



217-742-3128

High Line News

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

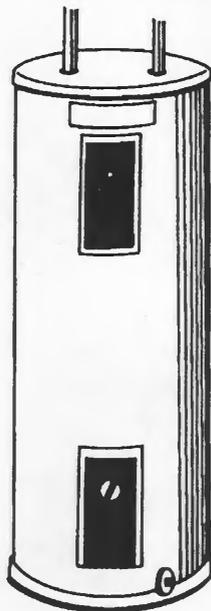
by Robert E. Gant

Your water heater: When should it be replaced?

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

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

If you get cold water when you want hot, more than likely you have an element or thermostat problem that can be repaired for less than the price of a new heater. Assuming your wiring and circuit breaker are working correctly, you may have a shorted top element or dysfunctional thermostat that would cause you to receive cold water. In the event you run out of hot water frequently, the bottom



element may be shorted or the bottom thermostat is malfunctioning. Unless you have experience and the proper metering equipment designed for 240 volts, we suggest that you call IREC to check the water heater or call your local plumber to check and repair it.

Some homes go through elements quickly if the water is hard or has a high sulphur content. If you are changing elements every year or two we suggest that you clean the tank of all deposits and install a low intensity incoloy element.

On the other hand, you might not have any leaks, and your elements are fine. But if the tank is 20 years old and you are worried about a leak, you might consider a new electric water heater. For example, if the tank is located where a leak would cause damage, many homeowners prefer to install a new tank before there is a problem.

Predicting tank life is difficult because water conditions vary so much. We do know the average life of an electric water heater is 15 to 17 years, while a natural gas or propane tank life is two or three years less.

Call IREC for service on your existing heater or for the purchase of a new one. We have 40, 50 and 80-gallon energy efficient electric water heaters for \$125 plus tax. That price includes delivery, and for a little extra, we will install it. Also, don't forget about the Choose and Save Program that gives you our best electric water heating rate and gets you five years of maintenance on elements and thermostats. It's free, so call today.



Happy New Year



Energy: Our future is today

Back in 1860, Abe Lincoln was running for president, John Mason had just invented a jar for canning fruits and vegetables, and the United States was using the energy equivalent of 111 million barrels of oil to power the entire nation for a year.

In 1994, we used that much oil in less than a week!

Why? One reason is that our population has grown from 31 million people in Lincoln's day to more than 250 million today. Another reason is that many things that use a lot of energy, things like air conditioners, microwave ovens, computers and jet planes, did not exist back then.

Today, we spend almost \$500 billion to light and heat our homes and offices, run our transportation system, and operate our farms and factories.

And while the United States - with only 5 percent of the world's population - consumes almost 25 percent of the energy used on Earth every year, we also produce 25 percent of the world's goods and services.

From the dawn of time, humans have sought new sources of energy.

We began with our physical energy, then harnessed the muscles of animals. We burned wood for heat and light and to make tools. We tapped the power of streams and rivers to operate machines, caught the wind to pump water and to sail our ships. We even hunted great whales for their oil.

Some 85 percent of the energy used in the U.S. today comes from fossil fuels and it has been estimated there is more than a 400-year supply of coal under U.S. soil.

Even more recently, we have tapped the enormous power of the atom in our never-ending search for energy. Today, 20 percent of all U.S. electricity comes from nuclear power.

Our continuing search for new sources of energy has led us to create technology to harness some of the most ancient forms of energy - from the sun, the wind, our oceans and rivers, and from heat generated under the ground.

Unfortunately, energy isn't free. All energy sources have a cost. There is a cost in dollars, of course, for all energy. Most would cost less if used more efficiently. Consumers and industries could save money to spend on other needs and provide more jobs if we used energy

more efficiently.

And if we are not careful, the fuels we depend on most can pollute our air and water or create dangerous waste that has to be transported through somebody's hometown or stored in somebody's backyard.

Our heavy use of fossil fuel, for instance, creates carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that is accumulating in our atmosphere at an accelerating rate.

There are also economic and political costs - today about half of the oil Americans use is imported from other countries. Little over 15 years from now, that could grow to 60 percent. Virtually all of that will be used in automobiles.

Will we always be able to rely on other countries for so much of our energy supply? Can the world's energy supplies meet the heavy energy demands of our country and the developing nations of the world? What effect will all that energy use have on our planet's climate?

One thing is certain: We can use the energy sources we have more efficiently and get more power for the price. We can find new sources of energy. And we can reduce the impact of energy on the environment.

Our energy future holds many challenges, but also many promises.



A special note to our **DIRECTV®** *customers:*

We want to thank all our customers who have made the Digital Satellite System the hottest selling new home electronics product in history. Not even the VCR or the compact disc player sold as many units in their first year of availability as the DSS. Plus, with all the excitement surrounding DIRECTV and its 175 channels of personalized TV, the world of television viewing has been turned upside down.

And it's all because of you.

Your demands for more channel variety, better picture and sound quality, innovative technology and responsive customer service were heard by DIRECTV and us. Together, we have worked to earn the trust you have placed in us and this amazing product.

Throughout the coming year, we promise to continue providing you with the kind of television service you want and deserve by introducing even more channels, more programming and pricing options, more exclusive sports packages and more top Hollywood movies. It may seem hard to believe, but the best in television is about to get even better!

Thank you for making television history.

Sincerely,
Illinois Rural Telecommunications



Illinois Rural Telecommunications Co.
2-12 South Main
Winchester, IL 62694
1-800-713-4782 or 217-742-9581



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

The cooperative difference

Today many electric cooperative consumers don't remember the first day electricity came to their homes. In fact, your electricity was probably already there when you moved in - one of those automatic things like the telephone line and running water.

The day you joined your electric cooperative you became a member of a unique organization. An electric cooperative is different. The fact is, there are a lot of positive differences between receiving your electricity from a cooperative and receiving it from an investor-owned utility (IOU) or municipal utility.

The bottom line:

Your electric cooperative is not-for-profit and consumer-owned, like the local credit union or farm supply cooperative. That means any revenue above expenses is eventually returned to the member (you) in the form of capital credit payments.

Your electric cooperative is committed to providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. We take pride in our cooperative - a grassroots system of service started by pioneers like those who settled this area. Keeping the cost of electricity affordable helps keep local businesses competitive, while preserving our rural heritage and standard of living.

The board room:

As a member of this electric cooperative, you have a direct voice in the operation of the cooperative. You elect the board of directors and vote on business matters at the annual meeting.

The directors and management of your electric cooperative have a genuine interest in you. After all, directors receive their electricity from the cooperative, too. Anytime you have a problem or concern, you can call your cooperative office or your director.

A philosophy of service:

Cooperatives were the first to serve rural areas. They were formed when IOUs refused to serve sparsely populated areas. Because IOUs are profit motivated, they didn't see the value of serving rural and suburban areas.

Cooperatives are involved in our communities. We live here, too, and take an active interest in bettering our communities through involvement in local schools, civic clubs and business organizations.

Electric cooperatives help each other out. Your

electric cooperative is one of hundreds of cooperatives across the country providing electricity and other services to rural and urban America. When a major storm or other disaster forces an outage, neighboring cooperatives often come to the rescue, providing their equipment and personnel to help get the power back on fast.

Once in awhile, electric cooperatives are taken to task for the low-interest loans received from the Rural Utilities Service (formerly the REA). This program was developed to provide funding for the high cost of constructing millions of miles of power lines needed to provide electricity to rural America. Today, these funds are essential to maintain those power lines and the equipment needed to serve new growth.

In truth, IOUs and municipal utilities receive far more subsidies than electric cooperatives. IOUs receive big tax benefits, and municipal utilities are allowed to raise capital by selling bonds that have tax-exempt interest.

IOUs receive more than \$5 billion annually in federal subsidies. Municipal utilities receive more than \$1 billion. Electric cooperatives receive less than \$500 million, according to a 1993 report by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Electric cooperatives face other hurdles:

We have to provide electricity at a price competitive with IOUs while constructing and maintaining thousands more miles of distribution lines. The average electric cooperative has 4 consumers per mile compared to 43 for an IOU and 83 for a municipal.

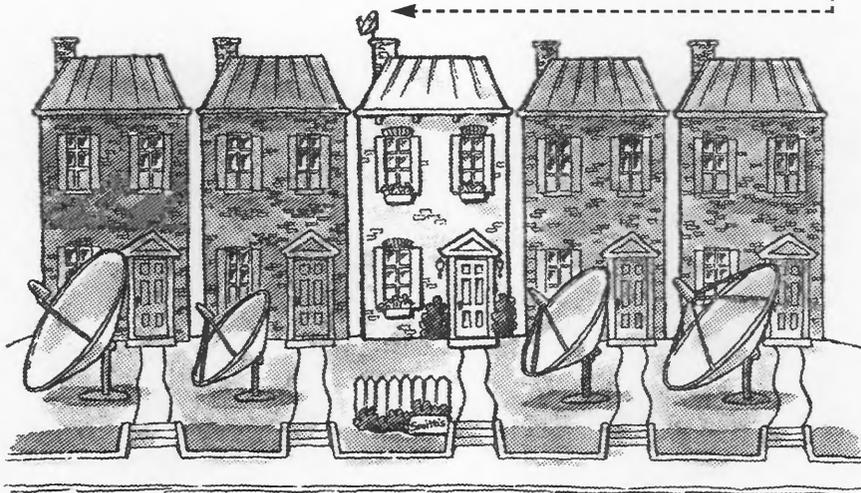
We have fewer large industrial and commercial consumers than IOUs. Our revenue comes from serving many small accounts, homes, farms and communities.

Our consumers are mainly residential, creating a low load factor. Our power demand can skyrocket depending on the time of year. That's why every cooperative works hard to level out its load factor.

Innovation and creativity have always been a part of the cooperative system. Despite our low population density and high cost of bringing electricity to rural America, we continue to work to maintain stable rates. That's our commitment to you, our owner and member.

There is something different about receiving your electricity from an electric cooperative. We think it's a difference you can be proud of.

THE *Smiths* JUST GOT DIRECTV®



THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

You've heard about it. You've read about it. Some of your friends may have even bragged about it. So, why can't you see the satellite dish when you pass their house?

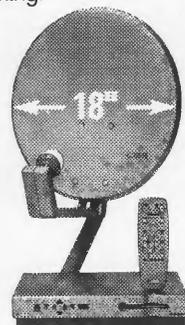
Since **DIRECTV** is delivered by the **Digital Satellite System** and the tiny, **18-inch** receiving dish, many people don't know their neighbors have entered the digital television revolution. The DSS® dish mounts easily to a window sill, chimney, porch railing...almost anywhere...and almost always out of sight.

DIRECTV brings up to **175 channels** of the most popular cable networks, top Hollywood movies, exclusive pro and college sports and the best in family entertainment. For the nearly 1 million **DIRECTV** viewers nationwide – including your neighbors – there's no doubt where to look for the best in quality, affordable television programming.

The Choice is Clear. DIRECTV.



Illinois Rural Telecommunications Co.
2-12 South Main
Winchester, IL 62694
1-800-713-4782 or 217-742-9581



Standby power: Insurance against Mother Nature

Purchasing a standby generator is comparable to buying fire insurance--you may never need it, but it is invaluable when trouble arrives.

Although our electrical system is highly dependable and reliable, it is subject to the whims of Mother Nature--tornadoes, ice storms or destructive high winds.

How well are you prepared to handle a prolonged outage? Now is the time to take inventory of your home and farm. Determine how you would pump water, move grain, handle feed, keep pipes from freezing, as well as provide heat and ventilation for livestock. How will you heat your own home, keep frozen and perishable foods from spoiling and operate sump pumps and other necessary equipment?

Now is the time to sit down and carefully in-

ventory your electrical needs. Assume that you will experience extended outages that could cause you not only inconvenience, but also financial loss. The cooperative does not sell standby generators, but we do have personnel available to help you analyze your load and make proper recommendations. And also remember that standby generators are not normally stocked in any quantity, so don't plan on purchasing one after an outage occurs.

Remember, too, the installation of any standby equipment requires a positive double-throw type of switch. Operating a standby generator without a properly installed double-throw switch is extremely dangerous and could result in financial liability.

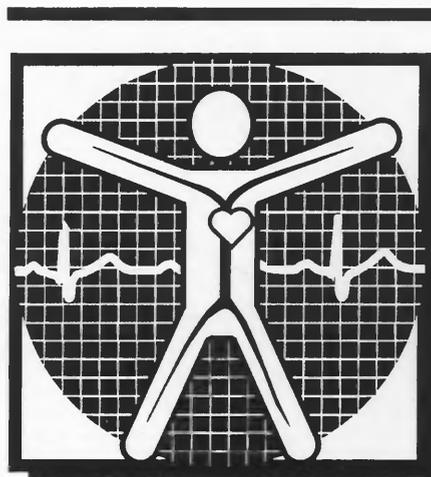
Let us help you guard against any of those "acts of God" no one can foresee.

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

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

Your cooperative needs to know the names and locations of cooperative members who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of members who are on life-support equipment, 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 fill out the form below and mail to us as quickly as possible.



Name _____

Phone no. _____

Address _____

Location no. _____ Account no. _____

Type of support equipment _____

Days of use _____ Time of use _____

Name of doctor _____

Address _____

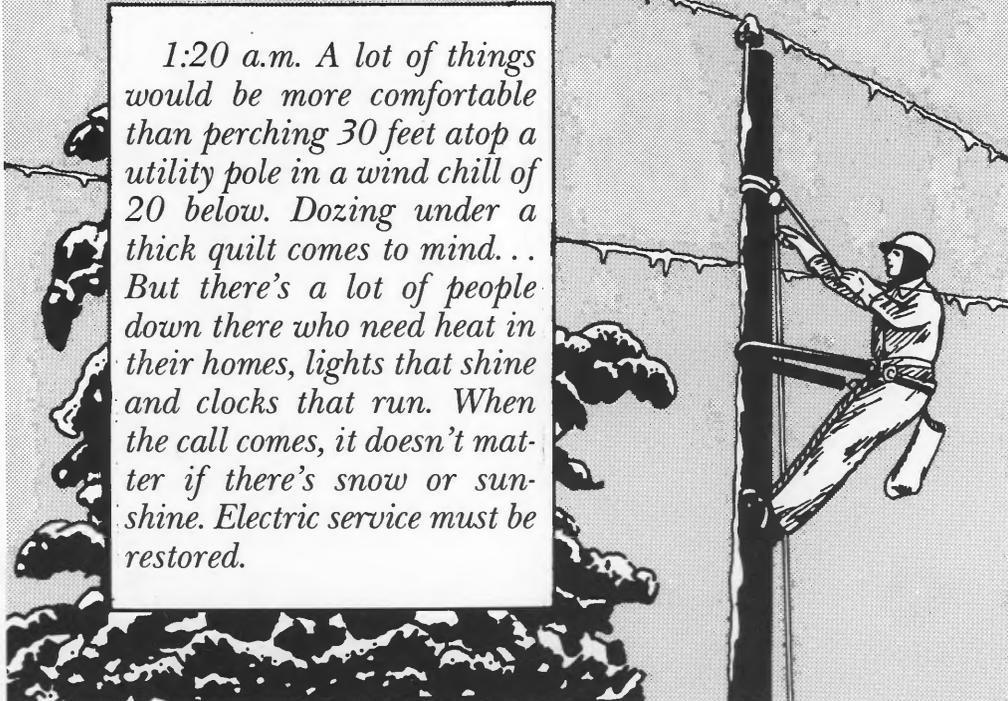
Do you have an emergency stand-by generator to operate this equipment?

Yes No

**Mail this to: Illinois Rural Electric Co., ATTN: Engineering
Department, 2-12 South Main, Winchester, IL 62694**

It's lonely at the top.

1:20 a.m. A lot of things would be more comfortable than perching 30 feet atop a utility pole in a wind chill of 20 below. Dozing under a thick quilt comes to mind. . . But there's a lot of people down there who need heat in their homes, lights that shine and clocks that run. When the call comes, it doesn't matter if there's snow or sunshine. Electric service must be restored.



