it work?

- If you have a central air conditioner and an electric water heater with capacity of 40 gallons or more, you are eligible to participate in the program.

- A radio-controlled switch will be installed on the water heater and air-conditioner at **No Charge** to you.

- You will receive a \$20.00 credit for June, July, August and September on your electric bill for the controlled water heater and central air conditioner.

- During peak usage periods, a radio signal sent from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office will automatically switch off the water heater and air conditioner. Power interruptions will only last long enough to hold demand down. You will

experience little or **No** inconvenience. However, if for some reason you are not satisfied with the program, the radio-control switches will be removed at no cost to you.

- The water heater and air conditioner credit is available only for accounts with a minimum of 400 kilowatt-hours usage per month over a period of 12 months in a calendar year.



### How do I sign up for Switch Makes \$Cents\$?

It's easy. And the installation is free! Just call us at 1-800-654-1088 or complete and return this coupon to: Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356, Attention: Member Services Department.

**YES**, please send me information on the \$20.00 per month electric water heater and air conditioner credit. Total benefit—\$80 per year.

**YES**, I am also interested in the free 60- or 80-gallon water heater program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Call \_\_\_\_\_

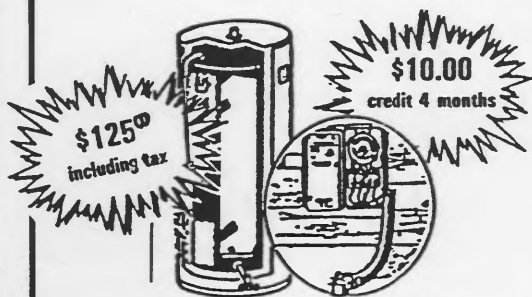
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location Number \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Location number is on your electric billing statement.**

## Available options and programs

# For Illinois Valley Electric members



60 or 80 gal. water heater

### \*\*\*Featuring this month\*\*\*

• **High-Efficiency electric water heaters** at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only.

• **Earn \$10 credit** on your electric bill with control device on water heater for months of June, July, August, and September. (\$40 savings!!)

• **\$125.00 Rebate** if control device is installed after 30 days.

## OTHER PROGRAMS FOR IVEC MEMBERS

★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.

★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.

★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods

★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)

★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when “on-peak” periods occur

★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment

★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems

- Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
- better than gas furnace
- clean energy
- off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- economical/affordable
- \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation

★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System—programming from \$14.95 mo.

★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages—Economy Pack \$8.95 mo.—Basic Service \$11.95 mo.—HBO \$7.95 mo.—Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo.—other program selections available—dish antenna systems—C-Band (24 channels)—Ku-Band (32 channels)

★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment

★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches

★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home

★ Two-way radio systems and telephone interconnect service—low monthly rates

★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience

★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members

★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage

★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment

★ Paging Service — wide area coverage in Illinois

★ Providing personal emergency response systems — hands free, two-way communication

★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans

**If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.**

**Ask for the Member Services Department — toll-free 800-654-1088.**

# WE'RE SERVING UP THE HOTTEST DISH IN TOWN.



**DSS Satellite  
Equipment  
from \$579  
to \$749**



**DIRECTV  
programming  
packages from  
\$14.95/mo.**



**financing  
available**



**self install or  
professionally  
installed**



## COME IN TODAY FOR A TASTE OF DIRECTV.

DIRECTV™ gives you access to 175 channels of the very best entertainment, sports, movies, and information — all through an affordable 18-inch receiving dish the size of a large pizza. Come in today for a sample.

**THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. DIRECTV.**



Call Member Services . . .  
**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Telephone 800-654-1088

Princeton, IL 61356

Rt. 6 & 34W

**DSS**

**DIRECTV.**

DIRECTV and DSS are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of GM Hughes Electronics  
Equipment and programming sold separately © NRTC 1995

# Who's responsible for electric facilities?

During the stages of new construction or upgrading of electric facilities, questions about ownership of poles, meter loops, wires and breaker panels are usually asked. When existing electrical equipment has been in place for many years or if new facilities are required, ownership may not be obvious to the member consumer.

It's good to know who is responsible for maintenance or repairs and we hope that this article will answer most questions.

## Overhead electric service The Cooperative is responsible for:

- \* Wires from the transformer to the meter pole and electrical connections on those wires.
- \* The meter.

## The member is responsible for:

- \* The meter socket.
- \* The meter loop.
- \* Fuse and/or breaker panels, including disconnect switches.
- \* Wires leaving the meter pole to services at other locations such as homes, barns, garages, shops, and connections for those wires.

## Underground electric service The Cooperative is responsible for:

- \* Wires from the transformer to the meter location or pedestal.
- \* The meter.

## The member is responsible for:

- \* The meter socket.
- \* Wires running from the meter location or pedestal to other locations such as homes, barns, garages, shops, and those connections.
- \* Any disconnect switches, fuse panels or breaker panels at the meter.



# Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, below are the meter reading dates for July and August. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements

can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter will certainly be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

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

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

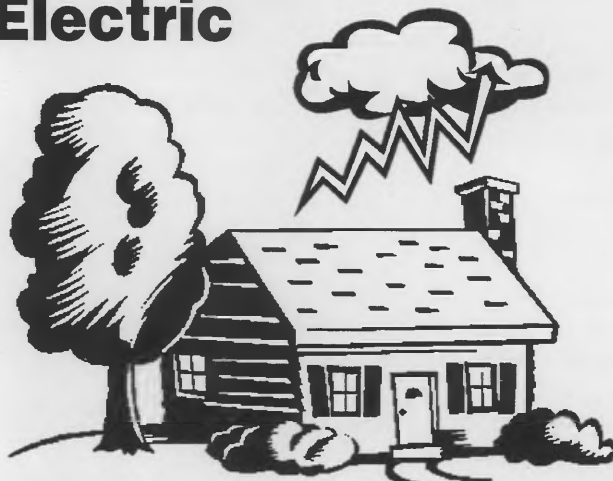
# SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Illinois Valley Electric offers several options and warranties with its SurgeGuard program. You can choose the package you want to protect part or all of your electric items, such as refrigerators, pumps, TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos, fax machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems.

Enjoy one of nature's great shows, the thunderstorm, without the worry of lightning damage to household equipment.

This lightning protection may enable you to obtain a discount on homeowner's insurance. Be sure to contact your insurance carrier.

Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative toll free at 800-654-1088 and ask for the Member Services Department.



**Your house: 1    Lightning: 0**

*That's the score with SurgeGuard, protecting your appliances and electronic equipment from lightning.*

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	\$73.31

\*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to phone line equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

**Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.**



## Miscellaneous energy-saving tips for summer

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

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

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

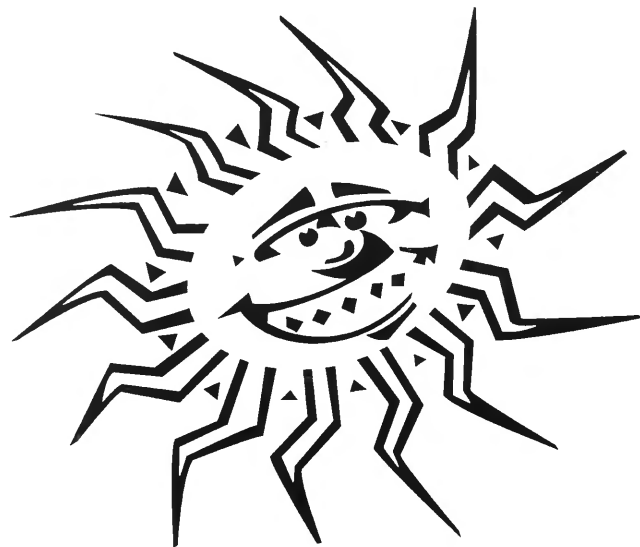
Some 24 percent goes into lighting, cooking and running other appliances. Obviously, you'll find the biggest savings in the higher-use categories. In addition to changing your thermostat, the addition of insulation and/or weatherstripping can help you save a lot on both heating and cooling, and you can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

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

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

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

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



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

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

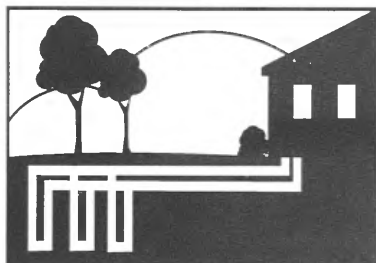
Since much of the energy used in doing laundry goes to heat water, you can save a little by changing to cooler washes and rinses, whenever possible. And, of course, you may want to keep after faucet washers, wherever they are. It seems to be a natural law that the first faucet to leak will be the hot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

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

## Available options and programs

# For Illinois Valley Electric members

**\* \* \* Featuring this month \* \* \***



- Geothermal heating •
- Cooling • Hot water •

**All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems will offer these benefits:**

- ★ \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000.00
- ★ Up to 400% efficiency
- ★ Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- ★ Better than gas furnace — competitive price

## Other programs for IVEC members

★Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.

★All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.

★Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods.

★General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).

★High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when “on-peak” periods occur.

★A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of peak control equipment.

★All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems

- Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
- better than gas furnace
- clean energy
- off-peak rate of 4.0 cents kwh with ETS secondary heating
- \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation.
- economical/affordable/competitive

★DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System—Programming from \$14.95 per month.

★Rural TV satellite program subscription packages—Economy Pack \$8.95 mo.—Basic Service \$11.95 mo.—HBO \$7.95 mo.—Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo.—other program selections available—dish antenna systems--C-Band (24 channels)--Ku-Band (32 channels).

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★Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.

★Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

★Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.

★Paging Service — wide area coverage in Illinois.

★Providing personal emergency response systems — hands free, two-way communication.

★Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.

**If you want more information about the above programs,  
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.**

**Ask for the Member Services Department — toll-free 800-654-1088.**

## Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
President/CEO

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**



## IVEC sponsors 'Youth Day' in Springfield

High school students from across Illinois were introduced to their state legislators in Springfield during "Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative Youth Day" on Wednesday, May 1. Thirty-two area students representing Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative met with Representative David R. Leitch at the state capitol. The 260 students and chaperones also toured the Illinois Supreme Court, the State Capitol, the Old State Capitol and Lincoln's Tomb. Representing Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative were, from left in front, Emily Kord, Kewanee; Amanda Bardell, Neponset; April Scraggs, DePue; Mandy Murray and Jennifer Musselman, both of Toulon; Michelle Snyder, Neponset; Tara Ince, Kewanee; Sarah Kiser, Princeton; Melinda Haberkorn, Lostant; Meuvchoy Saepfan, DePue; Nathan Sondgeroth, Mendota; Julia Arnold, Buda; Mironda Heston, Mineral; Janet Stevens, Cambridge. Behind from left, Linda Lorenzen, chaperone from Illinois Valley Electric; Margaret Griswold, Spring Valley; Sarah Pohl, Mendota; Jaimie Schrader, Ohio; Heather Grant, Hennepin; Shana Daniels, East Galesburg; Rep. Leitch; Melissa Tiller, Knoxville; Dawn Amrein, Princeton; Shawn Kendell, Galva; Jami Andreasen, Galva; Tedd Lundquist, LaMoille; Allison Doyle, Hooppole; Shelly Williams, Cambridge; and Jacqueline Gerrard, LaSalle. Behind from left, Barry Burkman and T.J. Cornog, chaperones from Illinois Valley Electric; Luke Graham and Josh Kazmierczak, both of Ottawa; Corey Moodie and Reyna Barto, both of Bradford; and Kelli Sepaniak, Spring Valley. The day's activities were sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois.



