

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc., Elizabeth, Illinois — (815) 858-3311

MANAGER'S REPORT by Connie M. Shireman



Shireman

Capital credit return

The Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative board of directors voted in October to return capital credits totaling \$130,063.20 to members who received electric service from the cooperative in 1972.

Capital credit returns are a cornerstone of a non-profit, member-owned electric cooperative in that the members have an opportunity to share equally in the success of the cooperative, based on patronage. If an electric cooperative has any excess after paying expenses in a given year, this money, or margins, is held in an escrow account until the time when the cooperative's board deems that the financial condition of the cooperative is strong enough to return the margins to the membership.

Richard Reusch, president of the Jo-Carroll board, said, "We are very pleased to be able to retire the patronage capital from 1972 at this time. The Jo-Carroll board is striving to keep the cooperative in a strong financial position while allowing the members to share in the success of their electric cooperative." The amount each of the members spent for electricity at Jo-Carroll in 1972 is used to determine how much each member will receive. Very careful records are kept with regard to patronage capital to assure that each member is treated equally based on the amount of electricity they used during those years.

Jo-Carroll has retired \$1,351,893.56 to date in patronage capital. The checks were mailed to the members during the first part of December.

The capital credits return constitutes a major difference between cooperatives and investor-owned utilities. The stockholders in an investor-owned utility get the profit, and in a cooperative it is returned to the members of the cooperative in the form of capital credits.

Safety rules

While you are outside working, keep the following safety rules in mind.

- Keep ladders, especially metal ladders, away from all electric lines.
- Disconnect the circuit you're working on at the main panel.
- Never use electric tools outside in the rain or on wet surfaces.
- Make sure the extension cord you are using is of adequate size for the electrical load placed on it, is grounded and the plugs are of the three-prong variety.
- Do not use any outdoor extension cord that is frayed or cracked or has been spliced. Replace it.
- Place a lightning arrester on your radio and TV antennas. Antennas should be grounded and that ground should be bonded to the electrical ground.
- With the Christmas decorating season coming up don't overload the circuit that serves the outside outlet. Install another circuit if in doubt. Make this the safest winter ever.

Northern Natural Gas installs energy efficient motors

When the Northern Natural Gas Plant near the Menominee Road in Jo-Davies County needed to replace two 15 horsepower electric motors, they chose to install high efficiency motors. The purchase price of the motors was higher than that of standard efficiency, but due to the savings realized by reducing the amount of electricity used, the overall operational cost through the life of the motors will be far less.

That sounds like a pretty good deal for Northern, but how does Jo-Carroll your member-owned electric supplier, feel about them spending more to use less of our product?

As a matter of fact, we liked it well enough to give them a cash rebate for buying the high efficiency units, and if it seems like the Cooperative is spending good money to have someone use less, that is correct.

Because of the load management programs in place, Dairyland Power, Jo-Carroll's power supplier, recently began offering cash rebates for the installation of energy efficient motors, air conditioners, and lighting systems. Since 1982 the Cooperative has offered special low rates and rebates for off-peak electric heating systems. Last year we began to provide free electric water heaters for our members.

All these efforts are designed to lower the amount of electricity used during the coldest winter evenings between 5 and 9 p.m., which will in turn lower the amount of money we have to pay for peak power. This in turn will lower or at least hold down the amount that Jo-Carroll has to charge all its members in rates.

The savings are accomplished by actually turning off electrical devices with a radio-controlled load management system, or having members manually turn off electrical devices during the peak times.

Any and all of Jo-Carroll's members can help out with the peak demand reduction effort:

- Members who have electric heat should be in touch with the Cooperative's marketing department to take advantage of the big savings in the dual fuel program.
- Members with electric water heaters should have a load control installed
- Members who make a purchase of an appliance or even a light bulb should consider the energy efficiency savings.
- Farm accounts should consider high efficiency motors or methods like low temperature grain drying.
- All Jo-Carroll's members can listen to WJOD or WCCI for the peak alert messages during the winter evenings and avoid any electrical use like dishwashing or clothes drying that can be put off until after 9 p.m.