Even before the snowstorm has stopped howling, the line crews of your electric cooperative are working with all the speed and skill of their many years' experience. Power must be brought back quickly, but safety must be the top priority. Our crews do their best in all weather conditions so that you have all the necessities and comforts that electricity provides.

Services offered by the Member Service Department

1. Complete line of Hotpoint, Maytag, Admiral and GE appliances.
2. Craftmaster Service Saver electric water heaters. \$125 plus tax, delivered. (Installation available).
3. All kinds of home and farmstead wiring.
4. Computer sizing of WaterFurnace heating, central air conditioning and water heating systems.
5. Installation and repair of underground wiring.
6. Repairs on all major appliances.
7. Electric baseboard heat installations.
8. Recommendation of proper insulation and ventilation.
9. All service calls in our service area include 30 minutes of work and "no mileage charge," \$25 for one-man service call and \$35 for two-man service call. After first 30 minutes, \$20 per hour per man.
10. Complete electric installation for grain drying and grain and feed handling equipment.
11. Over-the-counter sales of wiring equipment to IREC members.
12. Special sale on all major appliances at our annual meeting.
13. Financing available to qualified members.



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High Line News

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

by Robert E. Gant

Considering Geothermal? Attend Our Open House and Ask About Rebates

Those members who have heard about geothermal heating and cooling know it is the most energy-efficient system on the market. Those who have not heard about the geothermal system might want to attend the open house that will be held north of Pittsfield on Wednesday, March 20, 1996.

The open house will be held at the first home built in the new Deer Run Estates, located approximately 2 1/2 miles north of Pittsfield on Route 107. It will run from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with refreshments being served. Representatives from Peters Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. (installers of the WaterFurnace system in the home),

WaterFurnace Midwest and Illinois Rural Electric Co. will be on hand to answer questions about the geothermal heating and cooling system. In addition, the developer will be present to talk about the house itself, the rest of the subdivision, and Illinois Rural Telecommunications Co. will have a display there and a representative to answer questions about DIRECTV and the Digital Satellite System. The information and the refreshments are free, so mark your calendars and plan to attend this open house on March 20.

Among the things we will be talking about that day are the rebates that are available for installing this type of system. IREC offers a \$599 rebate to members installing a geothermal system, and, for a limited time, there is also a \$500 rebate available from Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc.

Some of the other advantages of the geothermal system, like "free" hot water, are discussed on page 16b of this center section. Also, listed below, are the WaterFurnace dealers who serve the IREC area. You could talk with any of them about geothermal heating and cooling.

We want to make our members aware of this highly energy-efficient heating, cooling and water heating system. If you are interested in this type of system, talk to a neighbor who has one. Then, bring that neighbor with you to the open house on Wednesday, March 20, 1996. And, as always, you may call IREC at 1-800-468-4732. We will be glad to try to answer your questions.

WaterFurnace dealers serving IREC area

South Side Hardware
Greenfield
(217) 368-2705

Kaiser Plumbing & Heating
Carrollton
(217) 942-5258

Manchester Plumbing & Heating
Manchester
(217) 587-2921

Winters Energy Systems
Alton
(618) 463-7799

**Little's Heating &
Air Conditioning**
Winchester
(217) 742-9251

**Peters Heating &
Air Conditioning, Inc.**
Quincy
(217) 222-1368

**Peters Heating &
Air Conditioning, Inc.**
Pittsfield
(217) 285-1600

Mel's Refrigeration
Hardin
(618) 576-9318

**Peters Heating &
Air Conditioning, Inc.**
Hannibal, MO
(314) 221-0093

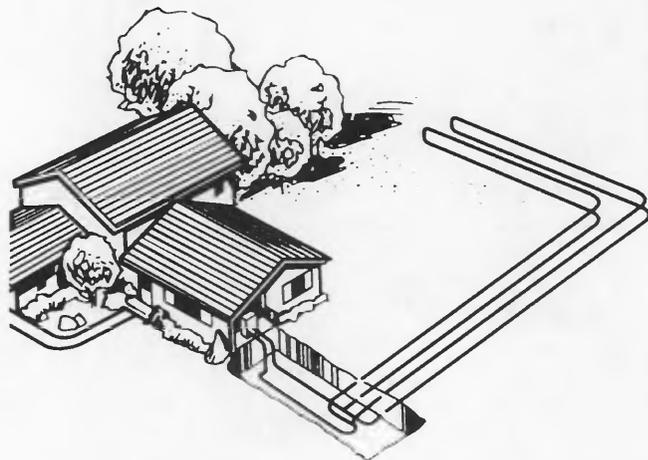
Geothermal uses earth for energy

A new electric technology—the geothermal heat pump—now uses the earth's energy to heat and cool a home. The geothermal heat pump offers year 'round energy savings compared to other systems. And, many electric utilities offer their customers cash back when they install this new system, according to the Edison Electric Institute and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, two national electric utility trade associations.

Electric utilities do this because geothermal heat pumps have high energy-efficient ratings. These heat pumps also return a more even year 'round demand on utility power plants. Both of these factors can help a utility delay the need for building more plants.

Air-to-air and geothermal heat pumps can provide heating and cooling from a single unit. They do so because they transfer heat instead of creating it. For this reason, electric heat pumps can return more in heating or cooling comfort than it costs in electricity to operate the system.

The now traditional air-source heat pump, which dates back to the 1950s, exchanges heat with the outdoor air via the familiar compressor unit that sits in the background. Instead of an outdoor compressor, the relatively new ground source heat pump exchanges heat with the ground via underground plastic piping.



Horizontal pipe layout

Energy savings

Geothermal heat pumps work less to exchange heat than air-source heat pumps do. That's because the ground's temperature in most parts of the country remains a year-round 55 to 60 degrees all year, while the air temperature can fluctuate much more widely. The earth's stable temperature translates into bigger energy savings for the homeowner. In fact, you can get up to \$4 in heating or cooling from each dollar of electricity.

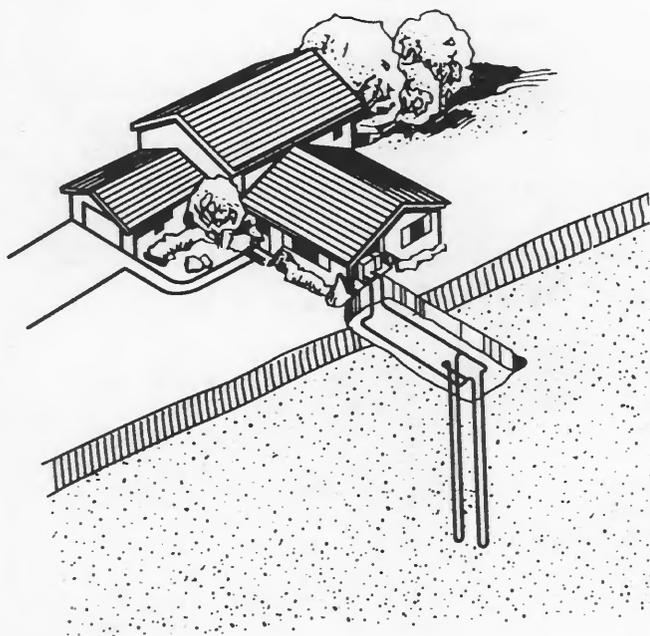
Other advantages

Geothermal heat pumps offer other advantages as well. Some systems can provide year 'round hot water. During the air conditioning mode, the water heating is "free;" the system takes the house's heat, and puts it into the water heating tank.

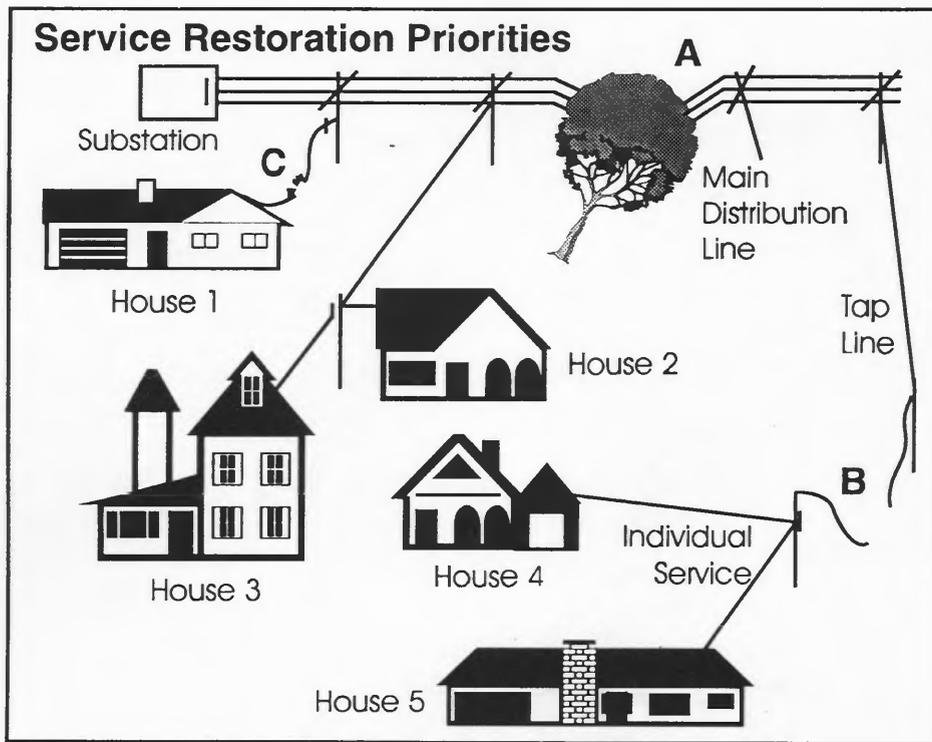
The compressor is permanently sealed, like your refrigerator, and normally doesn't require refrigerant refills. Since it has no outdoor compressor, you and your neighbors will appreciate its quiet operation.

A geothermal heat pump's piping configuration can be laid out in a horizontal trench, or a vertical hole, depending on soil conditions. The cost to install either geothermal heat pump makes the system costlier than a regular air-to-air heat pump, but the energy savings will pay you back the difference in three to five years.

For more information on this exciting new technology, contact Illinois Rural Electric Co.



Vertical pipe layout



Service restoration priorities

In this part of the country, any day of the year can bring severe weather followed by widespread outages, followed by complaints from some members about the length of time it took us to get them back in service.

How do we prioritize service restoration? Illinois Rural Electric's policy is like that of every utility in the nation -- to restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest time and then to repair the damage at individual homes and farmsteads. This is the logical, economical and the most accommodating method of repair during and/or after a major storm.

The accompanying sketch depicts an area "downstream" from a substation after an ice storm. A three-phase feeder line has been put out of service by a fallen tree. A single-phase tap line that serves two homes is also out of service due to downed wire. House 1 has a snapped service drop. All outages have been reported to Illinois Rural Electric. Where do we start the repair work and what is the order of priority?

Since a tree has taken out the three-phase line along the main road, many more homes than are shown in the drawing are affected. Crews would be dispatched to the substation to start working their way along this line to repair it and put as many members back in service as quickly as possible. The tree would be removed, wires would be spliced, and the leaning pole would be straightened. Once this has been accomplished, this three-phase line would be energized: House 2, House 3

and many houses beyond would have power; and our first priority is met.

The second priority is to restore the single-phase tap line that serves House 4 and House 5. Neither can receive service until the ice-damaged line is rejoined. This could have been done first, but no power would have been available anyway since the main distribution line was down. The line will be spliced, allowing House 4 and House 5 to immediately have power. Crews would then be dispatched to House 1 to repair or replace the service drop.

This scenario is not exact, but it does represent the restoration priorities used after major storms by the electric utility industry nationwide -- that is, to reestablish service quickly to as many consumers as possible. Individual members such as House 1 are usually the last to regain service.

One important factor in restoring service quickly is the help you provide. If you know that your wires are down and the reason, or if the transformer has failed or a pole has broken, tell the dispatcher when you phone in the outage. It saves time when we know what and where the problem is. Another great time-saver is for each member to know his map location number. That will speed up the response time of the crew.

But, before you call in an outage, check your own breakers or fuses and also check to see if your neighbors are out of service.

Your assistance is invaluable and allows us to give you prompt repair service.

THE 1 MILLIONTH



DIRECTV®

SUBSCRIBER WAS REWARDED WITH

FRONT ROW SEATS TO OVER 200 GAMES IN

THE NFL,



TICKETS TO THE BIGGEST

HOLLYWOOD MOVIES,



EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

TO



WORLD NEWS EVENTS, FREE

PASSPORTS TO THE WORLD OF



DISNEY,

AND THE MOST MODERN HOME THEATER EQUIPMENT

ON THE PLANET.

(Just like the first 999,999 subscribers.)

Everyone who subscribes to DIRECTV can get up to 175 channels of the most movies, sports and cable networks available on any satellite service. All delivered with the rich, crystal clarity of the 18-inch Digital Satellite System, and all starting at around a dollar a day — equipment and programming included. No wonder every DIRECTV subscriber feels like one in a million.

The Choice is Clear. DIRECTV.

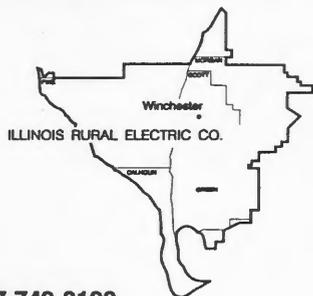
DSS
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM

DIRECTV

Come in today!

Illinois Rural Telecommunications Co.
2-12 South Main
Winchester, IL 62694
(217)742-9581 or (800)713-4782





High Line News

217-742-3128

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

by Robert E. Gant

What's news at the co-op?

This month, I want to use this space to tell you about a few things from Illinois Rural Electric Co. that maybe you haven't heard about yet.

The first thing I want to talk about is our **FREE ELECTRIC WATER HEATER** program. Since 1986, we have been selling high-efficiency electric water heaters for \$125 plus tax, and we plan to continue that program. In addition, for a limited time, we will be giving away 52 gallon electric water heaters to our members who will install them in a newly constructed home or use them to replace a gas water heater. So what's the catch? Well, there are some restrictions.

First, you must agree to participate in the Choose and Save Program and allow us to install a radio-controlled switch on the heater. This is necessary for you to receive the best water heating rate that IREC offers, and there is a one-per-resi-

dence limit. Understandably, they must be installed in homes served by Illinois Rural Electric Co., and the member must agree to have them installed within 30 days of receipt. In addition, they must be left there for a minimum of five years.

This offer is good until June 30, 1996, so call the office for further details. See the water heater advertisement on page 12b in this center section for phone numbers.

Another thing I wanted to tell you about was the annual meeting. The date has been set for Saturday, July 13, 1996, at the fairgrounds in Winchester. This is a different day of the week than we have held the meeting in the past. The format will be a little different, also. Registration will begin around 8 a.m., with the meeting to begin at 9:30 a.m. We will be done by noon and there will then be a free pork chop dinner for all those attending. Watch for more information about the meeting in the months to come, as we will be asking for RSVPs to plan the meal.

Finally, a couple of things that are not really new, but you can read more about them in this center section. One is IRTC's DIRECTV programming and DSS equipment. Call IRTC to find out how to bring the future of television into your home today.

The other thing you can read about in this issue is safety. We talk about it a lot because we don't want you to forget to be careful around electricity.

We like to hear from our members, so call us at 1-800-HOT-IREC if we can be of assistance to you.