## Washington tour winners chosen

Four area high school students were chosen winners in Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's "Youth to Washington" program. They were Shelly Williams of Cambridge, Heather Grant of Hennepin, Dawn Amrein of Princeton and Melissa Tiller of Knoxville. They were part of a group of 70 students and chaperones from across Illinois who toured the nation's capital June 14-21. From left are: Shelly Williams, Heather Grant, Dawn Amrein and Melissa Tiller.



# Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 1996 with all Directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, Attorney Gary Barnhart and Zane Juncker of Larson, Allen, Weishair & Co. were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on: **Robert A. Jackson**

1. It was reported that 32 students from the IVEC service area attended Illinois Youth Day in Springfield on May 1. Out of the 32 students four were chosen to go to Washington, D.C. from June 14 through June 21. The four students are as follows: Melissa Tiller of Knoxville, Dawn Amrein of Princeton, Heather Grant of Hennepin and Shelly Williams of Cambridge.

2. A motion was made to approve the 1995 audit report given by Zane Juncker, auditor with Larson, Allen Weishair & Company of Austin, Minn.

3. The cooperative has purchased the Advanced Communications radio system in Ottawa and has formed a new subsidiary corporation named Illinois Valley Advance Communications, Inc. This new subsidiary will have a 5 member board made up of several radio users and the President. All present users on the Benedetti, Advanced Communications system, have received letters informing them of the sale of the system.

The June Board Meeting will be held July 2, 1996 beginning at 1:00 p.m. The IVEC Annual Meeting will be July 16, 1996. The July Board Meeting will be July 23, 1996. The August Board Meeting is scheduled for the 27th.

## WE'RE SERVING UP THE HOTTEST DISH IN TOWN.

### DSS equipment

- ★ from \$579 to \$749
- ★ financing available
- ★ self install or professionally installed

### DIRECTV programming

- ★ For as little as \$14.95 per month
- ★ Other program selection rates are available



### COME IN TODAY FOR A TASTE OF DIRECTV.

DIRECTV gives you access to 175 channels of the very best in entertainment, sports, movies, and information - all through an affordable 18-inch receiving dish, the size of a large pizza. Come in today for a sample.

**THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. DIRECTV.**

Call Member Services...

**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Rt. 6 & 34W • Princeton, IL 61356

Telephone 800-654-1088



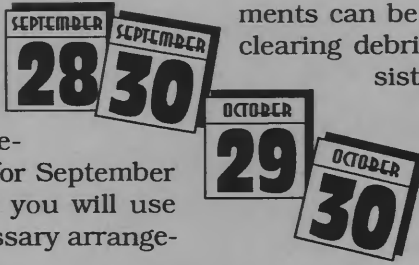
DIRECTV and DSS are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of GM Hughes Electronics. Equipment and programming sold separately. NRTC 1995

**DSS**  
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM

**DIRECTV**

# Member Services

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, below are the meter reading dates for September and October. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrange-



ments can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter will certainly be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

## Reminder—Peak Alert Season is Here!!! June 15--September 15

Our wholesale power costs from Soyland Power Cooperative are related to Soyland's system demand peaks between June 15 and September 15.

During these dates, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative members should be alerted for peak demand periods.

Several factors contribute to Soyland's peak. The most important of these will be temperature. We believe that the days when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees are the most likely days for Soyland to peak. Because of Soyland's loads, the time of day for the peaks to occur will be between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

When peak conditions are near, Soyland will

notify Illinois Valley Electric of a peak alert situation. On days when peak alerts are called by Soyland, Illinois Valley Electric will attempt to notify our members through brief radio announcements.

Illinois Valley Electric members should be conscious of these periods and attempt to control their individual demands by wisely using their air conditioning, major appliances and other electrical equipment.

By working together cooperatively and lowering our system peak, we can continue to have a positive effect on our present and future power costs from Soyland.

## For Illinois Valley Electric members IVEC Payment Centers to serve your area.



- Galva Area ..... **STATE BANK OF TOULON**  
(FORMERLY NORWEST BANK)  
112 North Exchange Street
- Princeton Area ..... **AMCORE BANK**  
815 South Main Street  
**CITIZENS FIRST NATIONAL BANK**  
606 South Main Street
- Kewanee Area ..... **PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK**  
207 North Tremont Street
- Ottawa Area ..... **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OTTAWA**  
701 LaSalle Street
- Sheffield Area ..... **AMCORE BANK**  
113 South Main Street
- Peru-LaSalle Area ..... **CITIZENS FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PERU**  
925 Shooting Park Road
- Wyanet Area ..... **AMCORE BANK**  
135 East Main

### You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0005079500

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.  
Call toll-free—800-654-1088



# Lighting... YOUR way...

**From dusk to dawn, for security, safety and confidence a security light costs just pennies a day.**

## Rental Security Lighting for...

### Security

Outdoor lighting protects your family and property from criminals.

### Safety

Lighting illuminates your late-night arrival home.

### Curbside Appeal

Lighting accents distinctive features of your home or business.

### Extending the Day

Lighting stretches the daylight hours for barbecues, driveway basket ball and after-dusk chores.

### Economy

Outdoor lighting is easy, efficient, and costs just pennies a day.

### YOUR Way

Home, farm or business: outdoor lighting can soon be Lighting...YOUR Way.

Rent a high pressure sodium, 100 watt security light from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for under \$12.00 per month, and protect your home and family.

Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and theft. Rental lights are installed on meter poles or transformer poles—installation and maintenance—are free!!!



*For more information, call.....*

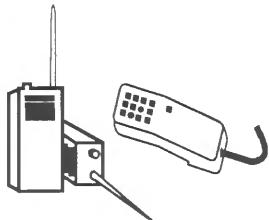
**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative**

**Toll-Free 1-800-654-1088**

**And ask for the Member Services Department.**

# Now serving over 1,600 radio users in north-central Illinois!!!

Portable or mobile radio and telephone service from **Illinois Valley Advanced Communications**  
*Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.*



Agent for  
Central States  
Communications

Providing  
**MOTOROLA**  
COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

• Financing available — 15% down • 24 months • 9 1/2% APR

★ **Two-Way radio service**

★ **Offering area-wide coverage**

★ **Reach your people in the field or on the road**

## The Radio System features the following specifications:

- The 800 MHZ Frequency Trunking System "pools" several radio channels so that all users in a given area have automatic access to any free channel.
- A trunked system provides added privacy to conversations.
- Interruptions from outside conversations are almost impossible.
- Operation is simple: After the volume level is set, the push talk button is the only control needed.

**All these features for as little as \$7.00 per month.**

## Optional Telephone Interconnect

- If your two-way radio is equipped for telephone, by merely the push of the phone button, your radio connects you to a commercial telephone line. After the dial tone is heard, your radio "becomes" a telephone.

**This feature for as little as \$11.45 per month.**

## Paging Services

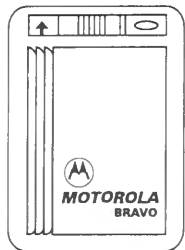
**Wide Area Paging Service for People on the Go from Illinois Valley Advanced Communications**

**Types of pagers available:**

- ★ Digital Display/Vibrate
- ★ Alpha/Numeric/Vibrate

**For as little as \$10.50 per month**

—OPTIONAL FEATURES AVAILABLE—

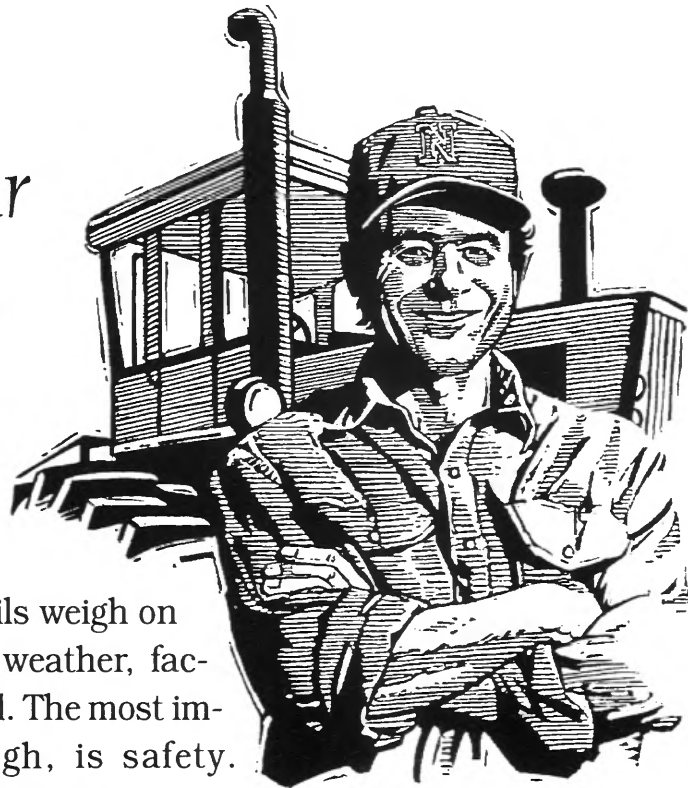


## Illinois Valley Advanced Communications

For information about or ordering radio or paging equipment...  
Call Toll Free 800-654-1088

*"Providing communication technology into the next century"*

*Don't let your  
guard down*



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

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



***Electric Cooperatives of Illinois***

*An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer*



## Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
President/CEO

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## 1996 annual meeting report to members

I'd like to thank the friends and neighbors who came to the 57th annual meeting of members of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. I congratulate you on taking time from your busy schedules to review the progress of your member-owned electric utility and to take part in the election of directors to serve on your cooperative's governing board.

Over the years I have traditionally used this space to review the progress of your electric cooperative over the past year and to highlight some of the programs we offer to our membership. This year our review of past operations will only note the most significant events as far as you're concerned. Revenues last year were up by 8 percent and our cost of power and cost of operations and maintenance expense declined. This means we ended the year with more than \$247,000 in operating margins, a significant improvement for your not-for-profit electric utility.