The Northern Natural Gas Plant is a very interesting example of a Jo-Carroll member helping to keep down the cost of power. There are over 2,000 other interesting examples: Jo-Carroll members with radio control receivers installed. We hope you will be the next interesting example of energy management. Just call 1-800-858-5522 and ask for the marketing department.

"Snow Birds"

If you plan to be gone for the winter, consider draining your water system and shutting the water off to your home.

Unplug any large appliances not in use.

Set your thermostat at a setting that will prevent freeze-up.

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

For more peace of mind, install an Enviro-Watch system (see page 12c for information on this Jo-Carroll Electric program.)

Call Jo-Carroll Electric for more winterizing tips.

By reviewing your winterization needs now, you'll be ready when Old Man Winter is knocking on your door.

As the cool mornings remind us that winter is only a few short months away, we face the lingering questions from winters past...

- Will my heating system last another winter?
- Can I afford to heat my home this year?
- Is there a way to only heat part of my home?
- How can I heat the cold rooms upstairs or in the basement?
- How can I avoid the mess of wood burning?

Dual-fuel heating can be the solution to many of these problems.

- Electricity is versatile and can heat the home or only a few rooms.
- There are no flues or stove pipes, so electric heating can be installed nearly anywhere, even beneath the floor or in the ceiling.

- With many types of electric heating it is possible to have individual thermostats for individual room-temperature control. **P.T. Broderick**

- Electric heating is a nice supplement to wood burning, since it is well suited as a backup when the wood fire dies down or when the weather is not conducive to wood burning.

- New lower rates for off-peak and dual-fuel heating make their cost even more competitive.

- Heat pumps can be the least expensive heating and cooling alternative for buildings using new technology.

- Rebates and incentives are available to help offset the cost of off-peak/dual fuel heating.

Rebates for off-peak/dual-fuel programs continue in effect for the balance of 1995.

For more information, contact Don Schleicher at 800-858-5522.

Do you worry about the loss of power or heat in your home when you are away? Do you have a second home that you can't check each day in the winter? Are you concerned about a confinement building or your grain dryer losing power? Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative can now "babysit" your home, grain dryer or confinement building when you are away.

The "Enviro-Watch" is a new product that uses advanced technology and Jo-Carroll's 800 line answering service to bring peace of mind to those who rely on knowing that the power and heat is on. If the furnace breaks down or the power goes off, you can be notified immediately.

Power outages can and will happen for many reasons, and Jo-Carroll has no way of knowing the power is off until someone calls to report the outage. The same is true of furnace failures.

The "Enviro-Watch" monitors both the power and the temperature in your home. If the power goes off or the temperature falls below 42 degrees, the unit will automatically call the Response Center's 800 number to report the condition. The Center's 24-hour operator will immediately call one of your listed contacts to correct the situation for you.

The same is true of confinement buildings or grain dryers—if there is a problem, the "Enviro-Watch" will notify you or whoever you list to be contacted.

The "Enviro-Watch" has been designed for easy installation and use. The unit plugs into a telephone jack and electrical outlet and features a test button and monitor light that allows you to verify the unit is correctly connected to the phone line.

The "Enviro-Watch" sells for \$93.75 plus tax. The fee for monitoring the unit is \$4.50 per month. The units are available at the Jo-Carroll office in Elizabeth. A notification instruction sheet and monitoring agreement will be completed when the unit is picked up.

Dual fuel is smart answer to winter cold

Enviro-Watch

Board of directors election

One of the most important aspects of a cooperative is the democratic election process that decides which of the cooperative's members will serve on the Jo-Carroll board of directors. Here is how the election process works at Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative:

Prior to the annual meeting, a special mailing is made to elect the directors for a three-year term. Only the members who receive electric service in the district may vote for the director from their district, on the basis of one vote per membership.

The nominees who will appear on the ballot are chosen by a nominating committee of Jo-Carroll members. This year's nominating committee will meet at the headquarters building January 5, 1996, to submit the names. Any members interested in becoming candidates should contact this committee. Directors are to be elected in Districts 2, 6, and 9 this year.

Members of the committee include:

DISTRICT 2:

(Incumbent: Stan Cox) Charles Bourquin, 5738 E. Dotzel Rd., Apple River; Elmer Malon, 3-A 193 General Bragg Ct., Apple River; Kenneth Sandalh, 3616 N. Broadway Rd., Apple River.