**Mark your calendar.
The Illinois Rural
Electric Co.
annual
meeting is
Saturday,
July 13.**



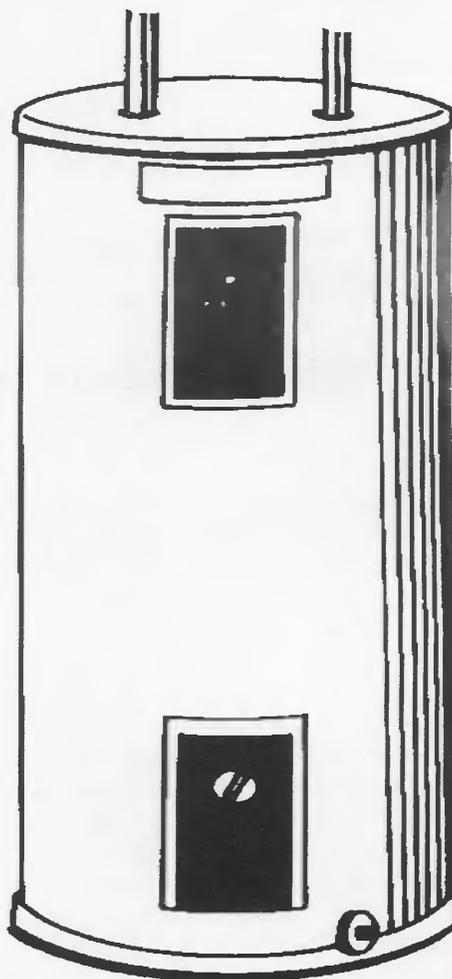
Closed Good Friday



**The offices of Illinois Rural Electric Co.
will be closed on Friday, April 5,
in observance of Good Friday.**

Call Illinois Rural Electric Today And Get A FREE 52-Gallon Electric Water Heater!

Would you like to replace your old gas water heater? Are you building a new home? Call IREC today and get set up with a FREE 52-gallon electric water heater and participate in our special Choose and Save Program!* The Choose and Save Program gives you our best electric water heating rate and five years of maintenance on elements and thermostats. Enjoy the clean, safe, efficient comfort of an electric water heater with an efficient price!



Illinois Rural Electric Co.

2-12 South Main

Winchester, IL 62694

217-742-3128 or 1-800-HOT-IREC

*Restrictions Apply. The special program includes the 52-gallon electric water heater only, a 5-year minimum usage at a location served by IREC, 1 per residence, must participate in the Choose and Save Program, and must be installed within 30 days. Installation available at member's expense (including plumbing, electrical work, and disposal of the heater being replaced). If self-installed, an IREC employee will check the installation. Ten year warranty on water heater tank and five-year warranty on all other parts. Offer expires June 30, 1996.

Electric power in your home

Electricity provides power that will serve you in countless ways the rest of your life. It is a controlled energy which your power supplier channels into homes and industries in a safe and dependable manner. At that point, it becomes your responsibility to use this controlled power safely.

One point to always remember--never give this electricity an opportunity to strike you through some unthinking careless act in your daily routine. Exercise Responsible Electric Accident Control Today (RE-ACT) by respecting this power through the safe and efficient use of the many labor-saving devices powered by man-made lightning.

The practice of operating or touching a plugged-in appliance when working in or around your kitchen sink is an invitation for man-made lightning to strike. Those water faucets and sewer connections provide an excellent path to the ground for electricity to follow--Don't let it pass through your body to get there!

Radios or similar small appliances that are

within reach of the bathtub or shower make bathrooms an excellent place for accidents. Exercise caution when using appliances in the bathroom.

Laundry room areas, where water and its associated pipes are ever present, require safe practices. Be sure that three-wire appliance cords are used and that the appliance cases are bonded to the ground wire of the electric unit.

Almost all power tools are equipped with three-wire cords to be used in three-wire outlets. Too frequently, though, work to be done is out of reach of such an outlet. Extension cords are needed, and to avoid a jolt of man-made lightning, make sure they are of the three-wire variety and are connected to a ground fault interrupter-protected circuit.

Outdoor patio living has become enriched with the use of the dependable servant, electricity. Don't let this man-made energy go astray by failing to use three-wire cords and ground fault interrupters on all outdoor electrical circuits.

IREC Annual Meeting

will be

July 13

at Scott County

4-H Fairgrounds in Winchester



SAFE AT HOME!

Springtime means baseball time — and it's also time for an outdoor electrical safety check-up.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind:



- Make sure extension cords used outside are specifically marked for such use.
- When you're using electrical cleaning equipment and power tools outdoors, be sure cords are the three-wire kind.
- Make sure your outdoor work area is dry when you use electrical appliances and tools.
- Check outdoor receptacles — does each outlet have its own waterproof cover?

For more tips on playing it safe, please contact us. We'll be happy to help you make it safe at home!

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	DIRECTV/ DSS	PRIMESTAR	CABLE
Up to 175 channels with superior digital picture and sound	YES	NO	NO
18" DSS dish you can own	YES	NO	NO
Up to 13 NFL games every regular-season with NFL Sunday Ticket	YES	NO	NO
Season Passes to NBA, NHL, MLB with over 2,400 games	YES	NO	NO
700 NCAA basketball games from the top conferences	YES	NO	NO
Up to 60 pay-per-view movie channels with hits at \$2.99 each	YES	NO	NO
Over 20 regional sports networks including Midwest Sports Channel	YES	NO	NO
PrimeSports, MSG and Sports Channel	YES	NO	NO
29 CD-quality audio channels	YES	NO	NO
Parental controls including channel lockout and rating limits	YES	NO	NO
Up to 15 premium movie channels including 5 HBO, 3 Cinemax and 3 Showtime channels from USSB	YES	NO	NO
Interactive on-screen guide	YES	NO	NO

Finally, an easy choice! With twice as many channels and the most advanced entertainment system available, DirecTV is the future of television, today. You get the widest variety of programming, the very best picture and sound, and the most reliable service. All delivered through the tiny 18-inch receiver dish!

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High Line News

217-742-3128

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

by Robert E. Gant

Controlled air conditioning rate to be available

The purpose of this article is to re-introduce IREC's controlled air conditioning rate for members with central air conditioning. But before I get into the rate, perhaps a little background information is in order to help explain why we established this type of incentive rate.

We are now a summer peaking utility, which means the cost of the electricity we purchase is based on how much demand for it there is during the peak season--the summer's hottest days. The more electricity we must supply during the peak demand period, the more it will cost us. And that cost stays with us all year. On the other hand, the less electricity we have to supply during the peak demand period, the less it will cost us. And, again, that lower cost will stay with us all year. Seventy percent of our cost for electricity is based on what our summer demand is, so it only makes sense that if we can keep the summer demand down, we have gone a long way toward controlling our cost of power.

More than 1,500 of you have already installed a radio-controlled switch on your electric water heater. The Choose and Save water heater program is designed to help shave this peak demand, which helps save the co-op money while at the same time causing no inconvenience and helping members save money with a special controlled electric water heating rate.

The next logical step to shaving the summer peak demand was to look at air conditioning. The same type of radio-controlled switch, and in some cases the same switch, can be used to cycle the compressor and the air handler during peak de-

mand time. And, as with the water heater program, we foresee very little inconvenience to the members.

Here's what we came up with. The program will be available to all members having central air conditioning in their residence. Participating members shall allow IREC to install a radio-controlled switch to cycle the air conditioner during "peak alerts" (usually the hottest days of the year). Members can choose to have electric power to the air conditioner interrupted for either 10 minutes out of 30 minutes (Program 33) or 7.5 minutes out of 15 minutes (Program 50). Under Program 33, a \$10 credit will be given for each ton of installed air conditioner capacity. For Program 50, the credit is \$15 per ton of installed air conditioner capacity. The credit will be split: Half of it will be seen on the July usage bill, and half of it will be seen on the August usage bill. As an example, if a member with a three-ton air conditioner signed up for Program 33, the total credit would be \$30. There would be a \$15 credit on the September bill (July usage) and a \$15 credit on the October bill (August usage).

Here are a few definitions. The "peak season" is the period of the year when IREC may control loads to reduce demand. That period is from June 15 to Sept. 15, excluding weekends and holidays. A "peak alert" is a notice given by our power supplier for a day when the peak demand may be set. We hope to use local radio stations to announce these "peak alerts." During 1995 there were three "peak alerts." A "peak period" is from noon to 8 p.m. on a peak alert day. Normally the "peak" will occur some time between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. And finally, one ton of air conditioner capacity equals 12,000 BTU. Air conditioner capacities will be rounded to the nearest 0.5 ton for the purpose of calculating the credit.

Both the controlled air conditioner rate program and the Choose and Save water heater program are volunteer programs that are designed to benefit the members and their cooperative. There are other things that you, as a member, can do to help control costs. Listen for announcements of "peak alert" days this summer and then, think about when you use your electric appliances. Per-

(Continued on page 12d)



The home was taking shape when the open house was held. The interior was nearly complete, but the exterior is still awaiting the brickwork. Note the open house sign in the garage door.

Open house well attended

There was snow on the ground in the morning, but the afternoon turned out to be sunny and clear for the Open House at Deer Run Estates on Wednesday, March 20, 1996, the first day of spring.

More than 100 people toured the house built by Bob Jorgenson, who is also the developer of the subdivision. The 1,850 square-foot brick home has three bedrooms, two bathrooms (the master bath as a whirlpool tub), hardwood floors, two-car attached garage and a full basement. Mr. Jorgenson was on hand to talk about the house and to discuss the price of the home, as well as other houses that will be built later.

The home is heated and cooled with a four-ton WaterFurnace geothermal heating and cooling system. Kent Wasson and Steve Peters with Peters Heating and Air conditioning, Inc. were present to talk about the advantages of heating and air conditioning with this highly efficient type of system. They explained not only how little it costs to heat and cool with a WaterFurnace, but how it can heat the water that the homeowners use. Dave Buss of WaterFurnace Midwest was also there to answer questions about the WaterFurnace System.

In the living room, Jenissa Thompson with Illinois Rural Telecommunications Co. had a display set up to demonstrate the Digital Satellite System and DIRECTV® programming. For the best in news, weather, sports and movies, this is the satellite system to watch.

And, of course, Illinois Rural Electric Co. (IREC) was there as one of the co-sponsors to talk about the different programs available to IREC members to help them get the most for their electricity dollar. The owners of this home, and all the others in Deer Run Estates, will qualify for the all-electric rate, which is the best residential rate available to IREC members.

In all, this was a good opportunity for the people of Pike County and the surrounding area to see a beautiful home that is for sale, and to learn more about a high-tech, high-efficiency heating and cooling system, as well as to watch The Golf Channel.

For those who could not attend, Illinois Rural Electric Co. will be glad to talk to members about geothermal heating and cooling, special rate incentives or other questions you may have. Call us at 1-800-HOT-IREC.



Clockwise from top: Bob Jorgenson, builder-developer of Deer Run Estates, talks with visitors. IREC director Ron Myers, right, and Mrs. Myers, left, visit with Ed Gant, IREC manager. Steve Wisdom, special services manager for IREC, talks with visitors about the co-op's special rates and programs. The entire unit, including heater, air conditioner and water heaters, fits in a neat, compact unit.



play BALL!



First came NFL Sunday Ticket. Then NBA League Pass and NHL Center Ice. College sports soon followed with ESPN/ABC College Football and ESPN Full Court. Now, DIRECTV® is set to bring home yet another exclusive sports offering. **MLB Extra Innings**--over 1,000 Major League Baseball games--**the most Major League Baseball coverage ever available on television!** From Spring Training through the All-Star Break and all the way into the pennant race, every hit and run, suicide squeeze, and double steal will be delivered with the crystal-clear picture and sound of the Digital Satellite System.

It's baseball coverage that takes you out to the ballgame like never before!

(Peanuts and Cracker Jacks sold separately.)



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(Continued from page 12a)

haps you could bake early in the day or use your microwave instead of the range when preparing supper. You might want to delay washing dishes or using your clothes dryer until later in the evening. These are volunteer programs that you can design.

For more information about the controlled air conditioner rate, or anything else mentioned in this article, please call the office at 1-800-468-4732 or 217/742-3128. It's not too early to get signed up for this program.



High Line News

217-742-3128

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

by Robert E. Gant

New annual meeting format this year

In the April issue of this magazine, I mentioned that this year's annual meeting would be a little different from those of past years. For one thing, the meeting will be held on a **Saturday**, July 13, 1996. The meeting had been being held on the second Wednesday of July. It will still be held at the fairgrounds in Winchester with registration 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the drawing for the Early Bird Award.

The meeting itself will not change much as certain reports need to be made to the members as part of any annual meeting. We will still hear from the Youth to Washington winners and recognize some of our employees and directors for length of service and safety awards.

At the conclusion of the meeting (sometime between 11:00 a.m. and noon), the members and

their families are invited to stay around for a **FREE** pork chop lunch. Pork producers from Pike and Scott counties will be cooking the meat with the rest of the meal to be catered. **We are asking members to RSVP so that we can plan the number of meals to prepare. You will find a reservation card in this magazine and we will have one in next month's issue also.**

Those attending the meeting will notice that there are no activities planned for the afternoon. Other differences from past meetings would be that there will be no attendance prize (fan, crockpot, flashlight, etc.), there will be no outside exhibitors, there will be no members' bargain table for small appliances and most of the employees won't be there.

The Member Service Department will still offer annual meeting sale prices on all major appliances and there will be employees on hand to talk about money-saving programs that are available at IREC.

The directors are looking to accomplish a couple of things by holding this type of meeting. First, they want to give those members who cannot attend a weekday meeting the opportunity to participate in the business of the annual meeting. Secondly, they are trying to reduce the costs that are incurred with holding this necessary function of the cooperative.

Some of you may remember when IREC's annual meeting was held over a two-day period with a queen contest being held on the first day. This year's meeting won't last that long, but it is still important to be there to elect directors and conduct the business of your cooperative.

IMPORTANT NOTICE —

The notice of the annual meeting will be inserted as the center section of the July, 1996 issue of the Illinois Country Living Magazine. There will not be a separate mailing of the annual meeting program.

Can your TV get 200 NFL games, 60 channels of new release movies, 700 college basketball games, up to 1000 Baseball games, five channels of HBO, and an interactive on-screen menu guide?



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If your TV can't get all these features, it's not your television's fault. Only DIRECTV[®] can bring your family such viewing variety. Like 200 fully-digital channels of entertainment. Entertainment you won't find on any cable or other mini-dish system. Call us today to find out more about the exclusive entertainment available on the digital Satellite System and DIRECTV. And stop blaming your television set.

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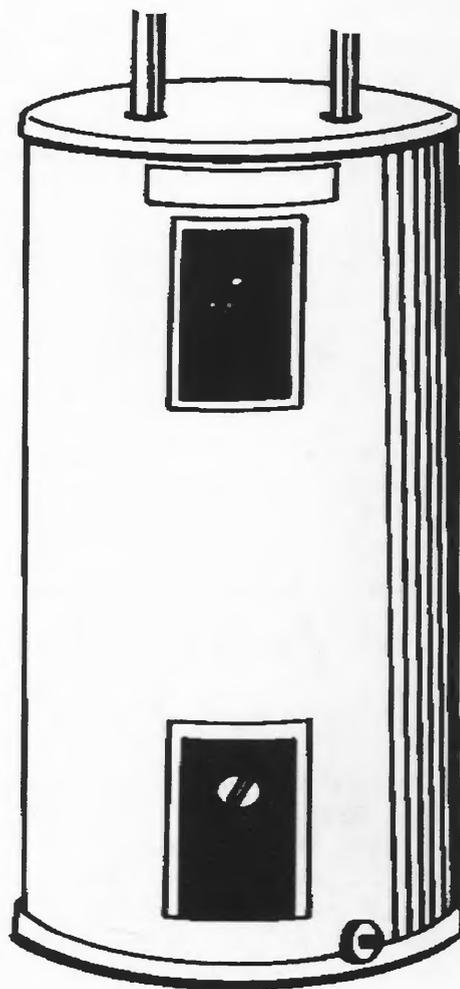
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217-742-9581

940 West Morton
Jacksonville, IL 62650
1-800-713-4782 or 217-245-7097



Call Illinois Rural Electric Today And Get A FREE 52-Gallon Electric Water Heater!

Would you like to replace your old gas water heater? Are you building a new home? Call IREC today and get set up with a FREE 52-gallon electric water heater and participate in our special Choose and Save Program!* The Choose and Save Program gives you our best electric water heating rate and five years of maintenance on elements and thermostats. Enjoy the clean, safe, efficient comfort of an electric water heater with an efficient price!