Instead of reviewing our programs and operations in our report this year, I want to tell you about the electric utility environment in which Illinois Valley is operating. I also want to look ahead at some significant changes coming in that environment and how those changes may impact your electric utility.

The principal environmental change will be defined later this year when the Illinois General Assembly takes up the question of electric utility deregulation. Ever since the Federal Energy Policy Act of 1992 was signed into law, many large businesses and manufacturers have pressured for open competition for bulk electric energy supplies at the retail level. The Illinois Commerce commission has conducted studies on retail competition and a committee of the Illinois General Assembly has worked for the past year to produce a legislative proposal on retail competition for submission to the General Assembly by Nov. 8, 1996.

Some investor-owned utilities in Illinois see retail competition as a very gradual process that

will not come into full play until some time after the turn of the century. Others, such as Central Illinois Light Company (CILCO), want complete deregulation in the electric utility industry immediately. In fact, CILCO has been granted permission by the Illinois Commerce Commission to conduct a test of open retail competition in three small areas of its service territory. Many of you are seeing ads by CILCO urging customers to choose a CILCO subsidiary as its preferred customer for electric power. Some estimate that total open retail competition will lower rates by approximately 10 percent. Others believe only large customers will benefit at the expense of small commercial and residential customers.

Your electric cooperative and the other 26 electric distribution cooperatives operating in Illinois were organized in the late 1930s and early 1940s because there was a total lack of competition in the rural countryside. Investor-owned electric utilities refused to serve rural residents because there was no potential for profit. Today our cooperatives serve prime growth areas near growing cities and other utilities would like access to some of the customers in those territories. We are concerned that some proposals for deregulation of the electric utility industry imply that only large businesses and manufacturers will be allowed to compete in the open market for bulk power supply. Residential customers and other more remote electric cooperative members may not be allowed to participate in deregulation. We want to assure you that Illinois Valley has taken a position that we encourage complete and open deregulation of the electric utility industry so long as the interests of residential and small commercial consumers are protected.

As your president, I served on a committee of electric cooperative leaders that reported to the board of the Association of Illinois Electric

*(Continued on page 12b)*

(Continued from page 12a)

Cooperatives (AIEC). The position adopted by Illinois electric cooperatives on deregulation listed four principles to guide our legislative efforts. First is universal service—all rural consumers must continue to have access to basic service at reasonable rates. Our second principle concerns uniform rates—all consumers within a class must be treated equally in rate making. The third principle covers benefits—competition or direct access must provide benefits to all consumer classes. And the fourth principle covers service—safety, service reliability and power availability must be assured for all consumers. **Christopher Kittison**

What does all this mean to members of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative? Right now there are legislative and regulatory walls around service territories within the State of Illinois. Each utility has an assigned service territory and if you buy a home, farm or business within a designated utility service territory, that utility is your provider, whether you like it or not. We know some of our members live a short distance from another utility's power lines, where rates are lower and sometimes they cannot understand why they cannot connect with the cheaper utility. With open access, all consumers may, and we emphasize may, have customer choice of their electric utility provider.

Under the most likely scenario, Illinois Valley would still deliver the power to your location, but the bulk power could come from another utility in Illinois or some distant location and the term is "wheeled," to Illinois Valley for delivery to your location.

The mention of bulk power cost gets us to the second major change coming in the electric utility environment in which Illinois Valley operates. We have pointed out to you many times in the past the high cost of bulk power from Soyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier. In 1994, wholesale power claimed 59.5 cents of every dollar Illinois Valley Electric collected from its members. Last year, thanks to increased kilowatt-hour sales and the success of our Load Management Programs, our wholesale power costs claimed only 54.8 cents of each revenue dollar collected.

Soyland is being driven by the threat of deregulation and the urgent need of its member cooperatives to lower its rates for bulk wholesale power. As we have advised you all too often, the nuclear Clinton Power Station is the cause of Soyland Power's high wholesale power cost.

Clinton accounts for about one-third of Soyland's generating capacity but more than 90 percent of its debt service cost. The result is we have the highest wholesale power cost among any generation and transmission cooperative

operating in the United States, and those high costs are passed on to Illinois Valley and the other 20 members of Soyland Power.

Over the last four or five years, Soyland Power Cooperative has tried several avenues to lower the high cost of its wholesale power to Illinois Valley and other member-cooperatives. While they have been successful in preventing wholesale rate increases, they have not been successful in cracking the high cost nut of debt service connected with the nuclear Clinton Power Station...at least up to now. About a year ago, Soyland set off on what many thought was a lost cause... negotiating with the Rural Utilities Service on some form of a buyout of the debt guaranteed by the Rural Utilities Service. Much to our surprise the RUS has agreed in principal to allow Soyland to buy out its debt at a substantial discount. Negotiations on the details of this agreement are still going on but by the end of this year we may begin to see rate reductions in our wholesale power cost. Any reduction received by Illinois Valley will be passed on to you, the member-owners.

We don't have any crystal ball. It remains to be seen whether or not Soyland's major banker at this point is willing to make the concessions necessary to make Soyland rates competitive in a deregulated electric utility environment.

Soyland is seeking to drop its wholesale rate to members from the current level of roughly 7 cents per kilowatt-hour to approximately 4 cents per kilowatt-hour. This reduction would allow Soyland to be competitive in the new deregulated electric utility environment in Illinois and continue to be a positive factor for the benefit of its member-cooperatives and their 165,000 consumers across the state.

As we watch the unfolding changes in the electric utility environment in Illinois, our goal remains the same. We want to be your provider of choice for rural services. When we're talking about rural electric service, whether the measure is services to members, reliability or price, our goal is to be your provider of choice. As you know, your cooperative provides other rural services, too, such as: mobile communications, pagers, medic alert, rural television. In each of these areas, our goal is to be your provider of choice.

Many changes are going to take place in the coming year within the electric utility industry in Illinois and across the nation. Our representatives on the boards of directors of Soyland Power Cooperative and the AIEC in Springfield are firmly grounded in our goal statement. When they vote in those bodies, they will be voting our goal to be your provider of choice for rural services. As a not-for-profit member-owned electric utility, that is our only reason for being.

## THE AFFORDABLE CHOICE

# Dual Heating Systems

### What is a Dual Energy Heating System?

It is a system that combines two energy sources -- electricity as a primary source, and an alternate fuel, such as gas or oil, as a secondary source. If you now have a gas or oil system, you can benefit by adding an electric system for your primary source.

### What is an All-Electric heating system?

It is a system that will use electricity for the primary and secondary source of energy for heating purposes.

For example, you can use resistance electric heat such as baseboard (or plenum heaters) or choose higher-efficiency electric heat such as the air-to-air heat pump or geothermal ground source system for primary heating. The secondary source must be the electric thermal storage heating unit. This unit stores heat during off-peak hours to be used during on-peak periods.

### What is the electric heat rate?

A very attractive electric rate is available when heating with Dual Energy or All-Electric systems.

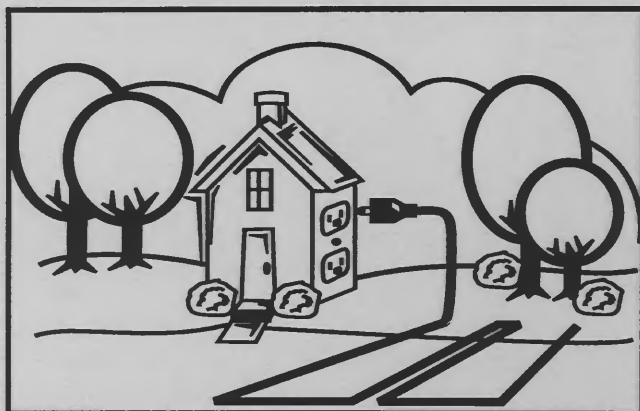
This off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents/kwh.

This rate applies only to kwh's used in a Dual Energy or All-Electric application. Kilowatt-hours to be billed under this rate must be metered by a submeter and be interrupted at the transfer point. The submetering equipment is to be installed by the member's electrician who must be qualified to set up a Dual Energy or All-Electric system. The regular household consumption is still billed under the general service rate as recorded on the master meter.

### Cash rebates for installation

- IVEC will rebate \$75 per kw up to \$400 maximum for a Dual Energy Heating installation. The homeowner is allowed to use another fuel source for backup to the primary electric heating.

- IVEC will rebate \$75 per kw up to a \$3,000 maximum for the All-Electric residence. The



primary and backup heating must be electric.

Example:

- If a 30 kw electric furnace is installed in a residence for primary heat...rebate would be calculated as follows: 30 kw x \$75 = \$2,250

- If a 4 kw electric thermal storage heater is installed in a residence for backup...rebate would be calculated as follows: 4 kw x \$75 = \$300

- Total rebate ..... \$2,550

### What are the direct benefits of an off-peak Dual Energy Heating or All-Electric system?

Participants will realize immediate and future savings from reduced annual heating bills. But they'll also save by creating new kilowatt-hour sales, thus spreading the fixed costs of the cooperative across a broader base. Such new sales hold down the cost of electricity today and tomorrow for you and your neighbors.

The off-peak concept will reduce the cost of electricity (cost of heating) for the member who uses electric heat (peak shaving) and encourage the sale of more kilowatt-hours.

### Whom do I contact for more information?

Contact the Member Service Department at Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for information on how Dual Heating Systems can be installed in your home. Learn firsthand why Dual Heat is an economical and affordable choice.

**Call Member Services — toll free 800-654-1088**  
**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**



# 1996 Annual Meeting Highlights



IVEC President T. L. Christensen welcomes Charles Meisenheimer of Walnut, Robert Angus of Ottawa and Don Rogers of Altona to the board of directors.

Angus was reelected to a second three-year term on the board. Meisenheimer and Rogers were elected to their first term on the IVEC board of directors.



John Scott gives his report.



A member registers.



The communications display.