DISTRICT 6:

(Incumbent: Tom Lundy) Wayne Haas, 16536 Scenic Ridge Rd., Savanna; Larry Messmer, 18161 Illinois Rt. 84 North, Savanna.

DISTRICT 9:

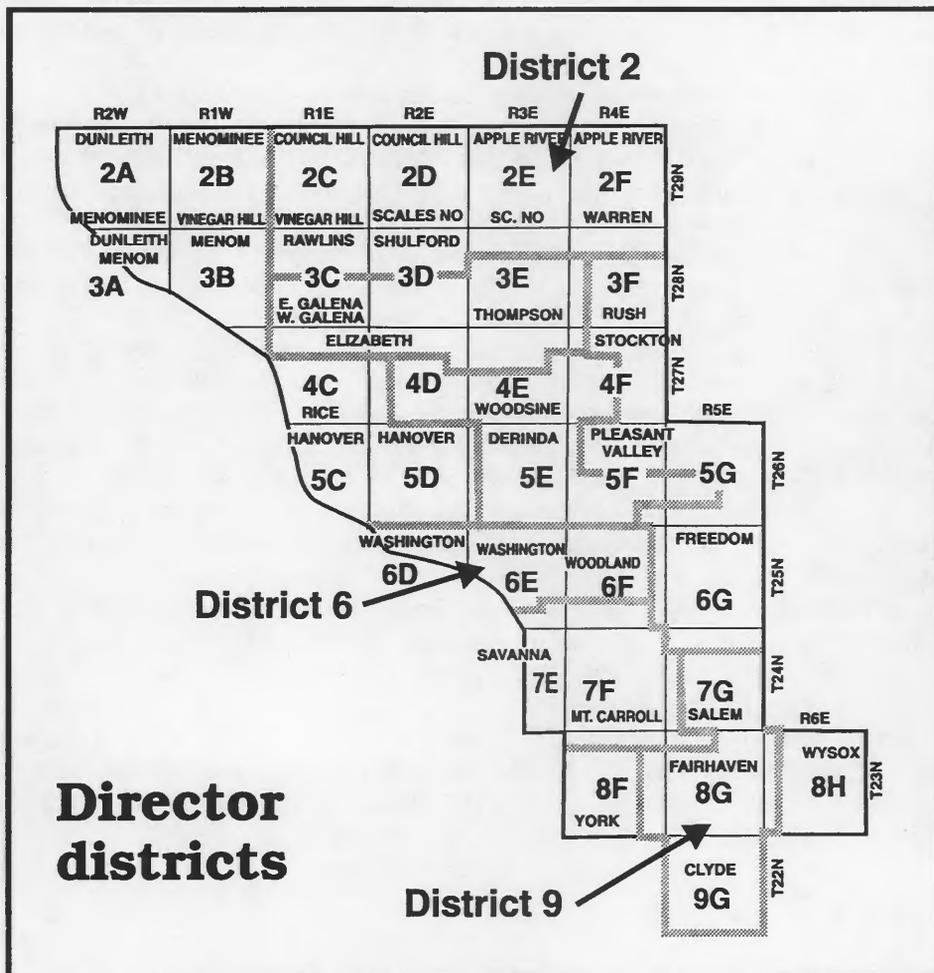
(Incumbent: Jack Janssen) Arden Anderson, 3092 School Rd., Chadwick; Gary Hartman, 1826 Demmon Rd., Chadwick; Raymond Vos, 1964 County Line Rd., Chadwick.

Office hours
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Monday through Friday

Outages and emergencies
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Reader prize

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Shireman

Jo-Carroll: YOUR cooperative

Democratic control

Cooperative control is firmly in the hands of the members, the owners. Perhaps their most significant responsibility is to elect sound thinkers and planners from their number to serve on the cooperative's board of directors. Jo-Carroll's service area is divided into nine separate parts, called districts. The members within each district elect someone from their local area for a three-year term as director. The board then establishes the general policies under which the cooperative will operate, meets regularly to determine that the manager and employees that the board engages are conforming to those policies, and arranges to report directly to the membership each year at the annual meeting. This form of member control is very similar to the American form of government. This opportunity to participate, to have something to say in the cooperative, to make decisions, is the true value of the cooperative—a clear emphasis on the importance of the individual. Jo-Carroll members even had the opportunity to decide whether to build a headquarters facility and where to build it. This type of participation in forming organizational judgments is rare in this country's standard business practice.