Illinois Rural Electric Co.
2-12 South Main
Winchester, IL 62694
217-742-3128 or 1-800-HOT-IREC

*Restrictions Apply. The special program includes the 52-gallon electric water heater only, a 5-year minimum usage at a location served by IREC, 1 per residence, must participate in the Choose and Save Program, and must be installed within 30 days. Installation available at member's expense (including plumbing, electrical work, and disposal of the heater being replaced). If self-installed, an IREC employee will check the installation. Ten year warranty on water heater tank and five-year warranty on all other parts. **Offer expires June 30, 1996.**

Improve air conditioning cost and comfort

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

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

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



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

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

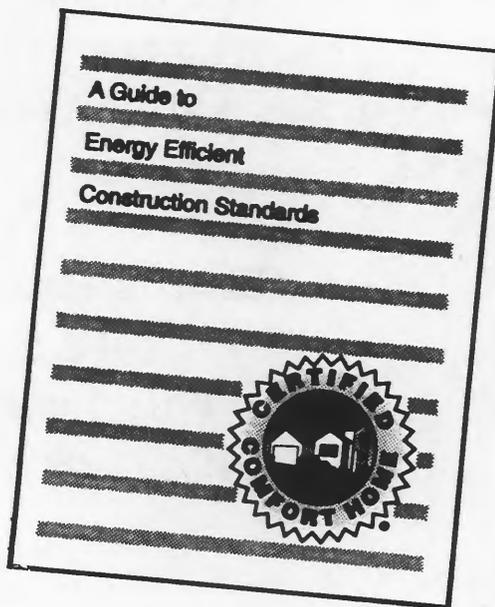
Phone the Engineering Department to sign up for Choose and Save.

A Guide to Energy Efficient Construction Standards

That's the name of the book that is now available to IREC members who might be building a new home. It gives tips for construction standards for walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors. It also discusses moisture control in the home, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems and domestic hot water.

The intent of the book is to provide the new home builder with some alternatives to conventional construction methods that are designed to make the home more energy efficient. In many cases, these alternative methods add little or nothing to the cost of building the home, but they can significantly reduce energy consumption once the home is built. For example, by making sure there is adequate insulation and that it is properly installed, you can reduce air infiltration, which helps lower heating and cooling costs.

These construction-standard guides are available to IREC members at no charge. So if you are considering building a house, you really should look at this book. A little time well-spent now could mean a lot of savings in your pocket later.



We're Main Street,
not Wall Street



Illinois Rural Electric Co.

1996 Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 13, 1996
Scott County 4-H Fairgrounds
Winchester, Illinois

Registration 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.
Meeting starts at 9:30 a.m.

The annual meeting of the Illinois Rural Electric Co. will be held in the auditorium building of the Scott County 4-H Fairgrounds at Winchester, Scott County, Illinois, on Saturday, July 13, 1996, at 9:30 a.m., Central Daylight Time, to take action on the following matters:

Official
meeting
notice

1. To hear reports of officers, directors, employees and committees.
2. Ratification, approval and confirmation of the action taken at the meeting of members held July 12, 1995.
3. The election of three (3) directors of the cooperative. In connection with the election of three (3) directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for directors by the committee on nominations appointed by the board of directors of the cooperative pursuant to the bylaws.

District	Name	Address
1	Glen Pulliam	R. 1, Box 127, New Canton, IL 62356
3	Merton Pond	R. 1, Box 291, Bluffs, IL 62621
7	F. Alan Heaton	R. 1, Box 197, Murrayville, IL 62668

4. All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments, thereof.

Dated: May 13, 1996
F. Alan Heaton, Secretary

After due consideration, there was a motion by Eugene Rawlins and seconded by Fred Bradshaw that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED that the nominating committee hereby nominate the following to run for directors of Illinois Rural Electric Co. for terms as determined by the By-laws:

Nominating
committee

District	Name	Address
1	Glen Pulliam	R. 1, Box 127, New Canton, IL 62356
3	Merton Pond	R. 1, Box 291, Bluffs, IL 62621
7	F. Alan Heaton	R. 1, Box 197, Murrayville, IL 62668

Dated: May 13, 1996
Winchester, IL

Signed:

Eric Loken
Chairman
Fred L. Bradshaw
Norman G. Vortman

John E. Nette
Secretary
Eugene C. Rawlins

8:00 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m.

Call meeting to order and welcome William Griswold, *President*
Invocation Rev. Jim Mackey, First Christian Church, Winchester
Early bird award (Char-Broil outdoor electric grill) William Griswold, *President*
Announce that we have a quorum present F. Alan Heaton, *Secretary*
Reading of notice of meeting F. Alan Heaton, *Secretary*
Approval of this agenda William Griswold, *President*
Drawings for \$25 credit on electric bill Mark Aeilts, *Office Manager*
Approval of minutes of last meeting as mailed Robert V. Bonjean, Jr., *Attorney*
Drawing for \$25 credit on electric bill
President's report William Griswold, *President*
Drawing for \$25 credit on electric bill
Treasurer's report Robert A. Brown, *Treasurer*
Drawing for \$25 credit on electric bill
General Manager's report Robert E. Gant, *General Manager*
Drawing for \$25 credit on electric bill
Approval of actions of directors William Griswold, *President*
Report of nominating committee Eric Lakin, *Chairman*
Election of directors Robert V. Bonjean, Jr., *Attorney*
Drawing for \$25 credit on electric bill
Report of Springfield trip and
Washington, D.C. trip winners Mark E. Martin, *Director*
Member & Public Relations
Drawing for \$25 credit on electric bill
Director-Employee safety and length of service awards Robert E. Gant, *General*
Manager
Unfinished business William Griswold, *President*
New business William Griswold, *President*
Attendance Prizes Mark Aeilts, *office Manager*

12:00 Noon Adjournment

Adjourn for lunch

Musical entertainment Winchester Community Band

Annual meeting program

Report to members

The Scott County Fairgrounds in Winchester, Illinois will be the location of the 58th annual meeting of Illinois Rural Electric Co. The meeting will be held on July 13, 1996, which will be a Saturday, and we will have a little bit different format than previous annual meetings. Our registration will open at 8 a.m. and continue until 10:30. Our business meeting will start at 9:30 after we give away the Early Bird Award. We will go through our business meeting and will adjourn shortly after 11 a.m. We will have some entertainment after the business session and while we begin our two food lines for the noon luncheon. A pork chop lunch will be enjoyed by all of the registered members and their families. We urge you to attend our annual meeting and exercise your rights and responsibilities as a member to conduct the business of your cooperative.

KILOWATT-HOUR SALES AND COST OF SERVICE: The revenue shown on the operating statement are the result of sales of 104,685,091 kilowatt-hours. This is a slight increase in sales over 1994 when we sold 103,718,177 kilowatt-hours. Our total of connected members, at the end of 1995, was 9,890, compared to the end of 1994 when we had 9,671. This is an increase of 219 members. We purchased 115,983,485 kilowatt-hours from Soyland Power Cooperative, our power supplier, at a cost of \$8,248,750. This is down from 1994 by \$56,587. The cost of power is our most significant expense of our total operating expenses. We spend about 66 percent of our revenue dollar for power costs. All other expenses associated with providing electric service were down about 2 percent over 1994, amounting to \$79,334. If we look at all of the fixed costs, which are taxes, interest, depreciation, and power costs, they make up about 81 percent of the total cost. This means that we control about 19 percent of our total operating costs and we can assure you that we will

continue to look for ways to make further cuts in costs without jeopardizing the reliability of service. Looking again at the operating statement, if we subtract the total revenues from the total expense, we have a total operating margin from electric sales of \$303,238. In addition, we have margins from our other operations in our Member Service Department and our Direct Broadcast Satellite business that adds and subtracts to the total margins, making our total margins for the year of \$434,664.

SUBSIDIARY BUSINESSES: Illinois Rural Telecommunications Cooperative and Illinois Rural Member Service Department help to diversify our business and provide more service to our members. Our Direct Broadcast Satellite business has continued to grow in terms of selling equipment and programming services. We now have around 2,000 subscribers to our satellite service in our six-county franchised area. During 1995 we have been able to secure plenty of equipment to install and the programming continues to expand. This service offers cable television service along with movie channels and pay-per-view movies and sporting events. Future services will include farm data, meter reading services and Internet computer services. The future is almost unlimited. We hope you will be a subscriber.

Our Member Service Department continues to offer a complete line of major appliances. We service all appliances, and we do complete home and farmstead wiring, including grain storage and handling equipment. We maintain a store at 15 South Walnut Street, where we sell wiring materials to members as a service. This includes anything that you would need beyond the metering point. Remember, Illinois Rural Electric Co. maintains and constructs the facilities up to the metering point and our Member Service

Department will provide wiring services beyond this point.

NEW CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE: In 1995 we continued to expand and maintain our distribution system. We were still cleaning up some of the services that were devastated in the 1993 flood. Under a contractual agreement we will also be testing a number of poles that were subjected to the 1993 flood. Our construction crews installed 197 new services on our system and revamped 153 existing services to increase capacity. A total of 11,693 services are part of our electric network, which consists of 2,843 miles of line in parts of nine counties. We have an average density of about 3 1/2 customers for each mile of line constructed. During our normal course of business in 1995 we installed an additional 123 new security lights, which makes a total of 3,150 rental security lights on our system. We were fortunate in 1995 not to have major ice or wind storms. Most of our maintenance was on an ordinary replacement basis. We replaced about 1,178 poles on our system in 1995.

During 1995 we completed a four year engineering work plan. In 1996 we will be implementing this work plan, which will continue for four years. This work plan calls for new line extensions, upgrading and reconducturing of older lines to maintain good continuity of service and capacity of the system. It also calls for replacement of special equipment, such as meters, transformers, oil circuit reclosers and regulators. We anticipate continued growth in our area. Some of this growth depends on power supply and rates.

POWER SUPPLY AND RATES: We buy our wholesale power from Soyland Power Cooperative through a long-term wholesale power contract. Soyland, in turn, has some of its own generating capacity and purchases power from Central Illinois Public Service Company and Illinois Power on long-

term contracts. This gives us a stable power supply, but because of the costs associated with the Clinton Nuclear Plant, this supply of power is a high cost to the Soyland members. We are currently trying to renegotiate our current supply contracts with our suppliers, and we are also trying to restructure the Soyland debt associated with the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant. These efforts are intended to get the cost of power down and thus be able to have lower retail rates to our member-consumers. Our other efforts to lower power costs include our load management and marketing programs.

LOAD MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING: Our load management system is a means of monitoring our total substation loads and switching off certain equipment to reduce the system peak demand which, in turn, reduces the demand charges on our Soyland Power bill. By controlling water heaters, air conditioners and irrigation systems by a radio control switch, we are able to cut the overall demand during the on-peak period from June 15 to Sept. 15 each year. In addition, a number of small power accounts are on our off-peak industrial rate. These accounts voluntarily shut down during a peak period. For these customers, this meant that we controlled about three times for a four-hour period in 1995. In the case of water heaters and air conditioners, the customer could not tell that we had their equipment switched off. We have been promoting off peak rates for water heaters, air conditioners, irrigation rigs, large power and subdivision developments.

Just as important as controlling the on-peak loads is the selling of off-peak kilowatt-hours during the winter months. During the off-peak season, the more kilowatt-hours sold, the lower the cost per kilowatt hour and this savings is passed on to you through lower rates. We are continuing to promote



William Griswold
President



Robert E. Gant
Manager

Report to Members

(Continued from page 3)

System:GT, the ground source heat pumps, through cash rebates. This energy-efficient heating and cooling system will save the homeowner money both on the efficiency of the equipment and also through our special electric heat rate for those kilowatt-hours. Cooperative members may also purchase energy efficient electric water heaters, with a radio control switch, at a subsidized price. All of these tools will be needed to lower rates to be competitive in the electric industry in the future.

ELECTRIC UTILITY

INDUSTRY'S Future: The electric utility industry is gearing up for deregulation of the industry over the next several years. We believe that most transmission facilities will become a common carrier of electric energy. Large electric loads in THREE TO FIVE MEGAWATTS will be able to purchase their power from the source they want at a lower cost. Like deregulation in the airline and telephone business, it will mean extreme change. At this time, no one knows how the restructured utility business will look, but we must be ready to make sure that new regulations will

be fair to the rural farm and residential customer. We must make sure that the right to serve new loads in our service territory is maintained. We must also make sure that the quality of electric service does not deteriorate because of deregulation. We want to ensure that we are a player in this deregulation process as the legislature passes laws that control the electric utility business. In Illinois, it seems that deregulation will be coming in the next four to five years. We must be ready to compete in this electric marketplace. You may be assured that your board of directors will continue to monitor the changes in this industry and make the necessary changes to assure that you will continue to have the quality of electric service you depend upon.

We could not provide the dependable service without our dedicated board of directors and employees. In 1995 we had another good financial year of providing service to our member owners of Illinois Rural Electric Co. Again, I want to praise our employees for another good year of a job well done on behalf of the members and directors of this organization. I hope to see all of you at the 1996 annual meeting of Illinois Rural Electric Co.

*Registration opens at 8:00 a.m.
and closes at 10:30 a.m.*

HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE

The annual meeting of members of Illinois Rural Electric Co. was held at the Scott County 4-H Association Grounds at the north edge of Winchester, Illinois, on July 12, 1995, at 9:30 a.m. Central Daylight Time. William Griswold, President, acted as the Chairman of the meeting and John T. Early, Secretary, acted as the Secretary of the meeting.

Chairman William Griswold called the meeting to order and welcomed the members present thanking them for their attendance.

The Chairman called upon the Secretary, John T. Early, to report upon the registration of members, both present, in person and represented by proxy, to determine if there existed a quorum for the meeting. Secretary Early reported that a quorum was present. The Chairman declared the meeting duly convened and he asked the Secretary to read the notice of the meeting. The Secretary then read the notice of the meeting and the proof of mailing of the notice to the members. The Chairman directed that a copy of the notice of the meeting and of the proof of the mailing of that notice be annexed to the minutes of this meeting.

The Chairman next asked for a motion to approve the agenda as set forth in the meeting booklet as the agenda for the meeting. This motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously by the members. Likewise, upon request by the Chairman, the membership upon motion duly made and seconded, approved Roberts Rules of Order as the rules of the meeting and the cooperative's attorney, Robert Bonjean, as parliamentarian of the meeting.

The Chairman then called upon Attorney Bonjean to present the minutes from the last meeting for approval by the membership. Attorney Bonjean asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes in light of the fact that they were printed in the annual meeting booklet. Whereupon a motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, that motion was duly seconded and approved

unanimously. Attorney Bonjean then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as mailed to the membership. After hearing none Attorney Bonjean asked for a motion to approve the minutes as mailed and such a motion was duly made, seconded and approved unanimously approving the minutes of the 1994 Annual Meeting of Members as mailed.

The Chairman, William Griswold, then presented his annual President's Report to the members. President Griswold began his report by introducing the members of the board of directors. He commented upon the changes in the near future as we approach the year 2000. President Griswold then reviewed the role played by electricity in our lives today. He also described in general the cooperatives electric system with its lines and substations. President Griswold reported to the members on changes in federal programs and federal initiatives to involve cooperatives in rural water, waste water and economic development projects. President Griswold ended his report by commenting upon the importance and the benefits provided by the DBS television system.

The Chairman then introduced the Treasure, Robert Brown, who gave his annual report. Mr. Brown reviewed and commented upon the auditor's statement as a part of the financial reports of the cooperative. He then reviewed the balance sheet and commented upon various line items in that balance sheet. Likewise, the Treasurer reviewed the statement of operations and commented upon line items in that statement. He also commented upon the amount of long term debt of the cooperative. He went on to review the graphs in the annual meeting booklet illustrating how the cooperative spent each dollar. There being no questions from the membership, the Treasurer concluded his report.