## DRAWING PRIZE WINNERS AT 1996 ANNUAL MEETING



### PRIZE WINNERS:

- Glen E. Kimberley, Princeton
- Rod Detweiler, Tiskilwa
- John H. & Phyllis E. Kneuppel, Cambridge
- A. J. Immesoete, Mineral
- David B. Scott, Oglesby
- Edward Kuczek, Mendota
- Alvin Hulting, Sheffield
- Edmund F. Engels, Mendota
- John Metzger, Princeton
- Burton E. Johnson, Princeton
- Carl L. Cherrie, Princeton
- H. Hjertstedt, Sheffield
- James L. Krause, Kewanee
- Thomas J. & Audrey Fitzgerald, Utica
- Wade Chapman, Sheffield
- Vincent Fredrickson, Victoria
- W. Nantus, Brookfield
- Duane Wexell, Cambridge
- Ward L. Reem, Oneida

**Grand prize winner**

**20-inch color TV**

**Harlan F. & Sally J. Nelson, Galva**

### PRIZE WINNERS:

- Raymond E. & Laura E. McCall, Princeton
- Keith Heinzeroth, Mendota
- John Healey, Dahinda
- Joe & Louise Stremmlau, Mendota
- Robert L. Boldt, Ottawa
- Dean Ganschow, Walnut
- Anton P. Janicki, Varna
- Harold Ratliff, Sheffield
- John E. & Catherine Schultz, Marseilles
- Bertha L. Pickering, Kewanee
- John E. Spiegel, Kewanee
- Dave Conway, Joliet
- James J. & Delores Reno, McNabb
- John C. Ott, La Fayette
- Helen Henning, Hennepin
- Jeanette Johnson, Kewanee
- David & Denise Mallery, McNabb
- Leroy P. & Frances J. Larson, Sheffield
- Jim Cumbow, Princeton
- Frank J. & Emma Foltyniewicz, Tonica

# Shock-proof your workplace



## Protect yourself and others when working near power lines

Before you start work, check electric cords for wear. If you're working outside, be sure tools and extension cords are suitable for outdoor use. Are cords free of oil, heat and corrosive chemicals? Never yank, kink or bend cords. Unwind them fully before use, and store loosely coiled in a dry place.

Never carry a power tool by its cord. Be sure a tool is switched "off" before plugging or unplugging; this protects you as well as the next person who uses it. When using portable power tools, keep the cord behind you where it can't be cut.

Dirt and dampness increase the risk of shock. Keep your tools, work area and storage space clean and dry. When cleaning electrical equipment, be sure it's unplugged.

Locate nearby overhead and underground lines. Warn others about nearby power lines and other electrical hazards. Keep your distance. Make sure booms, poles, ladders, antennae and other equipment clear lines by at least 10 feet in every direction. Never use metal poles or ladders near power lines.

If your vehicle is touching a power line and you cannot safely drive away from the line, stay inside and wait for rescue workers. Warn others to stay away from the vehicle. If you must get out because of fire or other danger, jump out without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

Don't touch anyone in contact with a power source. Instead, unplug equipment or cut power at the control panel.

Never touch a fallen power line or anything or anyone that comes in contact with it.

If electrical equipment catches fire unplug it, or interrupt power at the main switch. Be sure to tell the fire department it's an electrical fire. If it's small, use a multi-purpose fire extinguisher. If you doubt that you can put it out, leave and take everyone with you. Remember, never use water on an electrical fire.

## The safety habit

It's more than following rules. Make safe work habits second nature. Look out for everyone.

Stay alert. Many electrical injuries could be prevented if people were alert to hazards. Stay aware by keeping focused on your job.

Avoid unsafe shortcuts. It might take a little longer to keep your area clean and dry, or inspect cords for wear, but it's certainly worth the time if it prevents shock or fire.

Use personal protective equipment. Personal protective equipment is your first line of defense against shock and electrical burns. Wear nonconductive protection and use insulated tools.

## Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, below are the meter reading dates for November and December. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any neces-

sary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter will certainly be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

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

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

## Available options and programs

### For Illinois Valley Electric members

**\*\*\*Featuring this month\*\*\***



18-inch  
receiving dish

- ★ DSS Satellite Equipment from \$579 to \$749
- ★ DIRECTV programming packages from \$14.95/mo.
- ★ financing available
- ★ self install or professionally installed

**The Choice is clear. DirecTV**

### Other programs for IVEC members

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when “on-peak” periods occur
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
  - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
  - off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
  - economical/affordable
  - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System—programming from \$14.95 mo.
- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages—Economy Pack \$8.95 mo.—Basic Service \$11.95 mo.—HBO \$7.95 mo.—Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo.—other program selections available—dish antenna systems—C-Band (24 channels)—Ku-Band (32 channels)
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home
- ★ Two-way radio systems and telephone interconnect service—low monthly rates
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience
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- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans

**If you want more information about the above programs,  
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.**

**Ask for the Member Services Department—toll-free 800-654-1088.**



# Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 1, 1996 with all Directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. It was reported that one of the four students sent from IVEC to Washington, D.C. was

elected as the Illinois representative to attend the NRECA meeting. The student is Dawn Amrien of Princeton.

2. A motion was made to approve to donate to the Marshall County Youth Safety Camp.

3. A motion was made and approved to have a special board meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 1996 to approve memberships before the annual meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. that day.

4. A motion was made and approved to appoint Dorothy Wilson as delegate to the Illinois Statewide Power Cooperative meeting to be in September and also to be the IVEC Director to the AIEC board for 1996-97.

5. A motion was made and approved to appoint Dennis Fredrickson as delegate and Marvin Polte as alternate to the NRECA and Marvin Polte as delegate and Dennis Fredrickson as alternate for CFC.

6. A motion was made and approved to pay NRECA dues for 1996-97.

7. A motion was made and approved to pay AIEC statewide dues in two equal installments.

The July Board Meeting will be held July 23, 1996. The August Board Meeting will be August 27, 1996. The September meeting has been scheduled for the 24th.

## WE'RE SERVING UP THE HOTTEST DISH IN TOWN.

**DSS equipment**  
★ from \$579 to \$749  
★ financing available  
★ self install or professionally installed

**DIRECTV programming**  
★ For as little as \$14.95 per month  
★ Other program selection rates are available



### COME IN TODAY FOR A TASTE OF DIRECTV.

DIRECTV gives you access to 175 channels of the very best in entertainment, sports, movies, and information - all through an affordable 18-inch receiving dish, the size of a large pizza. Come in today for a sample.

**THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. DIRECTV.**

Call Member Services...

**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Rt. 6 & 34W • Princeton, IL 61356

Telephone 800-654-1088

DIRECTV and DSS are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of GM Hughes Electronics. Equipment and programming sold separately. NRTC 1995



**DSS**  
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM

**DIRECTV**

## You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

**0001503000**

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free—800-654-1088

# If you worry about your parents living alone . . .

**FIRST CALL**  
Personal Emergency Response



Portable Pendant

.....talk to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative about its new personal emergency response system.

**Your parents get the extraordinary life-saving service. You get the peace of mind.**

IVEC's MainStreet Messenger telephone/personal security system will instantly connect your parents to someone who can help, anytime of the day or night. By simply pushing the special alert key on the telephone unit or the large button on the portable pendant, a call will be placed immediately to the cooperative's response center via a toll-free "800" emergency number.

From virtually anywhere in their home, your parents can be in voice communication with a cooperative service representative within seconds. And since they have all the medical and emergency information about your parents in their computer, the co-op representative will be able to summon the appropriate help — no matter what the need may be.

**For more information  
Call Illinois Valley  
Electric Cooperative  
"toll free 800-654-1088"**

or

**Perry Memorial Hospital  
Princeton  
815-875-2811**

or

**St. Margaret's Hospital  
Spring Valley  
815-664-5311**



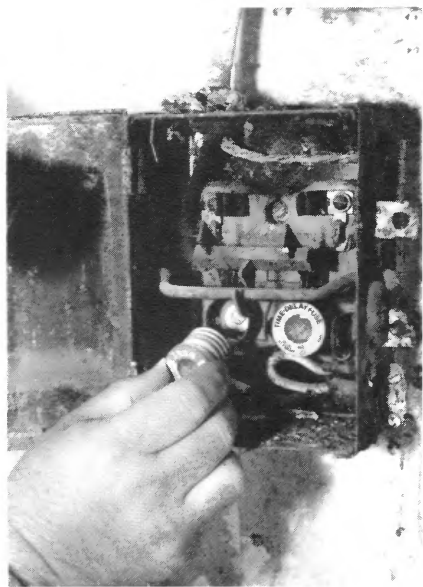
MainStreet Messenger Telephone



# Fuses, breakers and electrical safety

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

When fuses blow frequently, there is always the

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

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

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



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

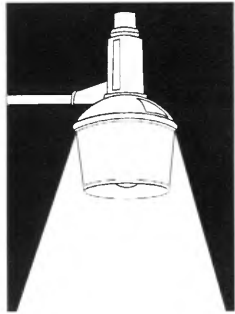
job done "to code." He'll know what you're talking about. The National Electrical Code was developed over the years to set standards for safe electrical wiring, and to prevent the construction of houses with just one or two circuits. A house wired to code will have at least the minimum number of circuits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

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

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

## Available options and programs

### For Illinois Valley Electric members



**\*\*\*Featuring this month\*\*\***

**Security light rentals for approximately \$12 per month—call Illinois Valley Electric for details**

- ★ No maintenance headaches
- ★ Free installation and service
- ★ Automatic—no light switch

### Other programs for IVEC members

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when “on-peak” periods occur
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
  - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
  - off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
  - economical/affordable
  - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System—programming from \$14.95 mo.
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**If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.**

**Ask for the Member Services Department—toll-free 800-654-1088.**

## Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
President/CEO

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**

## Is your crop dryer ready for harvesting?

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

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

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

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

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

If you have added motors, be sure to check with Illinois Valley Electric's engineering depart-

ment to make sure the electrical service is adequate to handle the additional load.

And as you go into the harvest season, keep in mind that it is full of hazards just waiting to nail a tired, unwary farmer. You're bound to be hauling your grain somewhere, and you're very likely to be in a hurry. There's a very real possibility that you'll be using "that old truck" that you never use any other time, or the disused tractor that you use only to pull the grain wagons. Give them a looking over, too.

**Ronald L. Lindborn**

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

And then there's the auger. It's astonishing how long those things have grown, and how high they'll reach. Be especially careful with them near power lines. They're good conductors, and can be very dangerous. Don't even think of moving one without taking a good, hard look at where you'll be moving it to!

## Meter reading dates

Just a reminder that Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, we've listed the meter reading dates for October, November and December. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris

around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter will certainly be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

**October 29, October 30  
November 27, November 30  
December 28, December 30**

# YOUR 18-INCH SATELITE DISH HAS NEVER BEEN SO CHEAP!

★ DSS  
Satellite Equipment  
from \$579  
to \$749

★ financing  
available

★ DIRECTV  
programming  
packages from  
\$14.95/mo.