Open membership

Jo-Carroll provides service to anyone, for any reason. It does not discriminate. But who makes up the membership of Jo-Carroll? The 1,100 miles of electric distribution line stretches from East Dubuque to Chadwick, and our membership is quite diverse. Using a Rural Utilities Service report for 1995, the membership looks like this:

<i>Class of Service</i>	<i>No. of Meters</i>	<i>KWH used (YTD)</i>
Farm and farmhouses	845	11,896,878
Residential homes in country	2,249	22,543,866
Apple Canyon Lake	541	3,352,913
Galena territory	1,314	11,077,106
Pioneer Acres	254	2,082,435
Small commercial	335	7,894,598
Large commercial (peak alert)	3	11,992,400
	5,541	70,840,196

These figures are for the year-to-date only, and don't show two meters on the same location. Total number of meters at year end was 5840. The kilowatt-hour usage for each class will vary with the seasons, as in the fall the farms category usage will increase with the harvest drying and storage of crops, and the large commercial (peak alert) use in the winter. Residentials will increase the kilowatt-hour use during hot weather and air conditioning season. A diverse group of cooperative members joined together for the common purpose of receiving electric service, sharing in the ownership of their cooperative.

Non-profit business

Jo-Carroll has indeed a limited return on investment. In fact, we are a
(Continued on page 16d)

Symptoms and causes of stray voltage

The term "stray voltage" on dairy farms is the phrase used to describe electric current found on metal objects or wet areas in buildings that are bonded to the farm electrical neutral wire.

The causes of stray voltage are often difficult to locate and often differ from farm to farm. Stray voltage can never be totally eliminated because it is present on all active, grounded electrical distribution systems. Its intensity can vary during the day and season. However, stray voltage can be controlled so it doesn't cause a problem.

Stray voltage involves very low voltage levels, normally undetected by humans. Since cows are more sensitive, they can sometimes detect these low voltage levels. When a cow makes contact between objects, such as a feeder, waterer, stanchion, and the concrete floor, an electric current may flow through the cow and the cow could experience a mild shock.

If you think stray voltage is causing a problem, you might notice the following signs in your cows' behavior and milking characteristics.

- excessive or unusual nervousness at milking time such as kicking
- cows must be chased into the barn or parlor and leave the barn rapidly
- increased defecation and/or urination during milking
- hesitation or refusal to approach certain waterers, feeders or metallic equipment
- "lapping" of water

Milking characteristics include poor milk letdown, incomplete or uneven milkout, and increased milking time. Production performance signs include increased somatic cell count, and clinical mastitis.

The above signs may result from many other non-electrical farm factors. As a farm manager, you should investigate all possibilities, including cow handling methods, nutritional disorders, mastitis control methods, pesticide and herbicide use, sanitation, disease, the amount of water being consumed, and the quality of water.

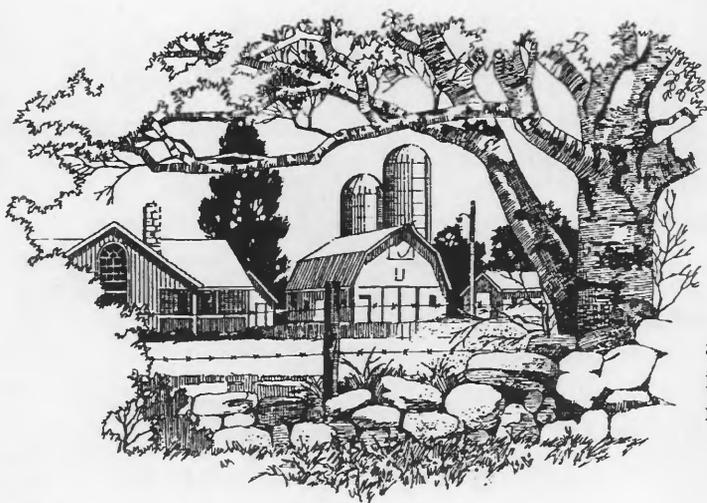
Some conditions to look for if you believe stray voltage is present include:

- loose or corroded neutral or bonding connections
- inadequately bonded metallic equipment
- Electric fence wires or faulty equipment shorting directly onto pipes or other equipment
- undersized neutral conductors
- lack of grounding or missing ground rods
- improperly grounded cow trainer or fencer unit

Caution: Be careful to shut off the power and avoid contacting energized parts of equipment while making these checks.