The Chairman then introduced Robert E. Gant, General Manager of the cooperative. Mr. Gant gave his annual report to the members. In that report he

(Continued on page 6)

*Minutes of
Regular
Annual
Meeting of
Members
Illinois Rural
Electric Co.
Held on
July 12, 1995*

Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 5)

commented upon the theme of the annual meeting which was "Lighting the Path Beyond 2000." Mr. Gant reviewed and commented to the members on the Direct Broadcast System which provides satellite television service to members of the cooperative. Mr. Gant then reviewed and commented on the finances of the cooperative specifically detailing the sales, cost of power and the margin of the cooperative for the past year. Mr. Gant told the members that there was a new record of 3,000 security lights in his review of construction projects for the past year. Mr. Gant reported to the members on the attempts by the cooperative power supplier, Soyland Power, to refinance and lower its debt with the federal government. He then commented upon the load management and SCADA equipment and the benefits provided to the cooperative by these projects. The Manager ended his report by reviewing the mission statement of the cooperative and by thanking the cooperative's employees for their efforts on behalf of the cooperative.

The Chairman then called upon Attorney Bonjean who informed the members that the cooperative by-laws require the members to approve and ratify the action and deeds of the officers and board of directors for the preceding year. Attorney Bonjean asked for a motion to ratify and approve the acts and deeds of the board of directors during the past fiscal year, such motion duly made, seconded and approved unanimously to ratify and approve the actions and deeds of the board of directors for the 1994 fiscal year.

The Chairman then asked Attorney Bonjean to make the nominating report to the members. Attorney Bonjean reported that the nominating committee selected nominees for directors in Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8. The nominees are as follows: Ronald Myers for District 2; J.M. Sapp for District 4; Robert A. Brown for District 6; and Michael A. Painter for District 8.

The Chairman then called upon Attorney Bonjean to conduct the election of directors. Attorney Bonjean first described the nomination process which included nomination either by committee or by petition. There were no nominations by petition. The Attorney then called for a vote for director for District 2, at which time Ronald Myers was elected director for District 2. The Attorney next called for a vote for director for District 4, at which time J.M. Sapp was elected director for District 4. The Attorney called for a vote for director for District 6, at which time Robert A. Brown was elected director for District 6. Then, the Attorney called for a vote for director for District 8, at which time Michael A. Painter was elected director for District 8.

The Chairman next called upon Mr. Mark Martin, Director of Member and Public Relations to report on the 1995 Youth To Washington tour. Mr. Martin described to the members the Youth To Washington tour competition and announced the winners of the contest. The two winners of that competition were Susan Kirchner of Chapin, Illinois, and Emily Bergschneider of Franklin, Illinois.

The Chairman then asked for any unfinished business that might come before the annual meeting. There was no unfinished business.

The Chairman then asked for any new business that might come before the annual meeting. There was no new business.

The Chairman then stated that a motion would be in order to adjourn the meeting, at which time there was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was so adjourned.

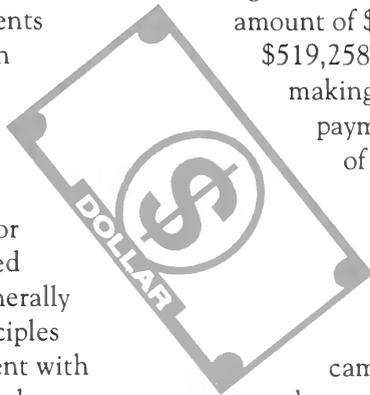
Secretary

ATTEST:

President

The report of our auditors, Clifton, Gunderson & Co., for the year 1995 states that the balance sheet and related statement of operations shown on this report presents fairly the financial position of the Illinois Rural Electric Co. on Dec. 31, 1995, and the results of the cooperative's operations for the 12-month period ended are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

You will note from the statement of operations on the following pages that the cooperative's operating margin for the year was \$273,261 with a non-operating margin of \$144,613. This



combined total resulted in a net margin of \$417,874 for the year.

In addition to the interest on our long-term debt paid in 1995 in the amount of \$803,471, we paid \$519,258 on principal when due, making a total debt service payment during the year 1995 of \$1,322,729. Funds to meet the debt service payments, in addition to current interest charges included in the operating expenses, came from the net margins for the year and from depreciation reserves. Through the year 1995, Illinois Rural Electric Co. has assigned capital credits to the member-consumers in the total amount of \$6,471,188.



Robert A. Brown

Treasurer's report

Real estate	\$ 11,948
Invested capital.....	58,698
U.S. unemployment	3,624
State unemployment.....	3,011
S.S. employer's share	163,026
Sales tax — state and local.....	17,008
State energy tax	<u>350,393</u>
	\$ 607,708

As of Jan. 1, 1996

Principal amount borrowed	\$28,692,346
Principal repayments to date	14,024,995
Net obligation as of Jan. 1, 1996	14,667,351
Amount of unadvanced loan funds as of Jan. 1, 1996	-0-

In addition to the above principal repayments up to Jan. 1, 1996, your cooperative has paid REA and CFC \$14,571,017 in interest on its loans.

Taxes paid 1995

Statement of long-term obligation

Your neighbors serving
as your
cooperative's directors



Ronald K. Myers
Assistant Treasurer
Griggsville



Glenn Pulliam
New Canton



J.M. Sapp
Pleasant Hill



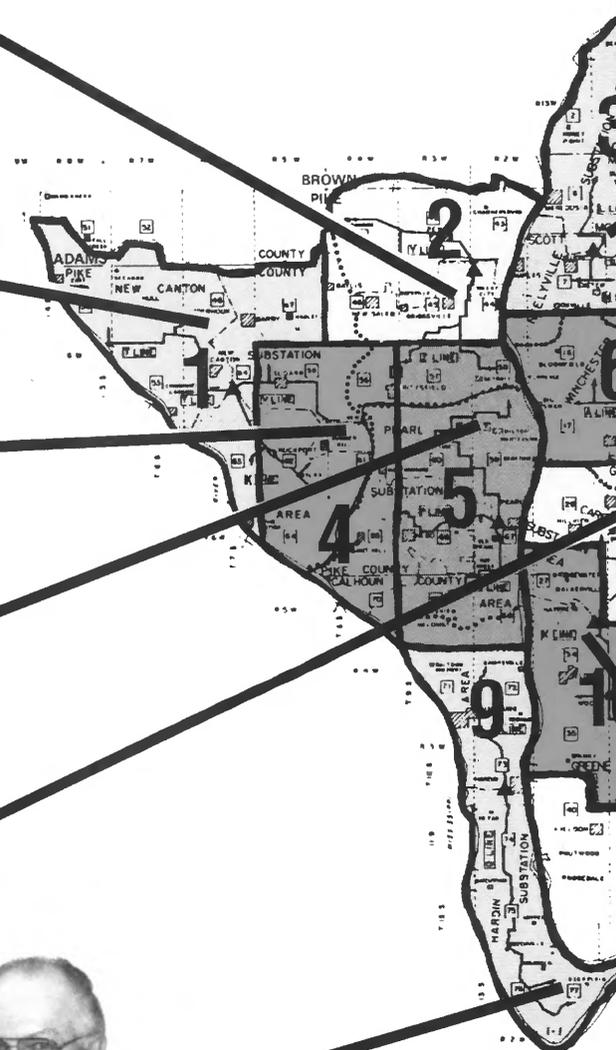
Jeral A. Miller
Vice President
Milton



Thomas D. Meehan III
Secretary
White Hall



Francis J. Toppmeyer
Golden Eagle



Director districts will have elections at the following Annual Meeting dates:

- 1996 Annual Meeting — Districts 1, 3 and 7
- 1997 Annual Meeting — Districts 5, 9, 10 and 11
- 1998 Annual Meeting — Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8



Robert E. Gant
General Manager
Winchester



Merton L. Pond
Bluffs



F. Alan Heaton
Assistant Secretary
Murrayville



Robert V. Bonjean, Jr.
Attorney
Jacksonville



Robert A. Brown
Treasurer
Winchester

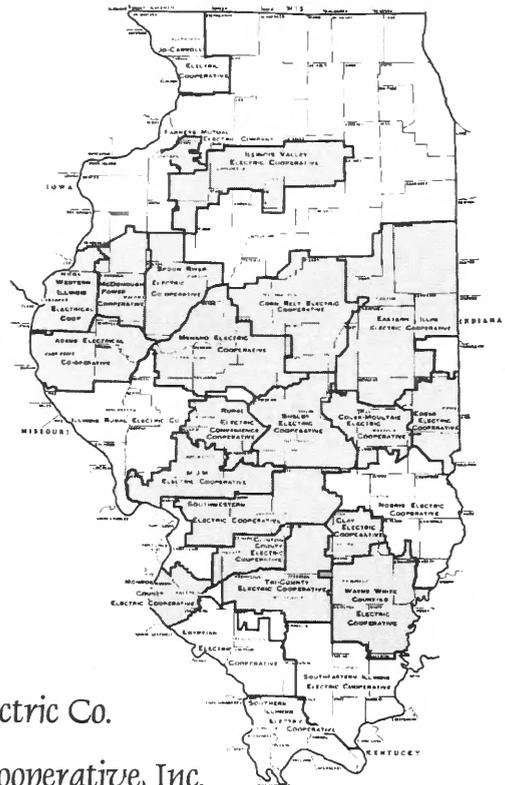


William Griswold
President
Rockbridge



Thomas H. Camerer
Eldred

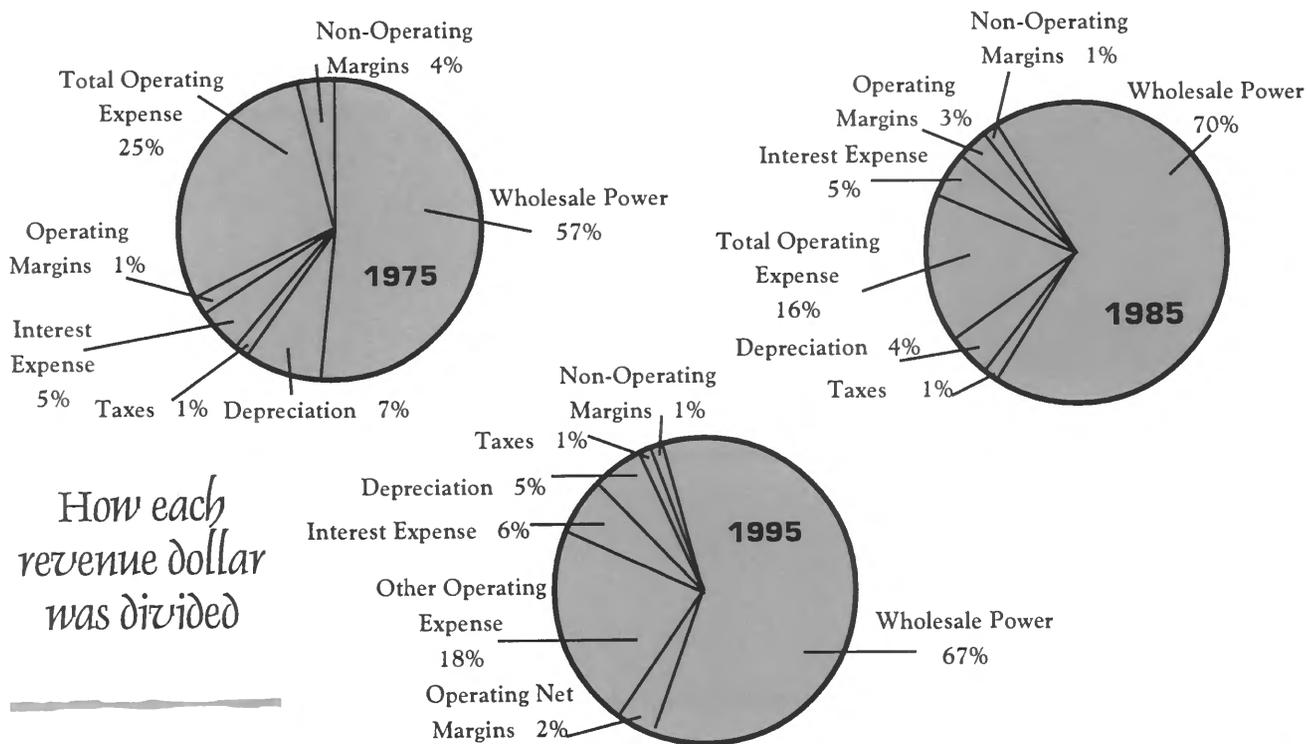
- Illinois Rural Electric Co.
- Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc.



As of Dec. 31, 1995

Statement of operations

Operating revenue	\$ 12,440,745
Operating expenses	
Cost of power purchased	\$8,337,375
Distribution:	
Operations	\$ 409,733
Maintenance	<u>551,695</u>
Member accounts	310,202
Sales expense	196,655
Administrative and general	767,055
Provisions for depreciation — net	631,998
Property, payroll and other taxes	<u>179,859</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>\$ 11,384,572</u>
Operating margin before interest	\$ 1,056,173
Interest on long-term debt	758,570
Operating margin	\$ 297,603
Non-operating margin	
Interest	\$ 68,985
Other income — net	10,223
IRTC	<5,479>
Gain on sale of transportation equipment	11,709
Total non-operating margin	\$ 85,438
Capital Credits	<u>34,833</u>
Net margins	<u>\$ 417,874</u>



As of Dec. 31, 1995

Assets

Utility plant

In service	\$27,133,293	
Construction work in progress	<u>165,215</u>	<u>\$27,298,508</u>
Less: allowances for depreciation		<u>8,195,558</u>
Utility plant — net		\$19,102,950
Total other assets & investments		\$ 2,152,888

Balance
sheet

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents		\$ 124,093
Accounts receivable:		
Member, less allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 1,186,729	
Others, less allowance for doubtful accounts	<u>365,435</u>	\$ 1,552,164
Interest receivable		12,288
Inventories:		
Materials and supplies	492,051	
Merchandise	<u>129,365</u>	\$ 621,416
Prepaid expenses and other		2,986
Short term investments		350,000
Total current assets		\$ 2,662,947

Deferred charges		<u>102,348</u>
Total assets		<u>\$24,021,133</u>

Equities, and liabilities

Equities

Memberships	\$ 145,127	
Patronage capital	6,471,188	
Other equities	<u>622,119</u>	
Total equities		\$ 7,238,434

Long-term debt		\$14,152,297
-----------------------------	--	---------------------

Current liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 904,154	
Member deposits	55,459	
Accrued expenses	343,032	
Deferred revenue	744,778	
Current maturities of long-term debt	<u>559,585</u>	
Total current liabilities		\$ 2,607,008

Deferred credits	\$ <u>23,394</u>	
------------------------	------------------	--

Total equities and liabilities		<u>\$24,021,133</u>
---	--	----------------------------

Services
offered
by the
Member
Service
Department

- Complete line of Hotpoint, Maytag, Admiral, and GE appliances.
- A. O. Smith electric water heaters. \$125.00 plus tax, delivered. (Installation available).
- All kinds of home and farmstead wiring.
- Computer sizing of WaterFurnace heating, central air conditioning and water heating systems.
- Installation and repair of underground wiring.
- Repairs on all major appliances.
- Electric baseboard heat installations.
- Recommendation of proper insulation and ventilation.
- All service calls in our service area include 30 minutes of work and "no mileage charge." \$25.00 for one man service call, \$35.00 for two man service call. After first 30 minutes, \$20.00 per hour per man.
- Complete electric installation for grain drying and grain feed handling equipment.
- Over-the-counter sales of wiring equipment to IREC members.
- Special sale on all major appliances at our annual meeting.
- Financing available to qualified members.