★ self install or  
professionally  
installed



It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™—so you can start receiving up to 175 channels of **DIRECTV™** programming! Our new, monthly payment plan makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

**The choice is clear. DIRECTV.**

**Illinois Valley Advanced Communications, Inc.**

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



**Call Toll Free 800-654-1088  
Ask for member services**

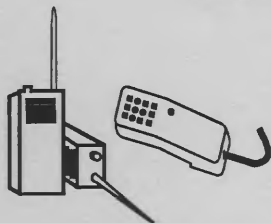
**DSS**  
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM

**DIRECTV.**

# Now serving over 1,600 radio users in north-central Illinois!!!

## Portable or mobile radio and telephone service from Illinois Valley Advanced Communications

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



★ Two-Way  
radio service

Agent for  
SEGNO  
Communications, Inc.

Providing  
**MOTOROLA**  
COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

• Financing available — 15% down • 24 months • 9 1/2% APR

★ Offering  
area-wide coverage

★ Reach your people  
in the field or on the road

### The Radio System features the following specifications:

- The 800 MHZ Frequency Trunking System "pools" several radio channels so that all users in a given area have automatic access to any free channel.
- A trunked system provides added privacy to conversations.
- Interruptions from outside conversations are almost impossible.
- Operation is simple: After the volume level is set, the push talk button is the only control needed.

**All these features for as little as \$7.00 per month.**

### Optional Telephone Interconnect

- If your two-way radio is equipped for telephone, by merely the push of the phone button, your radio connects you to a commercial telephone line. After the dial tone is heard, your radio "becomes" a telephone.

**This feature for as little as \$11.45 per month.**



### Paging Services

**Wide Area Paging Service for People on the Go  
from Illinois Valley Advanced Communications**

#### Types of pagers available:

★ Digital Display/Vibrate      ★ Alpha/Numeric/Vibrate

**For as little as \$10.50 per month**

—OPTIONAL FEATURES AVAILABLE—



**Illinois Valley Advanced Communications, Inc.**

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**Call Toll Free 800-654-1088 — Ask for member services**



## Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 10:35 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 1996 with all Directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, Attorney Gary Barnhart and Zane Juncker of Larson, Allen, Weishair and Company were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past

month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. It was reported that Dawn Amrien of Princeton, the Illinois student representative to the NRECA for 1996-97 will attend and speak at the AIEC Annual Meeting in Springfield.

2. The board welcomed the two new directors elected at the IVEC Annual Meeting on July 16, 1996. They are Charles Meisenheimer of District 3 and Don Rogers of District 8.

The August Board Meeting will be August 27, 1996. The September Board Meeting will be September 24, 1996. The October meeting is scheduled for the 22nd.

## Metering electrical usage

Everyone knows that they have a meter outside their house and that every month it is read. From this reading, a bill is generated reflecting how much electricity is used. However, most people have no idea how this meter works.

Most meters on homes are mechanical, 200 amp meters which have been manufactured for decades. These meters are quite accurate and relatively inexpensive.

They work on a very simple principle, "as electricity flows it sets up electric and magnetic fields." The electric field varies with the flow of electricity. The greater the flow of electricity, the stronger the field becomes. These meters have a disk that is designed to turn when an electric field is induced on it. Therefore, the more electricity that a member uses, the faster the disk inside will spin.

The disk in turn drives several gears which drive the register that displays the KWH usage reading. This reading can either be on a series of dials or a cyclometer register. Residential users will see a 5 cyclometer register meter recording energy usage.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative also uses other types of meters to measure its different accounts. One type of meter is a current transformer rated meter. When services become larger than 200 amps, standard meters are no longer adequate. Current transformers are used to step down the current to a level where a special meter can register energy.

Many meters use electronics to measure KWH and KW demand. In this case, pulses are produced when the meter disks rotate. The electronics count the pulses to determine usage and demand.

On the interruptible accounts, a meter is used which stores the member's usage every 15 minutes. This data is then down-loaded into a laptop computer in the field. Illinois Valley Electric then uses this data to verify that the members did interrupt when requested during a peak time.

Though based on a fairly simple theory, metering can become very complex. However, by properly using the metering advancements of today, Illinois Valley Electric has been better able to more accurately meter the energy usage of its members.

## You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0001583000

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free—800-654-1088

# If you worry about a parent living alone . . .



Portable Pendant

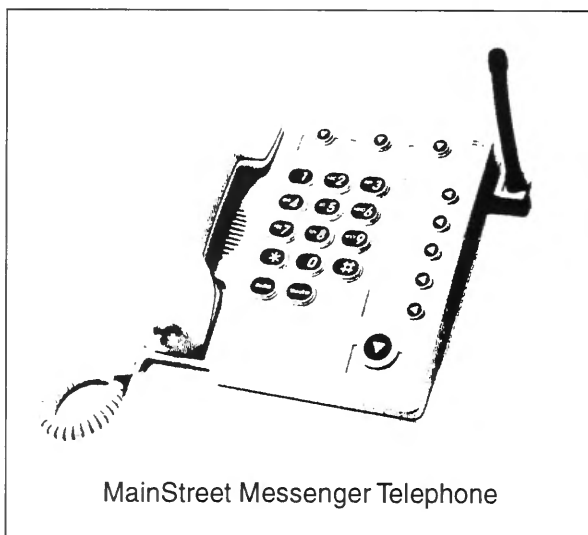
.....talk to Illinois Valley Electric Co-operative about its new personal emergency response system.

**Your parent will get the extra ordinary life-saving service. You get the peace of mind.**

IVEC's MainStreet Messenger telephone/personal security system will instantly connect your parent to someone who can help, anytime of the day or night. By simply pushing the special alert key on the telephone unit or the large button on the portable pendant, a call will be placed immediately to the cooperative's response center via a toll-free "800" emergency number.

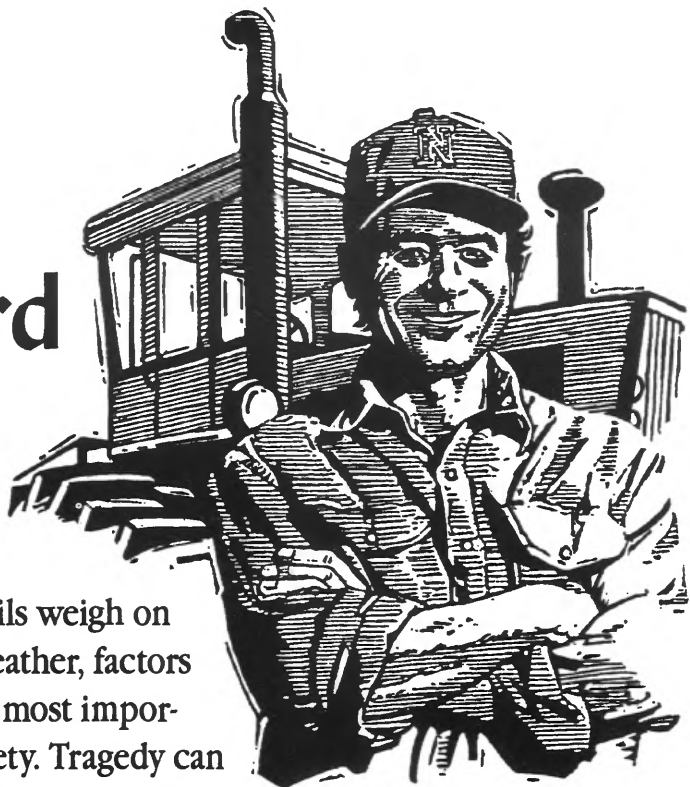
From virtually anywhere in the home, your parent can be in voice communication with a cooperative service representative within seconds. And since they have all the medical and emergency information about your parent in their computer, the co-op representative will be able to summon the appropriate help — no matter what the need may be.

**For more information  
Call Illinois Valley  
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"toll free 800-654-1088"  
or  
Perry Memorial Hospital  
Princeton  
815-875-2811  
or  
St. Margaret's Hospital  
Spring Valley  
815-664-5311**



MainStreet Messenger Telephone

# Don't let your guard down



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

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



***Electric Cooperatives of Illinois***

*An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer*



## Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)  
Christensen  
President/CEO

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**

## Applications for IEC Memorial Scholarships available from IVEC. Deadline for applications is Jan. 1, 1997.

A scholarship program to financially assist students among electric cooperative members is seeking applicants for the 1997 awards. Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative (IVEC) 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 electric cooperative member. The other is presented to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee. The application deadline is Jan. 1, 1997. The program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

The fund's goal is to help the children of electric cooperative members and provide a means to honor deceased rural electric leaders through memorial gifts. As a vital part of their community, the electric cooperatives want to make a difference in the lives of local young people. Illinois Valley Electric has supported a number of other educational programs in the past to accomplish this purpose.

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.

Information on the IEC Memorial Scholarships is available by contacting Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office in Princeton.

Illinois Valley Electric will continue to support this educational program for two basic reasons. It is foremost a scholarship fund for deserving students in the Illinois electric cooperative family. It also is a means by which cooperatives and individuals may honor deceased members of the electric cooperative family through memorial gifts.

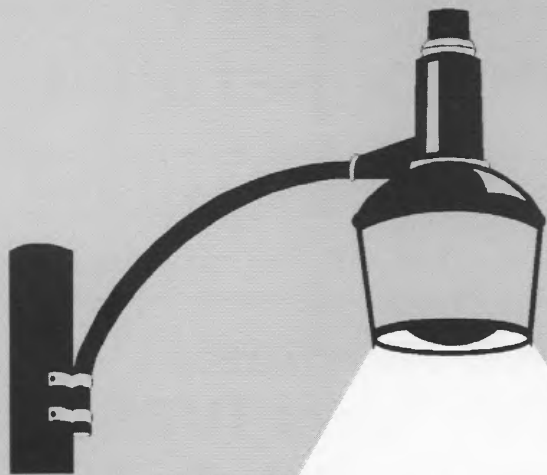
I mentioned this fund's beginning for a num-

ber of reasons. Frequently we receive calls from our members asking about whether Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative has a scholarship fund. I know how higher educational costs are rising; and, I understand people's interest in seeking out all sources of financial assistance. In addition, I believe it is vital that institutions such as the electric cooperatives provide as much support as possible for young people. I think most of our students who receive encouragement from local organizations develop an interest in returning to their home counties and towns after their education. And I believe they make excellent community and civic leaders. Illinois Valley Electric supports this concept and will work with other electric cooperatives to encourage students to continue their education. This is an investment for a better life and subsequent contribution to our society. The IEC Memorial Scholarship is an excellent way to achieve this result.

Every year a number of young people representing 20 high schools in our service area have the extraordinary opportunity to participate in the "Youth to Springfield" activities of the state's electric cooperatives. In June, four outstanding students selected from this group of Springfield tour participants will spend a week in Washington, D.C., as part of the "Youth to Washington" tour, which attracts students from across the nation. Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative has sponsored the Youth Tour programs to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about government and political process.