1995 length of
service and
safety awards



Length of Service — hire date

<i>5 years</i>		<i>30 years</i>	
James Bigelow	11/1/90	Clayton DeHart	7/1/66
Ronald K. Coultas	9/10/90	Gary Furniss	7/5/66
Danny Smith	4/1/91	Robert E. Gant	6/13/66
		Charles W. Jefferson	5/23/66
		Russell D. Neff	3/1/66
<i>10 years</i>			
Robert Brown, Director	4/28/86		
<i>15 years</i>			
Randall Long	1/1/81		
David Roth	9/15/80		
Ronnie Stice	11/17/80		
<i>20 years</i>			
Dwight Ala	2/1/76		
Sandra Smith	8/5/75		
Dennis Taylor	11/24/75		

Safety

<i>1st award</i>	
Danny Smith	5 years
<i>3rd award</i>	
Ronnie Stice	15 years
Sandra Smith	20 years
Dennis Taylor	20 years

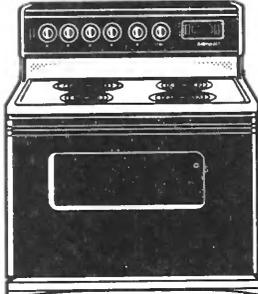
The territory served by the cooperative shall be divided into director districts. Each district shall be represented by one director with the districts described as follows:

<u>Director District</u>	<u>Townships</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Director Districts</u>
1.	Hadley, Kinderhook, Cincinnati, Barry, Levee, Pleasant Vale, and part of Atlas Parts of Fall Creek and Payson	Pike Adams	
2.	Fairmont, Perry, Chambersburg, Flint, New Salem and Griggsville Parts of Buckhorn, Elkhorn and Versailles	Pike Brown	
3.	Hagener, Arenzville and Beardstown Exeter-Bluffs and Merritt T.16, R.13; T.16, R.12 and T.15, R.12	Cass Scott Morgan	
4.	Derry, Pittsfield, Atlas, Martinsburg, Ross and Pleasant Hill, Belleview	Pike Calhoun	
5.	Newberg, Detroit, Hardin, Montezuma, Pearl and Spring Creek Carlin and E. Belleview	Pike Calhoun	
6.	Alsey, Winchester, Manchester, Bloomfield and Glasgow T.15, R.11; T.14, R.11 and T.14, R.11	Scott Morgan	
7.	T.15, R.10; T.15, R.9; T.14, R.10; T.14, R.9; T.13, R.10 and T.13, R.9	Morgan	
8.	White Hall, Patterson, Roodhouse and Athensville	Greene	
9.	Calhoun, Hamburg, Crater Hardin, Gilead, Richwood and Point	Calhoun	
10.	Northern Jersey Co. Walkerville, Bluff Dale, Carrollton, Woodville and West Kane	Jersey Greene	
11.	Wrights, Rubicon, Linder, Rockbridge and East Kane Parts of Barr and Western Mound	Greene Macoupin	

Notwithstanding the foregoing director district descriptions, every three years the board of directors, not less than ninety (90) days prior to the earliest date on which the annual member meeting may be scheduled by these bylaws to be held, shall review the districts and, if the board determines that they should be altered so as to correct any substantially inequitable factors regarding the residence of members, or the geographic location of districts, and/or the number of directors to be elected from such districts accordingly, in which event all districts as so changed shall be noticed with specificity in writing to the members not later than five (5) days prior to the date on which the committee on nominations for the annual meeting shall first convene. After such notice, these bylaws shall have been effectively amended accordingly until at least after the succeeding annual member meeting; PROVIDED, that no such change shall be made by the board as to compel the vacancy of any director's office prior to the time such director's term would normally expire unless such director consents thereto in writing.

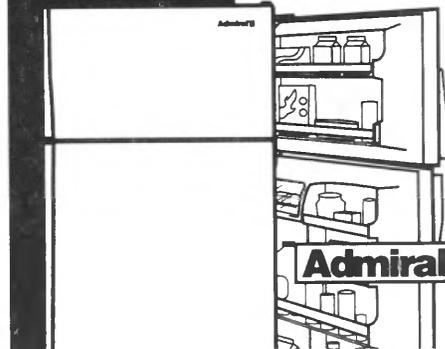
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES ON SALE

- Extra-large 4.0 cu. ft. oven
- Easy-clean cooktop



Admiral

REFRIGERATORS



- 18.6 cu. ft. capacity
- Adjustable glass shelves
- Gallon-wide door shelves
- Humidity-controlled crispers
- Meat drawer
- Adjustable freezer shelf

Get "More For Less" on Maytag Washers & Dryers!



ON SALE

Consumer Rated #1*

MAYTAG WASHER
MODEL LAT9804

- Lasts longer than any other brand
- Heavy Duty, Super Capacity

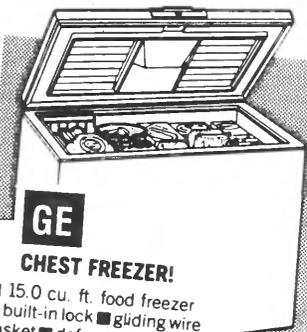
MAYTAG DRYER
MODEL LDE9804

- Commercially proven
 - Heavy Duty, Super Capacity
- * Based on consumer brand preference surveys

EVERY MAYTAG IS ON SALE!

Register for a \$150 gift certificate toward the purchase of an Admiral or Maytag appliance.

- Must be present to win
- Good for 30 days
- Non-transferrable



GE

CHEST FREEZER!

- 15.0 cu. ft. food freezer
- built-in lock ■ gliding wire basket ■ defrost water drain
- adjustable temperature control ■ textured lid.

JETCLEAN™ DISHWASHERS

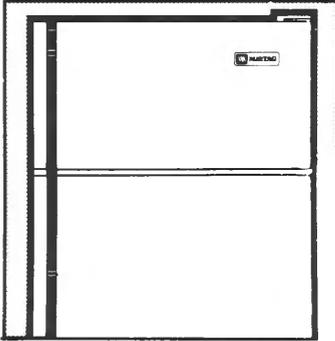


MAYTAG

- No pre-washing
- Unsurpassed capacity

Illinois Rural Electric Co. also sells GE/Hotpoint products.

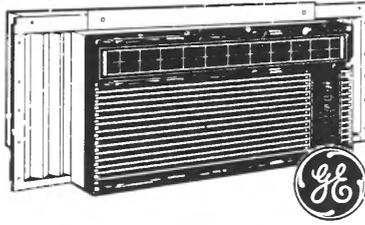
**DEPENDABILITY TESTED
REFRIGERATORS**



- Strong Box™ door hinges
- No-Break™ bins
- High impact liner

**10
YEARS**
**FREE
PARTS & LABOR***

*ask for details



Model ASV08AA

**HI-EFFICIENCY
ROOM AIR CONDITIONER**

- Hi-efficiency, 9.0 EER.
- 8,000 BTU cooling, 115 volts, 7.9 amps.
- 2 cooling/2 fan speeds.
- 8-position thermostat.
- Easy mount window installation.
- Easy-to-clean slide-out filter.



**MAYTAG
StyleLine™ RANGES**

- Easy-clean upswept top
- Large capacity oven

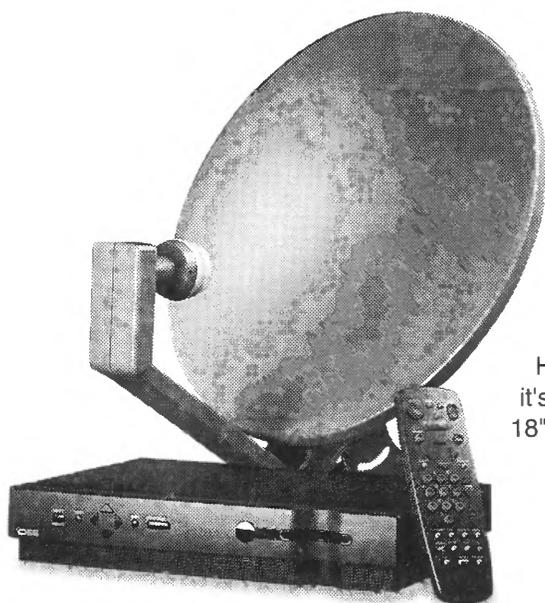
*Cool prices
on GE and Fedders air conditioners
Also, sales prices on
all major appliances.*

**For Co-op Members Only
Early Bird Award
Electric Grill**

ANNUAL MEETING DAY

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1996

DIRECTV. *Satellite TV* **at its best.**



Hey,
it's only
18" wide.

WITH DIRECTV® YOU GET:

- Up to 175 channels with digital quality picture & sound.
- More cable channels than any other mini-dish system.
- Over 55 different pay per view movies every night.
- Up to 13 NFL games every Sunday during the regular season.
- More NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball and NCAA games than you'll find on any other mini-dish system.
- 31 exclusive commercial-free music channels.
- An interactive on-screen program guide.
- The only mini-dish system you can own. Financing is available to qualified applicants.



Illinois Rural Telecommunication, Co.

2-12 South Main
Winchester, IL 62694
217-742-9581

940 West Morton
Jacksonville, IL 62650
217-245-7097 or 1-800-713-4782

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

Statement of
Non-
discrimination

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

NOTE: Under the bylaws, no person may vote as proxy for more than three members and the presence of a member at the meeting revokes a proxy heretofore given.

IMPORTANT: EXPLANATION OF PROXIES: We are hoping every member of our Cooperative will be able to come to the annual meeting. If you cannot come, be sure to sign your proxy and give it to a member who is coming, so he can vote for you. The proxy form is shown below; date your proxy, sign it, and give it to a member. No person may vote more than three proxies.

Voting of
proxy



Proxy

As a member of the Illinois Rural Electric Co., an Illinois Corporation, I, the Undersigned, hereby appoint

my proxy to vote in my stead at the meeting of the members to be held at Winchester, Illinois on July 13, 1996.

I realize that it is my duty as a member of this Cooperative to take an active interest in its affairs and to exercise my voting privilege in person. However, as I find it impossible to attend the meeting in person, I have carefully considered the business, which to my knowledge is to be acted upon, have discussed it with my neighbors who are also members, and have decided to give my proxy to the person named above, who is a member in his own right and who has agreed to vote this proxy on all matters as he honestly believes I would vote if I were present. I hereby ratify and confirm my proxy's vote in my stead.

Witness my hand and seal this _____ day of _____, 1996.

(Signature of Member Giving Proxy)

Important notice
Telephone Numbers to Call in Case of Service Interruption
from Illinois Rural Electric Co.

Effective July 13, 1996 ■ Destroy Your Old Card

*Keep
these
numbers
handy*

<i>Serviceman</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Clayton DeHart	Barry	335-2973
Craig Long	Bluffs	754-3534
David Gant	Carrollton	942-9222
Lynn Rimbey	Greenfield	368-3258
Jamie Killday	Griggsville	833-2756
Perry Moore	Hardin	618/576-2441
Herb Long	Milton	723-4425
Randy Long	Murrayville	673-6921
Larry Weder	Winchester	742-9291

In case you are unable to contact a serviceman in your area, try the next nearest one or you may call the following person *except* during regular office hours.

Donald L. Long Winchester 217/742-5667

Call our office in Winchester during office hours. Phone toll free **1-800-HOT-IREC** or **217/742-3128**. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Office will be closed Saturdays, Sunday and legal holidays.

At times other than our regular hours, you may call Soyland Power Cooperative Plant, Pearl Station at Pearl, Illinois. Phone Area Code 217/829-4291.



High Line News

217-742-3128

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

by Robert E. Gant

Member responsibilities, rights and advantages

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

If you receive your electric service from an electric cooperative, you should know:

- You are a member of the cooperative and as a member you are legally part-owner of it.
- You have a right to attend your annual members' meeting and to vote on co-op directors.
- You have a responsibility to keep up with developments affecting your cooperative.
- Your cooperative was established by local activists at a time when existing utilities refused or neglected to serve the area where you live now.
- Most electric cooperatives have received loans from the federal government to build and extend their systems. Some subsidy is involved, but this is not unique in the utility business. All types of electric utilities, including the investor-owned utilities (IOU) and municipally owned utilities, benefit in one way or another. In fact, studies show that federal subsidies to electric cooperatives are not as large as those to the IOUs and municipal utilities.

Why do I receive ICL magazine?

Electric cooperatives began publishing periodicals such as this in the 1940s to communicate with their members when the cooperatives were being attacked in extensive advertising and publicity cam-

paigns. Today, distorted and otherwise inaccurate information is still a problem and the attacks by our competition continue today.

Your electric cooperative relies on the ICL magazine not only to relay information about your business, but also to encourage you to use electricity wisely and safely. Promoting electrical safety can help save the lives of cooperative members and can save money.

Promoting wise use of energy can benefit you in a number of ways, including these:

- Helping shave electricity use during peak periods of the day or season. Lowering peak demand helps hold the line on everyone's rates. We at Illinois Rural Electric Co. and participating members will be doing that by using load management controls on electric water heaters, and central air conditioners.
- Helping our members make informed decisions in purchasing new, efficient technology, such as the geothermal heat pump and the air source heat pump. These two comfort conditioning systems operate three to four times more efficiently than the highest efficiency fossil fuel furnace. Both systems can do this because instead of burning a fuel to make heat, they simply move existing heat from one place to another. The ground source heat pump moves heat from the earth, where the temperature is a constant 50 degrees year round, into your home. The air source heat pump moves heat molecules from the air into your home.

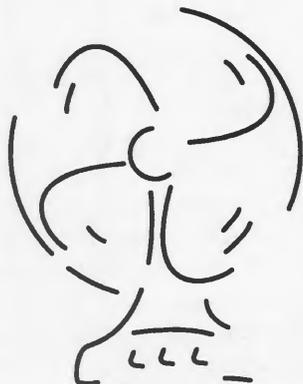
When something comes up, IREC won't let you down

Wind, rain, summer or winter storms are just a few things that can cause damage and interrupt your electric service. Our professional and experienced crews are trained to put things back in order as fast as possible. As your locally owned electric cooperative, we take pride in serving our members. Our commitment to you and our community is to never let you down, no matter what. In fact, all members of the co-op staff—from linemen to receptionists and manager—are there to assist you. So when trouble pops up, so do we. It's all part of being a co-op. And we wouldn't have it any other way!



Three students representing Illinois Rural Electric Co., Winchester, recently took in a full week of experiences around the nation's capital. Among the highlights of the 1996 "Youth to Washington" Tour was a meeting with their congressman. The students, who met Congressman Richard Durbin on Capitol Hill, were among 70 rural youth leaders and their chaperones from downstate Illinois who toured Washington, D.C., June 14-21. A special treat for the group was a visit to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. The annual trip is sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois. From left are Dave Eberlin of Brussels, Christine Cox of Hull, Congressman Durbin, and Brandy Rees of Franklin. The trip's agenda included stops at many of the capital's monuments and memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian museums, the National Cathedral, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the U.S. Supreme Court: The group also attended a performance at Ford's Theater and cruised on the Potomac River. The tour began with a visit to the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg, PA.

'Fan' tastic Ideas for Summer



That good old stand-by, the electric fan, can help you save money on air conditioning.

Whole House Fans

In the cool of the night when temperatures are at or below 82 degrees, whole house fans can be the ticket to savings of up to 50 percent of your cooling costs. Exhaust the warm, stale air by putting one in your attic (if you have good attic ventilation), or the central hall or stairway.

Ceiling Fans

A ceiling fan can help too. By moving air, the effect of evaporation makes you feel more comfortable at warmer temperatures. And, it only uses about the same amount of electricity it takes to light a 15-watt light bulb.

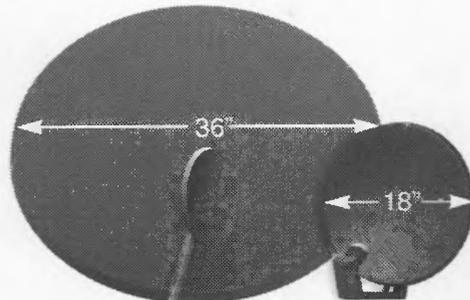
Window and Exhaust Fans

In an open area, window fans are very effective, or use your fan for exhausting moist air from the bathroom or kitchen.

Portable Fans

Place a portable fan facing away from your window air conditioning unit to help spread the cool air around. The fan helps move cool air into other rooms and down hallways. Just as hot air rises, cool air sinks to the floor, so put the portable fan on the floor for best results.

The Real Dish on Satellite TV.



How They Stack Up

PRIMESTAR DIRECTV®
/DSS

Up to 175 channels with superior digital picture & sound quality	No	Yes
18" mini-satellite dish you get to own	No	Yes
Up to 13 NFL games every Sunday with NFL SUNDAY TICKET™ this regular season	No	Yes
Season packages to NBA, NHL and MLB with over 2,400 games	No	Yes
700 NCAA college basketball games including most games from some of the top teams	No	Yes
Over 55 different pay per view movies a night	No	Yes
Over 18 regional sports networks including Midwest Sports Channel, PrimeSports, MSG & SportsChannel	No	Yes
31 audio music channels	No	Yes
Interactive on-screen guide	No	Yes
Up to 18 premium channels including HBO & Showtime Multiplex Channels from USSB	No	Yes
Majority owned by America's largest cable companies	Yes	No

There you have it. DIRECTV—the only real choice in satellite TV. The most cable channels, the most movies, and the most sports of any mini-dish system. So visit us today for a hands-on demonstration.



Illinois Rural Telecommunication Co.

2-12 South Main
Winchester, IL 62694
217-742-9581

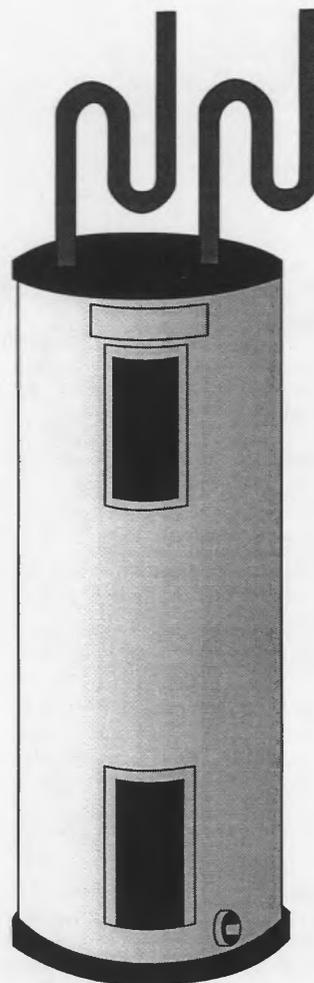
940 West Morton
Jacksonville, IL 62650
1-800-713-4782 217-245-7097

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

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES—ASK FOR DIRECTV.

Call Illinois Rural Electric Today And Get A FREE 52-Gallon Electric Water Heater!

Would you like to replace your old gas water heater? Are you building a new home? Call IREC today and get set up with a FREE 52-gallon electric water heater and participate in our special Choose and Save Program!* The Choose and Save Program gives you our best electric water heating rate and five years of maintenance on elements and thermostats. Enjoy the clean, safe, efficient comfort of an electric water heater with an efficient price!



Illinois Rural Electric Co.
2-12 South Main
Winchester, IL 62694
217-742-3128 or 1-800-HOT-IREC

*Restrictions Apply. The special program includes the 52-gallon electric water heater only, a 5-year minimum usage at a location served by IREC, 1 per residence, must participate in the Choose and Save Program, and must be installed within 30 days. Installation available at member's expense (including plumbing, electrical work, and disposal of the heater being replaced). If self-installed, an IREC employee will check the installation. Ten year warranty on water heater tank and five-year warranty on all other parts. Offer expires December 31, 1996.



217-742-3128

High Line News

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

by Robert E. Gant

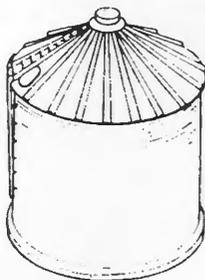
Grain handling rate still available

Sept. 1, 1996, will mark the beginning of the seventh harvest season that this special grain handling rate has been offered.

During the months of September, October, November and December, farmers with grain bins may qualify for the 6 cent/kwh rate to dry, maintain and move their grain on the farm. This rate applies to all kilowatt-hours used over your base usage. Individual base usage figures can be obtained by calling the office.

If you have signed up for this rate in the past, you don't need to reapply. If you have not participated in this program before, a phone call is all it takes.

We feel this incentive rate has been beneficial to both the members and the cooperative. Once again, the rate will be available for four months during the harvest season, but it will not be available this spring. If you want to sign up for this rate or want to find out what



your base usage is or just have questions about this program, call the office in Winchester at 1-800-HOT-IREC

Is your crop dryer ready?

Don't wait till you start harvesting to find out if your crop dryer is going to operate properly. Take a few minutes now and run through the following checklist. It may save you hours or even days of harvest delay.

- 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.
- Check for worn bearings, pulleys, gear boxes, belts, shafts, etc. Pay particular attention to excess play in motor bearings. Bad bearings can ruin a motor.
- Lubricate all equipment before you start it. If you are not sure of where to lubricate or what type of lubrication to use, consult your equipment dealer.
- Test it. 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 properly.
- If you have added motors, it would be a good idea to check with the Engineering Department of Illinois Rural Electric Co. to make sure the electrical service is adequate to handle the additional load.
- Don't forget to check over any fossil fuel-fired equipment used in conjunction with the dryer.

Illinois Rural Electric Co. Mission Statement

To provide, market and maintain quality electric service and other services which meet the needs and expectations of all members and enhances the welfare and economic development of the cooperative's service area at the lowest rates that will ensure the financial soundness of the cooperative.



The men who were reelected to the IREC Board of Directors at the cooperative's 58th annual meeting are congratulated by Robert E. Gant, manager. From left are Alan Heaton of Murrayville, Merton Pond of Bluffs, Glen Pulliam of New Canton and Gant. The meeting was held Saturday, July 13.

Lower rates soon, IREC members told

Members of Illinois Rural Electric Co. (IREC) heard good news from William Griswold, board president and Robert E. Gant, general manager at their 58th annual meeting, July 13 at the Scott County 4-H Fairgrounds. IREC will be returning \$88,378 in capital credit refunds to members who had service in 1965. Best of all for today's IREC members, Griswold and Gant said rates will be going down.

Wholesale electric rates from IREC's supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, will be reduced as steps are taken to drastically lower the cost of debt service associated with the Clinton nuclear plant. Griswold said, "Serving as your director on the Soyland board, I can say that I am more optimistic that a final solution is nearer than at anytime in the past 10 years.

"During that period, Soyland's debt was restructured two times. The restructuring of the debt was a help, but it did not solve the non-competitive rate structure required by the 21 cooperatives to meet Soyland's financial needs. I am thrilled to report that two weeks ago Soyland and RUS, formerly REA, reached a tentative agreement that would reduce the debt load of Soyland.

"This agreement will allow Soyland to reduce its debt load by nearly 75 percent. The fine points are being completed at this time. Hopefully, once

again I say, hopefully, an agreement will be signed, subject to financing the new debt, within the next few weeks during the month of August."

Griswold also said that IREC will be restructuring the local distribution cooperatives operations. "We must monitor our cost while providing these additional services for our members. Right now we are in the process of completing a best practices study of Illinois Rural Electric Company. We believe that this study will assist the board and staff in restructuring of Illinois Rural Electric. We will need to make changes to meet the service needs of our member owners. The board is committed to the policy of serving all of the members' needs in the most competitive way possible. We are truly a Main Street business, not Wall Street," Griswold said.

Robert A. Brown gave the treasurer's report and highlighted some of the financial information printed in the annual report. Manager Gant explained how capital credits were paid in the past, and that with another good financial year, capital credits for the year of 1965 could be paid out in 1996. "We will soon be sending out confirmation letters to those customers, so be watching for your capital credit letter in 1996," Gant said.

Gant also reported another good year of growth for IREC's satellite TV subsidiary business. He

said, "We now have over 2,000 subscribers in our six-county area who are enjoying a crisp clear picture of the best of cable programming. There are also over 75 channels of movies available. There are special interest programs. My favorites are the Travel Channel, the History Channel and The Discovery Channel. There is a channel with 24 hours of weather. And soon coming to DBS, is the Farm Data Network. I know a lot of farmers out here are interested in the Farm Data Network. Another thing that will be of interest to people is there will be Internet services offered for those that have computers in their home."

Gant also said now is a good time to purchase equipment for DIRECTTV®. Equipment prices are going down as new equipment manufacturers enter into the market place. "Our entry level unit which was \$699 is now \$399." Gant explained the DBS business provides an exciting service to members and also helps diversify the electric business.

Finally Gant talked about the coming of deregulation to the electric utility industry. He said it will be an exciting time, but that customers must understand the electric business and become more educated. "When you have a right to choose, you can also choose wrong. As the industry goes through deregulation, we want to continue to provide your local needs for service."

Nineteen employees and directors were recog-

nized for length of service and safety. Thirty year service awards were given to Clayton DeHart, Gary Furniss, Robert E. Gant, Charles W. Jefferson and Russell D. Neff. Twenty year service awards were given to Dwight Ala, Sandra Smith and Dennis Taylor. Fifteen year service awards were given to Randall Long, David Roth and Ronnie Stice. Robert Brown received a 10 year service award. Five year service awards went to James Bigelow, Ronald K. Coultas and Danny Smith. Ronnie Stice, Sandra Smith and Dennis Taylor also received their third safety award. Danny Smith received his first safety award.

During the business session, members re-elected three members to the board of directors. They were Glen Pulliam of New Canton, Merton L. Pond of Bluffs and F. Alan Heaton of Murrayville. Following the members' meeting, the board met in reorganizational session and reelected William Griswold, of Rockbridge president, Jeral A. Miller of Milton vice-president, F. Alan Heaton of Murrayville, secretary, Robert A. Brown of Winchester, treasurer, J. M. Sapp of Pleasant Hill, assistant secretary and Ronald K. Myers of Griggsville, assistant treasurer.

Illinois Rural Electric Co. serves 9,890 members in Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Pike and Scott counties.



IREC directors and employees who were recognized for years of service to the cooperative are pictured above. Front row from left are: Ronald Coultas, Randall Long, Danny Smith, James Bigelow, Ronnie Stice, Dennis Taylor and David Roth. Back row from left are: Robert Brown, Robert E. Gant, Russell Neff, Dwight Ala, Gary Furniss, Clayton DeHart, Charles W. Jefferson and Sandra Smith.

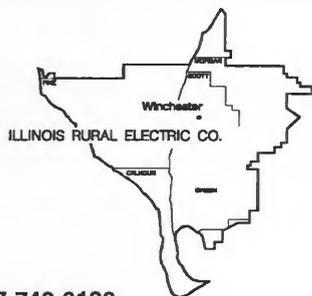
Peace of mind. *No extra cost.*



DSS® and Family Viewing

With DIRECTV®, our 175 fully-digital channels of the very best television entertainment comes with something extra...peace of mind. The Digital Satellite System features the very latest parental control technology. That means you can block out programming based on channel, rating or content, so you can feel secure knowing that when you're not at home, your family can only view the programming you allow. To learn more about DIRECTV family programming and dozens of other comforting features, call or stop in today.

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High Line News

217-742-3128

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

by Robert E. Gant

A local business means local service

In the rush to change the way we buy electricity a lot of big corporate utility companies are merging with other big companies. Those mergers are moving these companies further and further away from their customers. However, your locally owned electric cooperative utility is different. The hard-working men and women at your local electric co-op—from the line crews, who maintain the system, to your locally elected board of directors—remain fully committed to maintaining the high level of quality local service you've come to expect over the years.

Newspapers across the country report how big corporate utility companies are closing customer offices and putting their phones on forward, sending their customer's service calls halfway across the country. If you've got a service problem, how can you expect a utility employee in another state, hundreds of miles away, to be as responsive as a local person? At your local electric cooperative, we don't believe you can.

One big corporate utility company in North Carolina, for example, has its customer calls answered by operators in Florida. Earlier this year a big power company in the northwest United States closed most of its local service offices, cutting its customers off from direct personal contact with the utility. Your electric cooperative knows personal contact is one of the most important ways

we can maintain good service and consumer satisfaction.

Why are the other companies pulling back from local community service? Quite simply, to cut costs and to allow them to increase the profits they pay investors. That priority gets in the way of focusing on their customers. Those of us at your electric cooperative believe that is a misplaced priority. Our number one priority and focus is you—our local consumer-owner.

You've no doubt heard something by now about the growing movement to change the way the electric utility industry operates in the United States. Words like deregulation and retail wheeling are becoming more commonplace.

That change is challenging and exciting for those of us on the front lines of that effort. Because of our local focus, we are fighting to make sure that you're treated fairly by those in government charged with determining how the industry will look in the future. We will fight very hard to make sure that families and small business owners don't end up with an unfair deal that benefits only large industrial electric users.

Some proposals have already promised "big" savings for everyone. A closer look at these preliminary ideas reveals that many of these promises will be impossible to keep. Change will be difficult in an industry as closely regulated as ours has been in the past. That doesn't mean we shouldn't move forward. It only means that we should not let ourselves be blinded by "snake oil" salesmen out to make big profits for their big Wall Street friends.

Your local electric co-op is in the fight to change the electric utility industry to make sure you get a better deal—a deal that includes maintaining local reliable service.

In that fight, we've got a clear picture of what our first priorities are—you and your local community.





\$199*

(with annual subscription)

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Only \$199 for a standard DSS System!
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- 200 Crystal-clear digital channels
- over 55 different hit movies every night
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Hurry in today!

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*Limited time offer for new DIRECTV residential subscribers. Customer must maintain a continuous total choice subscription for 12 months. If customer does not do so, customer will be responsible for the full amount due. One per household. Price does not apply to receivers. Price & programming available in Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan, Pike and Scott counties only. This offer cannot be combined with any other special offer. Activation at time of purchase.

Start winterizing your home now

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

Heating systems and humidifiers

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

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

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

Plumbing and water heaters

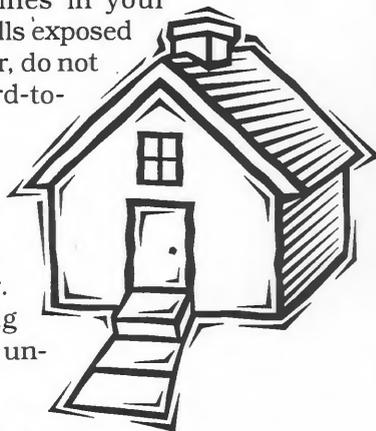
Locate your main water shut-off valves and know how to use them.

Turn off any water lines going to outside faucets

and drain the pipes to prevent winter freeze up.

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

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



"Snow Birds"

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

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

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

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

Call the Illinois Rural Electric Co. office for more winterizing tips.

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

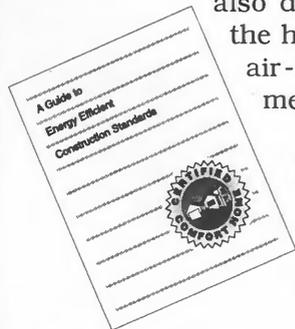
Guide to Energy Efficient Construction Standards

That's the name of the book that is now available to IREC members who might be building a new home. It gives tips for construction standards for walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors. It also discusses moisture control in the home, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems and domestic hot water.

The intent of the book is to provide the new home builder with some alternatives to conventional construction methods that are designed to make the home more energy

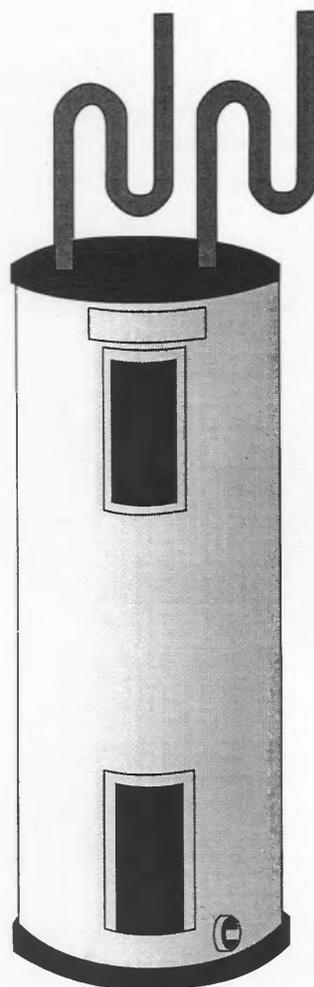
efficient. In many cases, these alternative methods add little or nothing to the cost of building the home, but they can significantly reduce energy consumption once the home is built. For example, by making sure there is adequate insulation and that it is properly installed, you can reduce air infiltration, which helps lower heating and cooling costs.