Throughout the 35 years of this Illinois youth program, many of these participants have become outstanding citizens and leaders in Illinois communities. I believe the successes of the thousands of Youth Tour participants supports our continuing enthusiasm for such a program, because we know the community leaders of tomorrow are in our schools today.





# Lighting... **YOUR** way...

**From dusk to dawn,  
for security, safety  
and confidence, a  
security light costs  
just pennies a day.**

## **Rental Security Lighting for...**

### **Security**

Outdoor lighting protects your family and property from criminals.

### **Safety**

Lighting illuminates your late-night arrival home.

### **Curbside Appeal**

Lighting accents distinctive features of your home or business.

### **Extending the Day**

Lighting stretches the daylight hours for barbecues, driveway basket ball and after-dusk chores.

### **Economy**

Outdoor lighting is easy, efficient, and costs just pennies a day.

### **YOUR Way**

Home, farm or business: outdoor lighting can soon be Lighting...  
YOUR Way.

Rent a high pressure sodium, 100 watt security light from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for under \$12.00 per month, and protect your home and family.

Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and theft. Rental lights are installed on meter poles or transformer poles—installation and maintenance—are free!!!



*For more information, call.....*

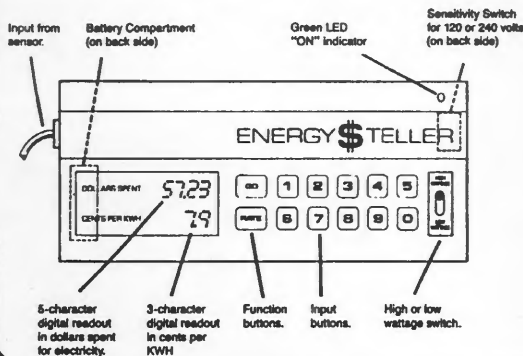
**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative**

**Toll-Free 1-800-654-1088**

**And ask for the Member Services Department.**

## For Illinois Valley Electric members

### Display Unit Features:



\*\*\*Featuring this month\*\*\*

### Energy\$Teller service

- ★ Evaluate your energy-saving efforts with the Energy\$Teller
- ★ Budget electric usage in your home
- ★ Check consumption by appliances in your home
- ★ Learn how much your equipment costs to operate
- ★ No cost to member for Energy\$Teller service

## Other programs for IVEC members

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
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  - off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
  - economical/affordable
  - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System—programming from \$14.95 mo.
- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages—Economy Pack \$8.95 mo.—Basic Service \$11.95 mo.—HBO \$7.95 mo.—Cinemax & Disney \$14.95 mo.—other program selections available—dish antenna systems—C-Band (24 channels)—Ku-Band (32 channels)
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home
- ★ Two-way radio systems and telephone interconnect service—low monthly rates
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment
- ★ Paging Service—wide area coverage in Illinois
- ★ Providing personal emergency response systems—hands free, two-way communication
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans

If you want more information about the above programs,  
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.

Ask for the Member Services Department—toll-free 800-654-1088.

# 1996 Board of Directors

Districts From Which Members Are Elected  
To Govern Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative



**District 1**  
**John Scott**  
*Chairman*  
Neponset



**District 2**  
**Marvin Polte**  
Sheffield



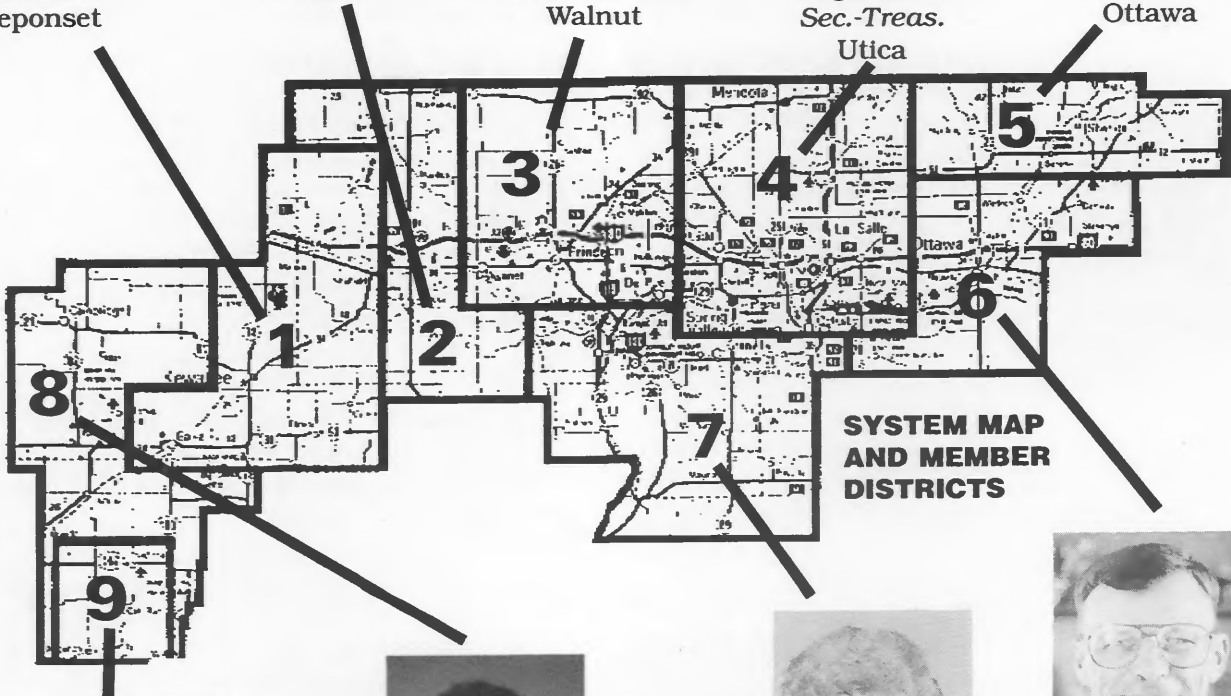
**District 3**  
**Charles Meisenheimer**  
Walnut



**District 4**  
**Albert Hagenbuch**  
*Sec.-Treas.*  
Utica



**District 5**  
**Ralph Freebairn**  
Ottawa



**SYSTEM MAP  
AND MEMBER  
DISTRICTS**



**District 9**  
**Dennis Fredrickson**  
Victoria



**District 8**  
**Don Rogers**  
Altona



**District 7**  
**Dorothy Wilson**  
Hennepin



**District 6**  
**Robert Angus**  
*Vice Chairman*  
Ottawa

**You could be an ICL prize winner!**

Is this your account number?

0002639000

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize. Call toll-free—800-654-1088



# Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 2:50 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 1996 with all Directors present but Dorothy Wilson. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present. Gordon Olsen of the AIEC was present for a short time to present an IVEC Marketing Study for 1995.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to honor Stanley Ballard, Galva Area Foreman, for his 50 years of service to the cooperative.
2. A motion was made and approved to purchase a new computer system.
3. A motion was made and approved to purchase two used chippers.
4. A motion was made and approved to sell a used tree truck and two used pickups.
5. A motion was made and approved to pay 1996-97 dues to the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative.

The September Board Meeting will be September 24, 1996. The October Board Meeting will be October 22, 1996. The November Board Meeting has been scheduled for the 26th.

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

*Here's 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?

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.

Extra use of laundry facilities and air conditioner before and after the trip could be a contributing factor.

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, but remember: the electricity is working even while you're away.

## Electricity thieves steal from all of us

Cooperatives make no profit in the sale of power and we have to pay for every kilowatt of power members use. If some of that power is used dishonestly, we all have to pay the bill. When someone steals electricity, the result is higher rates to all members to cover losses.

Reporting such dishonest actions may prevent the death or injury of someone who is tampering with something they know little or nothing about.

Don't pay more for electricity than necessary. If

you know of anyone involved in meter tampering, please notify our office at once. 1-800-654-1088.

### Thinking of stealing electricity?

**Don't do it.** Here's why.

You can and probably will get hurt.

- Bad burns at a minimum
- Possible loss of limb or other appendages
- Death from electrocution

You can and probably will get caught.

	Sentence	Fine
Meter tampering/circumvention	6 months	\$500
Theft of electricity — less than \$150	1 day	\$1,000
Second Offense — greater than \$150	2-5 years	\$10,000



A log on top of a cabin at Sipe Campground marks where flood waters topped out.

## Storm drops 16 inches, does over \$50,000 damage to Illinois Valley Electric power facilities

When a storm moved into Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's service territory on July 17, 1996, nobody thought it would cause much damage. After all, July is in the middle of the thunderstorm season; and, heavy rain does occur.

While the storm was widespread, it became especially severe in the eastern part of the service area, dropping 16 inches of rain in just a few hours.

"People residing in the Sipps area got up to go about their business as normal the next day," notes Patrick Griggs, IVEC coordinator of engineering and power use, "but they noticed that the

Fox River had risen considerably during the night. Some began to move their furniture and other belongings up into higher places in their cabins, just in case."

Griggs notes that while many people made some simple preparations for the expected high water, no one was prepared for how fast the river would rise, nor for how high it actually got.

"We received a call from an adjacent area," he says, "and the caller reported that the river was out of its banks, and that cabins were floating away. Some were drifting into IVEC lines, dragging them down and causing a safety hazard."

Griggs, T. J. Cornog, special projects coordinator, and Alan Meissner, field engineer, traveled into the area to evaluate the situation and to do what they could to minimize hazards and the danger. They immediately contacted Rich Lingemann, Ottawa area foreman, and sent him to visually check the power lines and subsequent damage.

"Rich reported that there were several roads closed, many cabins were under water, but there was still power to Peterson's campground. We took a boat to assess the damage for ourselves," he continues. "People were going back and forth in boats, trying to salvage some of their belongings. There were propane tanks floating by, and cabins, too. And there were several places where a man standing in a boat could get into the lines. It was decided to terminate electric power immediately for precaution and safety.

IVEC President/CEO T. L. Christensen visited the area on July 19 with Griggs and Cornog, to assess damage to electric facilities, which is ex-

*Continued on 12g...*



Lineman Rod Rolando assists Area Foreman Rich Lingemann in restoring power to the flooded area.

Continued from 12f..

pected to cost IVEC over \$50,000 by the time cleanup is completed and repairs are made.

"This was the most critical devastation in a small, concentrated area that I've ever seen," Griggs says, "and if anyone has restored their cabin; and, is still without power, I urge them to let us know as quickly as possible."

Griggs emphasizes that the situation, while deplorable, tended to bring out the best in people. "We had a couple of area residents who offered us the use of their boats to aid in damage control, and our linemen went above and beyond normal duty requirements, in very hazardous conditions, to get service restored.