These construction-standard guides are available to IREC members at no charge. So if you are considering building a house, you really should look at this book. A little time well spent now could mean a lot of savings in your pocket later.



Call Illinois Rural Electric Today And Get A FREE 52-Gallon Electric Water Heater!

Would you like to replace your old gas water heater? Are you building a new home? Call IREC today and get set up with a FREE 52-gallon electric water heater and participate in our special Choose and Save Program!* The Choose and Save Program gives you our best electric water heating rate and five years of maintenance on elements and thermostats. Enjoy the clean, safe, efficient comfort of an electric water heater with an efficient price!



**Illinois Rural Electric Co.
2-12 South Main
Winchester, IL 62694
217-742-3128 or 1-800-HOT-IREC**

*Restrictions Apply. The special program includes the 52-gallon electric water heater only, a 5-year minimum usage at a location served by IREC, 1 per residence, must participate in the Choose and Save Program, and must be installed within 30 days. Installation available at member's expense (including plumbing, electrical work, and disposal of the heater being replaced). If self-installed, an IREC employee will check the installation. Ten year warranty on water heater tank and five-year warranty on all other parts. Offer expires December 31, 1996.



High Line News

217-742-3128

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

by Robert E. Gant

Soyland completes debt buy out

Soyland Power Cooperative has achieved a major breakthrough in its long struggle to restructure its long term debt and lower the cost of wholesale power for its 21 distribution cooperative members, including Illinois Rural Electric Co. (IREC). The end result will be stable retail rates for IREC members.

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

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

We credit the support of Congressman Dick Durbin and other members of the Illinois congressional delegation for breaking a deadlock in Soyland-RUS negotiations. "We were basically at a standstill in our RUS negotiations when our congressional leaders went to Springfield to convene

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

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

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

Soyland's debt load climbed rapidly in the late 1970s and early 1980s after cooperative leaders decided to purchase a share of the nuclear Clinton Power Station. That decision was made by good people with good intentions and the RUS, then known as the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), encouraged Illinois cooperatives to join in the Clinton project as the lowest cost source of bulk power at a time when electricity use was climbing rapidly. No one could have anticipated that the Clinton plant would cost 10 times original estimates after the federal government and anti-nuclear activists began their attacks on nuclear projects within the electric utility industry.

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

(Continued on page 12c)

Applicants for IEC Memorial Scholarship sought

A scholarship program to financially assist students among electric cooperative members is seeking applicants for the 1997 awards. Illinois Rural Electric Co. 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 purpose is to help the children of electric cooperative members and provide a means to honor deceased rural electric leaders through memorial gifts, says Robert E. Gant, general manager. "As a vital part of their community, the electric cooperatives want to make a difference in the lives of local young people. This is one way we do that."

The recipients are selected according to grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.

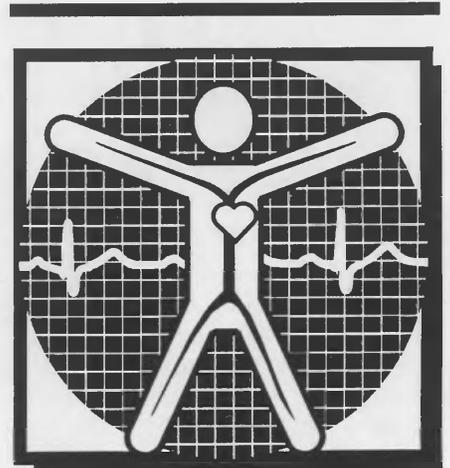
Information on the IEC Memorial Scholarships is available through Illinois Rural Electric Co. or the counselors of the local high schools.

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

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

Your cooperative needs to know the names and locations of cooperative members who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of members who are on life-support equipment, 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 fill out the form below and mail to us as quickly as possible, or call us at 1-800-HOT-IREC.



Name _____

Phone no. _____

Address _____

Location no. _____ Account no. _____

Type of support equipment _____

Days of use _____ Time of use _____

Name of doctor _____

Address _____

Do you have an emergency stand-by generator to operate this equipment?

Yes No

**Mail this to: Illinois Rural Electric Co., ATTN: Engineering
Department, 2-12 South Main, Winchester, IL 62694**

Are you planning to go away this winter?

If you are planning to head to a warmer climate this winter such as Arizona, California, or Florida, please make arrangements for payment of your electric bill. You can call, stop by or drop us a note to notify us that you will be gone and how long you plan to stay.

While you are away, payment of your electric bill can be handled in various ways. You can make a pre-payment, or arrangements can be made with

a friend or relative to pay your bill for you. If you know the address of where you will be staying, we can mail your bill to you.

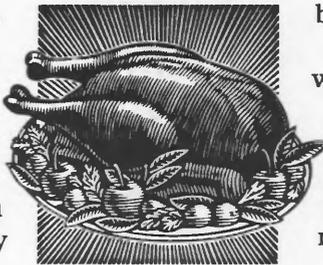
In any case, we would like to know how to get in touch with you or whomever is taking care of your farm or home while you are away. If there is an emergency or problem with service while you are gone, it would be a big help to know how to contact you.

Turkey time!

Family, friends, home gatherings and, of course, good eats—all the ingredients for a grand Thanksgiving celebration.

But, there's some hard work involved to make the big day a success. So, here are some tips to help you reach your goals and use energy wisely too:

- Turn the oven on just before you use it. Pre-heating is not necessary for most foods.
- Do not open the oven door to peek too often



because you'll lose valuable heat.

- Open the refrigerator door only when necessary; and when you do, shut it as quickly as possible.
- Match the size of the pan to the heating element; more heat will get to the pan, and less will be lost to the surrounding air.

And, finally, take a little break to think about some of the things that you're thankful for. After all, that's what Thanksgiving is really all about!



Don't forget to vote on Nov. 5th.

Our office will be closed on

Monday, Nov. 11, in observance of **Veterans Day** and

Thursday, Nov. 28, in observance of **Thanksgiving**.



Soyland

(Continued from page 12a)

generation and transmission cooperative in the nation.

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

riod.

Firlit said many Illinois cooperative leaders contributed to the successful completion of negotiations with RUS and with Illinova. "Our negotiating teams, our board of directors and the leadership of our Illinois congressional delegation all helped to make RUS understand our problems and to realize we had to have some debt relief," Firlit said. He especially thanked IREC representatives Bill Griswold and Jeral Miller for their service on the Soyland board of directors. "They are making a valuable contribution," he concluded.

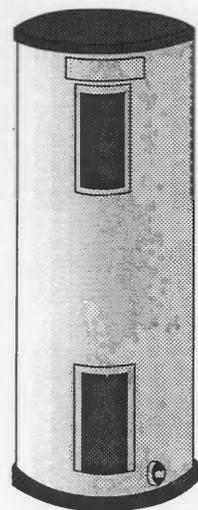
How can we help you?

We have water heaters

Since 1986, we have been selling high-quality, energy-efficient electric water heaters to our members for only \$125.00 plus tax. And that price includes delivery. We have 40, 50 and 80 gallon heaters available at the same price. Even special-order heaters are the same price. All tanks have a

10-year leakage warranty and, when a Choose and Save switch is installed with the heater, there is a 5-year warranty on the elements and thermostats.

But wait...there's more. From now through the end of the year, if you replace your gas water heater with an electric one, or install an electric water heater where none existed before (such as a new house), we will **give** you a 50-gallon water heater. Certain restrictions apply but this is certainly a program worth checking out.



Installation is available with both of these programs. If you want your water heater expertly installed, but you're not able to do it yourself, we can do the job. The cost to you would be for labor and any materials needed to connect the heater.

Finally, one more mention about the Choose and Save program. This money-saving program allows IREC to install a radio-controlled switch on the water heater so we can temporarily interrupt the service to the heater during the peak demands for electricity. This program helps keep the cost of power down. In return for helping to do that, you will receive the best electric water heating rate that IREC offers. Plus, as mentioned before, you will get a 5-year warranty on your elements and thermostats, no matter how old your

water heater is.

We want you to have a clean, safe, efficient electric water heater in your home. Call the Member Service Department and have us deliver one.

Geothermal rebates available

It's not too late to install a geothermal heating and cooling system and get some money back. From now until the end of the year, you could receive \$1,099.00 for installing this type of system. That's \$599.00 from Soyland Power (offer expires 12/31/96) and \$500.00 from IREC.

As you may know, the geothermal system is the most energy-efficient heating and cooling system on the market today. And it becomes even more efficient when you use it to help supply your domestic hot water needs.

If you're building a new home or if you need to replace your existing heating/cooling system, give the Member Service Department a call. They would be glad to talk to you about geothermal and can even conduct a free energy audit so they can size a system that's right for your home.

All-electric winter rate begins Nov. 1

And now to tie the previous two articles together. Having an electric water heater and an electric heating and cooling system is a big step toward having an all-electric home. Most of the other appliances in your home are probably already electric. When all of the appliances in your home are electric, you become eligible for the all-electric rate. In the winter, that rate can get to as low as 4 1/2 cent per kWh. That means you can heat your home cleanly, safely and economically with electricity. And the Choose and Save program can help lower your cooling costs, also. Call us at 1-800-HOT-IREC. As a member, you're a part owner, so its your business.

Meter Treater[®] for sale

If you have been thinking about what you can do to provide your home with some surge protection, you should talk to the Member Service Department about installing a Meter Treater[®]. The Meter Treater[®] fits right in the meter socket and helps provide surge protection to the service on the member's side of the meter.

While there are no guarantees against lightning strikes, the Meter Treater[®] helps protect your equipment from surges that might come across

IREC lines. And it comes with one plug-in type surge suppressor to help protect an appliance in the home.

The price for this whole-house protector is \$157.75 plus tax. Like other types of insurance, you hope you never have to use it, but if this works one time, it will have paid for itself.

Call the Member Service Department about a Meter Treater[®].



High Line News

217-742-3128

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC CO.

WINCHESTER, ILLINOIS



Across the Manager's Desk

by Robert E. Gant

Need help with winter heat bills?

Members who could use help paying their electric bills this winter should know that we once again have some programs in place to give income-eligible households some assistance with their winter energy bills.

The primary program available to our members is LIHEAP, or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. LIHEAP began six years ago with state and federal funding. Assistance is based on the number of people in your household and your gross income. To see if your household qualifies, please refer to the income eligibility chart that accompanies this article.

LIHEAP is coordinated by several organizations in the IREC service area. The areas served by each of these agencies, addresses and phone numbers accompany this story. If the income

chart shows you are eligible for assistance under LIHEAP, you should contact the agency that serves your geographic area to apply.

The guidelines for the 1996-97 LIHEAP program are as follows:

1. Grants are being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis as long as the funding holds out. You should apply immediately.

2. To apply, you will need Social Security cards for each member of your household and proof of income (check stubs, unemployment records or employer verification). If you are on welfare, please take your green card. Also, take your current energy bill, if paid directly, or your current rent receipt if energy costs are included in your rent. An overdue bill or cut-off notice is not required.

More details on the LIHEAP program are available from the coordinating agencies, or call Illinois Rural Electric Co. at 1-800-HOT-IREC.

Income Eligibility:

Family Size	30-day Income
1	\$ 806
2	1,079
3	1,352
4	1,625
5	1,898
6	2,171
7	2,444
8	2,717

County	Office Locations	Phone
Adams	Two Rivers Regional Council Franklin Sq., Quincy	217-224-8171
Brown	Two Rivers Regional Council Mt. Sterling	217-773-2422
Calhoun	Ill. Valley Econ. Dev. Corp. P.O. Box 553 Hardin	618-576-2218
Cass	MCS Jacksonville, Beardstown	217-243-9404
Greene	Ill. Valley Econ. Dev. Corp. Courthouse Carrollton	217-942-6824
Jersey	Ill. Valley Econ. Dev. Corp. Courthouse Jerseyville	618-498-3210
Macoupin	Ill. Valley Econ. Dev. Corp. Gillespie	217-839-4431
Morgan	MCS 345 E. State Jacksonville	217-243-9404
Pike	Two Rivers Regional Council Pittsfield	217-285-5424
Scott	MCS Jacksonville, Winchester	217-243-9404

Merry Christmas

*from the directors and employees
of Illinois Rural Electric Co. and
Illinois Rural Telecommunications Co.*



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Services offered by the Member Service Department

- Complete line of Maytag, Admiral, Hotpoint and GE appliances.
- A. O. Smith electric water heaters. \$125 plus tax, delivered. (Installation available).
- All kinds of home and farmstead wiring.
- Computer sizing of WaterFurnace heating, central air conditioning and water heating systems.
- Installation and repair of underground wiring.
- Repairs on all major appliances.
- Electric baseboard heat installations.
- Recommendation of proper insulation and ventilation.
- All service calls in our service area include 30 minutes of work and no mileage charge. \$25 for one-man service call, \$35 for two-man service call. After first 30 minutes, \$20 per hour per man.
- Complete electric installation for grain drying and grain and feed handling equipment.
- Over-the-counter sales of wiring equipment to IREC members.
- Special sale on all major appliances at our annual meeting.
- Financing available to qualified members.

Applicants for IEC Memorial Scholarship sought

A scholarship program to financially assist students among electric cooperative members is seeking applicants for the 1997 awards. Illinois Rural Electric Co. 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.** The program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

"The fund's purpose is to help the children of electric cooperative members and provide a means to honor deceased rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," says Robert E. Gant, general manager. "As a vital part of their community, the electric cooperatives want to make a difference in the lives of local young people. This is one way we do that."

The recipients are selected according to grade-point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.

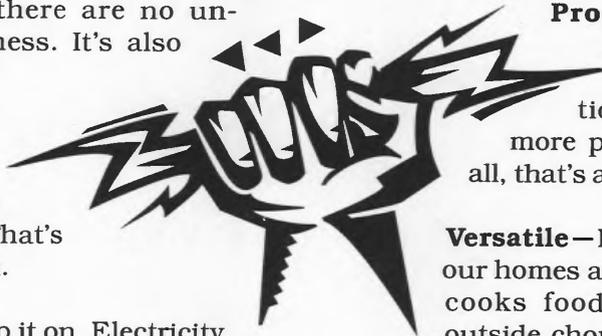
Information on the IEC Memorial Scholarships is available through Illinois Rural Electric Co. or the counselors of the local high schools.

Electricity: The all-around good choice!

Clean—With electricity there are no unpleasant odors and no mess. It's also clean for the environment.

Safe—Electricity requires no fire and releases no toxic fumes in the air that you breathe. That's safer and healthier for you.

Convenient—Plug it in, flip it on. Electricity is there when and where you need it. Electricity helps make your life a little more comfortable. Because it is so convenient, it's easy to take electricity somewhat for granted.



Productive—Electricity has played a major role in making farming operations and other businesses more productive—efficiently. Overall, that's a good thing for the economy.

Versatile—Electricity heats and cools our homes and businesses, heats water, cooks food, helps with inside and outside chores and even entertains.

Good value—When you think about everything electricity does for you, it's a little more clear that electricity is a good value. For cents a day, it operates all your major appliances.

Holiday office closing

The offices of Illinois Rural Electric Co. will be closed Wed., Dec. 25 for Christmas Day and Wed., Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

Happy holidays!



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Encore 2-Love Stories
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Encore 4-Mysteries
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Encore 6-True/Drama
Encore 7-Wam (for youth)
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Fox News Channel
Fox Sports Channel
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