"Even so," he concludes, "it is a sad situation when so many people lose nearly everything. IVEC lost alot of poles and conductor including electricity sales. The cost of this flood will affect all IVEC members, since we all share in the costs of doing business."



Area residents offered the use of their boats to aid in repairing damage. Here an IVEC lineman climbs a pole to repair damage on the Fox River.

## Survey says . . . utility competition means more bankruptcies

A survey of state utility regulators predicts that the onset of competition will bring more bankruptcies to electric utilities. Of the 37 state regulatory commissions surveyed on behalf of the American Gas Assn., 60 percent anticipate electric utility bankruptcies, a step up from the 50 percent level of the 1994 survey.

Apparently, more regulators expect utilities to suffer inadequate debt coverage and rates of return, as well as increased capital costs. Downsizing and restructuring are also expected: 86 percent anticipate downsizing and 83 percent more merger activity. The five factors most likely to help a utility's market position and help it avoid bankruptcy, according to those surveyed, include:

- Horizontal mergers;
- New electric end-use technologies;
- Using marginal cost rates;
- End-use fuel substitution;

- Incentive ratemaking.

Commissioners are anticipating adverse effects from competition on consumers - especially in areas of price, reliability, and overall customer satisfaction. Other statistics from the survey bear that out: 69 percent of the regulators expect an increase in customer complaints and 88 percent are concerned about the ability of captive customers to avoid higher rates.

On the industrial front, all of the regulators in the survey pool believe that retail wheeling for large industrial and commercial customers will be implemented. Yet only 14 percent believe it will happen for residential consumers.

Unbundling of rates, real-time pricing and market-flexible rates are all necessary, say the regulators, who predict flat system-wide rates for now. Eventually, however, they expect residential rates to rise as industrial rates decline.



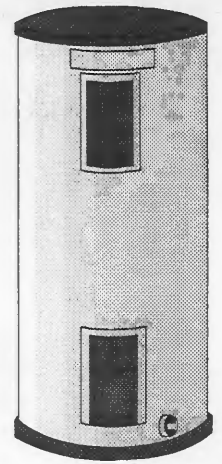
## Notice of holiday closings

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

**Veterans Day, Monday, November 11th**  
**Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 28th**  
**& Friday, November 29th**

Please call toll-free 800-654-1088 to report emergencies—24 hour per day monitoring and dispatching service

# Say goodbye to an old flame



Replace your GAS water heater with a 60 or 80 gallon electric water heater from Illinois Valley Electric and get the water heater free.

To qualify, you must agree to have a load management control switch installed on your new electric water heater. Illinois Valley Electric will install the load management control switch free of charge.

**What if you currently have an electric water heater and it needs to be replaced?**

You will qualify for a free water heater by replacing it with a 60 or 80 gallon electric water heater from Illinois Valley Electric if you agree to have a load management control switch installed on it. This is a big savings that you cannot afford to miss!

For more information about Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's free water heater program, call the Member Services Department at toll free 800-654-1088.

## Ask about the Switch Makes \$cents\$ program Don't miss out on your chance to save \$40 a year on electric water heating costs!

### How does it work?

- If you have an electric water heater with capacity of 40 gallons or more, you are eligible to participate in the Switch Makes \$cents\$ program.

- A radio-controlled switch will be installed on the water heater at **No Charge** to you.

- You will receive a \$10.00 credit for June, July, August and September on your electric bill for the controlled water heater.

- During peak usage periods, a radio signal sent from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office will automatically switch off the water heater. Power interruptions will only last long enough to hold demand down. You will experience little or **No** inconvenience. However, if for some reason you are not satisfied with the program, the radio-control switch will be removed at no cost to you.

- The water heater credit is available only for accounts with a minimum of 400 kilowatt-hours usage per month over a period of 12 months in a calendar year.

### How do I sign up for the Switch Makes \$cents\$ program?

It's easy. And the installation is free! Just call us at 1-800-654-1088 or complete and return this coupon to: Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356, Attention: Member Services Department.

**YES**, please send me information on the \$10.00 per month electric water heater credit. Total benefit—\$40 per year.

**YES**, I am also interested in the free 60- or 80-gallon water heater program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

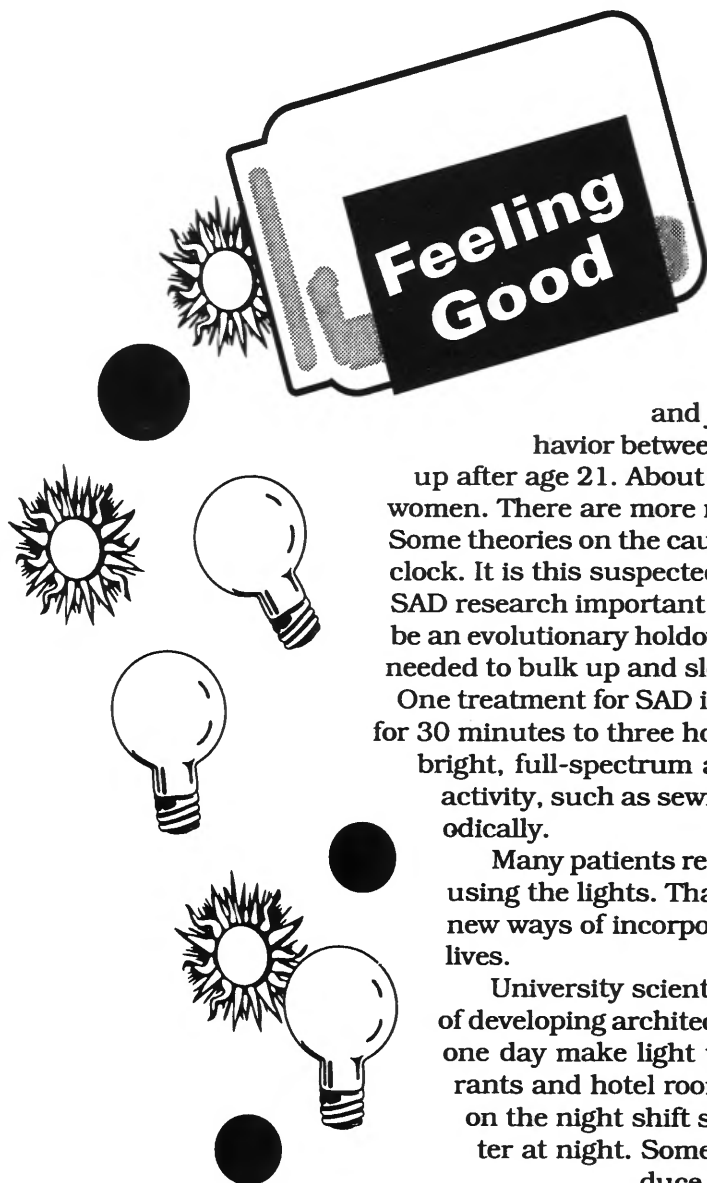
Best Time to Call \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location Number \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Location number is on your electric billing statement.**





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Light cures the winter blues

# \*\*\* Available Services and Programs \*\*\*



## Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

*"Your electric utility into the future"*

### \*\*\*Featuring this month\*\*\*

#### IVEC Payment Centers to serve your area.

Galva area  
**State Bank of Toulon**  
112 North Exchange St.

Kewanee area  
**Peoples National Bank**  
207 North Tremont St.

Ottawa area  
**First National Bank of Ottawa**  
701 LaSalle St.

Sheffield area  
**Amcore Bank**  
113 South Main St.

Peru-LaSalle area  
**Citizens First National Bank of Peru**  
925 Shooting Park Rd.

Wyanet area  
**Amcore Bank**  
135 E. Main

Princeton area  
**Amcore Bank**  
815 S. Main  
**Citizens First National Bank**  
606 South Main St.

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$400 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125 for IVEC members only—\$125 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September —\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
  - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
  - off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
  - economical/affordable
  - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- ★ EnergyTeller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.



## Illinois Valley Advanced Communications

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

*"Providing communications technology for the 21st Century"*

### \*\*\*Featuring this month\*\*\*

Two-way mobile or portable radio system featuring an 800-MHZ frequency trunking capability

- ★ For as little as \$7 per month
- ★ Optional mobile or portable telephone service
- ★ Wide area coverage available
- ★ Motorola communication equipment/products
- ★ Privacy—no interruptions



- ★ Satellite television dish antenna systems for C-Band (24 channel) and Ku-Band (32 channel).
- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star—Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.
- ★ Home lightning protection—surge protection equipment and installation service.
- ★ Paging communications service—wide area coverage in Illinois.
- ★ Personal emergency response systems—hands free two-way communication for seniors or persons living alone.
- ★ Two-way 800 mhz radio system with telephone interconnect service at low monthly rates.
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS digital satellite system—programming from \$14.95 per month.
- ★ Tower space rentals—tower structures located across north-central Illinois.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Advanced Communications. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.

# Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris) Christensen  
President/CEO

# Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70  
Route 6 & 34 West  
Princeton, Illinois 61356

**Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day**

## Who would really benefit from retail electric competition?

"If it sounds too good to be true, it may not be true." That old saying applies to the huge electric bill savings promised by those promoting immediate electric utility retail competition and a federal mandate to make it happen.

To bolster its case, a business-backed think tank recently published an analysis of the potential effects of retail competition. After examining the claims of consumers' savings, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) suggests that residential and small-business customers shouldn't get their hopes too high and that legislators and regulators should take a closer look at how the big promises were concocted.

### Who is making the promises?

The Citizens For A Sound Economy (CSE) analysis, *Customer Choice, Consumer Value: An Analysis of Retail Competition in America's Electric Industry*, appears to lean heavily on economic theory, but overlooks its proper use and ignores some electric utility realities.

**Dennis Nelson**

CSE is a deregulation-at-all-costs think tank and policy group that is campaigning for radical electric utility industry deregulation. Its funding reportedly comes from companies in industries like chemicals, oil and natural gas, tobacco and telecommunications.

Naturally, that type of support finances studies that result in a particular point of view. Because of the shortcomings of the CSE analysis, it shouldn't be used as the sole economic justification for radically changing an industry that is the most reliable in the world and one of least expensive among industrialized nations.

### What's the catch?

The CSE conclusions are based on assumptions that are both inaccurate and misleading. The CSE report sidesteps proper economic methodology, which, if applied to its own statistics, would show that residential and small-business customers would save little or nothing at all, while large industrial consumers would get most of the benefits. Who gets the savings and how depends on a series of "what if" theoretical schemes and some heroic assumptions.

### What does CSE promise? What is reality?

*Customers have to buy more before they benefit.*

**CSE says:** Retail competition will benefit consumers by \$107.6 billion annually.

**Reality:** To receive this amount of benefit, consumers would have to buy more electricity than they are buying now. The CSE study does not say that consumers' monthly electric bills will be lower. It says that consumers will buy substantially more electricity at a lower per-unit price and that's how the consumers will get the benefit. This level of consumer benefit could happen, but only if the consumer response to declining prices assumed by CSE is accurate. If the response is lower than CSE's assumption, the benefit would be lower than the incredible figure CSE predicts. And that's exactly what NRECA's examination of the CSE analysis suggests will happen.

*They think every consumer will automatically buy more electricity.*

**CSE says:** Because of retail competition, all consumers will buy more electricity in direct proportion to decreases in price, causing total sales to go up to an even level year-around.

**Reality:** Is that accurate? No, because CSE bases those predictions on the false assumptions that (1) all types of consumers can and will respond equally to decreases in price, and (2) decreases in price alone will cause consumers to change the seasonal pattern of electricity use.

Electricity is bought in connection with the use of appliances and equipment to produce services like lighting and air conditioning. In the short-term, residential customers would have to run their air conditioners in April and October or leave the lights on all night to increase use above their usual pattern. In the long-run, they could install new or additional appliances. Many new appliances, however, are more efficient than those they replace, resulting in lower total electricity use. The same is true for electric motors used in business and industry.

The CSE analysis acknowledges that residential and commercial consumers will have a lower response

*(Continued on page 12d)*

*(Continued from page 12c)*

to price decreases than industrial consumers. But to create an attention-grabbing headline, the CSE analysis averages the three response figures to produce an unrealistic increased consumption figure.

The CSE analysis also assumes that the historical pattern of high summer electric use and low spring and fall use will change to a steady level year-round because of price decreases. That would mean that consumers would be prompted to use the same amount of electricity each and every month just because the price is right. This is important to remember because CSE's big savings predictions depend on big increases in consumption.

*Running every power plant at full capacity threatens reliability.*

**CSE says:** Production from existing generating capacity can be increased 25 percent by eliminating seasonal variations in consumer use and by fully using reserve generation capacity.

**Reality:** Operating the existing generation facilities year-round at full capacity levels may be theoretically possible, but in reality it raises serious reliability and operational challenges. Generating units require regular maintenance that can take them out of service for days or months. Having reserve generation capacity available ensures the reliability of the entire system.

Further, such an increase in generation would require an increase in fuel use. The CSE analysis assumes that such a large increase in fuel demand would not trigger an increase in fuel prices. That assumption contradicts the basic economic theory of price being affected by supply and demand forces. Nor does it consider the additional burden of transporting the fuel to the power plants.

*Stranded costs. Should commitments be abandoned?*

**CSE says:** Regarding stranded costs, the CSE analysis says it doesn't matter if electric industry borrowers repay their loans or if retail competition causes utility bankruptcies. The CSE analysis says to let the chips fall where they may, and let the invisible hand of market forces clean up the mess.

**Reality:** If consumers leaving a system don't pay their share of prior investments made on their behalf, the remaining customers may have to make up the difference through higher rates or the electric utilities may have to absorb the losses.

Much of the capital was invested on the approval of or at the direction of government representing the best interests of the public. The regulated electric utilities have been granted an exclusive territory in which they have to serve everyone, regardless of cost. But they also are granted a rate of return that enables them to recover their costs. This regulatory compact gives the lending, borrowing, and investing institutions a reasonable expectation that the capital can be recovered. Without stranded-cost recovery, consumers could be left holding the bag.

*Who really benefits from retail competition?*

**CSE says:** All consumers will benefit from retail competition.

**Reality:** Economic theory says that as price drops, consumer demand increases. Economists call this response "price elasticity." The CSE analysis predicts individual price elasticities for residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Residential is the lowest, industrial the highest. To produce a headline-grabbing prediction about cost savings, however, the CSE analysis averages the three elasticities to say all customers would respond equally to price changes and benefit equally from price decreases. That's simply not accurate.

Applying CSE's own statistics individually to each consumer class clearly shows that industrial consumers could see a big drop in electricity prices while residential and commercial customers would gain almost nothing. This same pattern has been documented in the deregulated natural gas industry, where residences have had bills decrease only slightly or even go up while prices to industrial consumers have fallen dramatically. The analysis also conveniently ignores the fact that different customer classes have different levels of buying clout. Which customer would be the more attractive to an electricity provider—an aluminum smelter or a three-bedroom home? And based on their different amounts of electricity consumption, which would be better able to negotiate a lower rate?

#### **Who has the power to choose?**

According to the loudest rhetoric about retail competition, customers would be the center of attention, with all kinds of options swirling around to pick from. But what if only one electricity provider wanted to serve a specific area? Or what if none of the providers chose to serve a particular customer? Who, then, would have the power to choose?

Should we return to the days when the market power of electric utility monopolies dictated rates and service conditions? Back then, if they didn't want to serve a customer that was too far out of town, they didn't. In today's economy and national conscience, universal electric service is essential.

#### **All electricity customers should share the benefits**

Cooperative electric utilities believe that any benefits from retail competition should flow to all types of customers. They don't believe residential and small-business customers should have to pay higher rates to subsidize lower rates for industrial consumers. It's not a purely economic issue. It's a matter of fairness. So, before we begin fixing something that's already working, let's make sure real people get some real benefits.

---

*Prepared by Dale Phariss, Senior Writer/Analyst, NREA Communication, in association with NRECA Strategic Analysis, September 1996.*

# Member Services



## \*\*\*Notice of holiday closings\*\*\*

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Christmas Eve day—Dec. 24

Christmas day—Dec. 25

New Year's day—Jan. 1

Please call toll-free 800-654-1088 to report emergencies—  
24 hour a day monitoring and dispatching service.

## If you're not satisfied, IVEC is not satisfied

Illinois Valley Electric works hard to meet your needs as members and the needs of our communities too.

Our business is to provide electric service as reliably and economically as possible. But the bottom line—the foundation of our day-to-day work—is the satisfaction from cooperative members.

That's the cooperative way of conducting business. Quality electric service, enhancing the quality of life and meeting our members' and neighbors' needs—it's a formula we're proud of and one that's proven to work.

So please share your ideas and thoughts with us, because if you're not satisfied, neither are we!

## When our line is busy, please be patient

Lightning, high winds, driving rain, hail—we've certainly had our share this past spring and summer. Besides storms, other events sometime happen that are also out of our control. Animals that wander into equipment and vehicles and farm equipment accidents can also cause your power to be interrupted.

When there is a widespread outage, as in a storm, Illinois Valley Electric telephone lines will be tied up with calls and it is likely you will get a busy signal. Remember, a busy signal means that someone is answering the phone. We answer the

calls as fast as we can, so bear with us and keep trying. We need the information you can provide to determine just where the problem lies.

When you call, please report anything you may have seen or heard which might help us, such as a tree on a line, a loud boom or a flash of light.

Don't put your life at stake with any downed lines. Call the cooperative immediately. Treat all downed lines or hanging wires as if they are energized. Stay away from these lines. Our professional experienced crews are trained to put things back in order as fast as possible.

## What's a guy to do?

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

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

The placement of each anchor and guy line is calculated for your safety. The guys are set in

precisely the correct positions to hold the strain of the power line.

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

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



# Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 1996 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

Staff personnel reports submitted to the Board

concerning the activities in their respective departments during the previous month were reviewed and discussed.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved for four new directors to attend the NRECA Fast Track Director training course.
2. A motion was made and approved to pay dues for United Telecommunications Council for 1996-97.
3. A motion was made and approved to renew membership for IEC Continuing Education training.
4. The December Board Meeting has been changed from December 25 to December 20.

The November Board Meeting will be held November 26, 1996. The December Board Meeting will be December 20, 1996.

## The peak switch and you

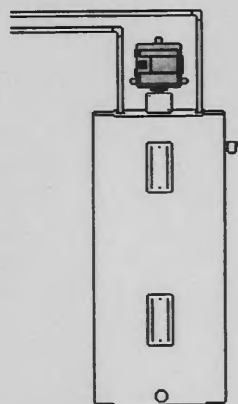
Members who allowed IVEC to install a peak switch on their water heater and air conditioner, when our demand side management program began in 1986, have received substantial savings without investing one thin dime.

Also, dual heat installations by members require little investment to receive a rebate and 4 cent kwh rate.

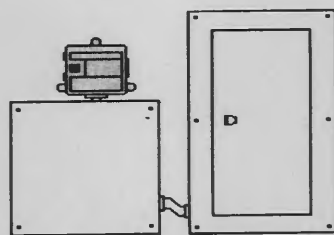
These participating members will continue to be rewarded for their early actions, but it is not

too late for you to share in the savings. Simply call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for Member Services; we welcome your inquiries.

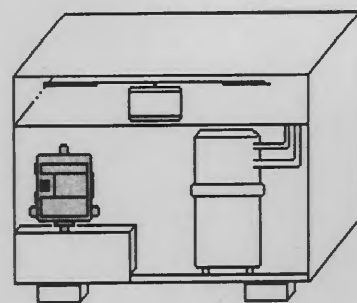
Your peak switch will be installed free of charge and you will save money like the other 1,000-plus active members. Also, don't forget the dual heat option can offer big savings when you heat electrically. So call us now and start benefiting from the "Peak Switch."



Water Heater  
\$8 per month  
\$40 total savings  
(June through September)



Air Conditioner  
\$8 per month  
\$40 total savings  
(June through September)



Dual Heating Systems  
Rebates and 4 cent kwh rate  
Save money on heating costs.  
(October through May)

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you will receive a nice prize. Call toll-free—800-654-1088**

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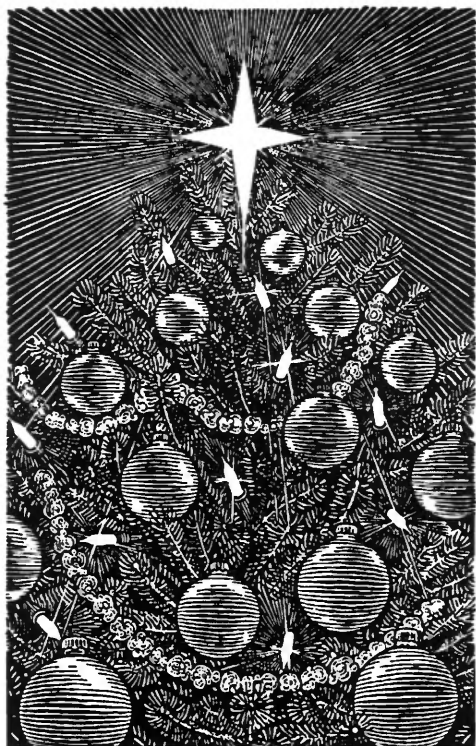
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# *The light fantastic.*

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



***Electric Cooperatives of Illinois***

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