You can make your farm stray voltage safe by controlling on-farm conditions. Here are some suggestions:

- improve wiring and grounding
- have a qualified, trained electrician inspect your wiring regularly for poor connections and load balance
 - install stray voltage meters in each livestock facility
- maintain electrical equipment and supply wiring on all electrical equipment
- use 240-volt equipment that is properly wired whenever possible.
- make sure cow trainers and fencer units are properly insulated and grounded and used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.



Jo-Carroll Electric improves stray voltage investigations

Jo-Carroll Electric recently made improvements in stray voltage investigation by purchasing a new recording device that will detect very small amounts of electricity, and will record for over 24 hours. The unit is connected to a "lap top" computer and can record up to eight separate measurements simultaneously.

Stray voltage can be a problem for dairy farms and livestock confinement buildings. Jo-Carroll is committed to assisting its members with electrical problems, from high electric bill inquiries to power quality monitoring. Stray voltage investigation is another example of this service.

A trailer that formerly housed the underground cable fault locating equipment is being used to do the stray voltage checks. The underground cable equipment is now installed in a van for better response to power outages.

When a dairy operator suspects a stray voltage problem, the Jo-Carroll technician will set up the trailer at the farm for a few days and all the necessary data can be gathered. The specifications for the trailer come from the State of Wisconsin's "swat team" that has spent many years studying stray voltage effects and cures. Jo-Carroll personnel have been trained in stray voltage investigation by the Wisconsin experts.

If stray voltage is a concern, please contact Jo-Carroll at 800-858-5522 and we will conduct an investigation at no charge to determine if stray voltage is present.



JC lineworker Bill Boehm is shown attaching the monitoring equipment to some of the metal parts in a dairy barn. The wires run to a special computer based recorder which will detect if stray voltage is present.

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

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

Local calls — dial 858-2207

Outside Elizabeth — dial 1-800-858-2522



(Continued from
page 16a)

non-profit organization, incorporated under the Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation Act. Many other businesses are owned by shareholders, who buy stock in the companies with the intent to make money from their investment, based on the sale of their products to customers. The people who are connected to Jo-Carroll lines are not only consumers of a "product," electricity. They are also owners of the business. The terminology even differs.

As a general rule, electric cooperatives refrain from the use of the word "customer" when referring to members. In a broad sense, a "customer" is one who buys from, or patronizes, an establishment. In an electric cooperative, the members do not "buy" from the cooperative, but receive service from or are patrons of, the cooperative—and share in the costs incurred by the cooperative by their patronization.

Return of margins

The cooperative business structure is different. Rather than returning the money a business earns to an unknown investor, the co-op profits—called margins—are returned to the owners who also use the cooperative's services. Every dollar of payment by an electric cooperative member in excess of the cost of providing electric service becomes part of the capital of the cooperative.

Capital credits, margins or equity in the cooperative's system is credited to the individual member's account according to the member's total yearly patronage with the cooperative. Capital credits, then, are allocations of margins to individual members, based in direct proportion to each member's contribution to the margins realized.

In December 1995, Jo-Carroll returned margins accumulated during 1972 to those who received service during that year. The total returned was \$130,063.20. Checks were mailed directly to qualifying members during December.

Continuing education

Jo-Carroll may be guilty of not providing enough education to our members with regard to the cooperative principles, and this is an attempt to change that. Through the Illinois Country Living center pages we have focused on many topics, and we will continue to do so, but we have a responsibility to educate the new and younger members of Jo-Carroll. A new-member handbook is sent to those joining the cooperative. Increased activity with the schools and area newspapers and media is being planned to educate not only our members, but also the general public, whose opinion is also valuable.

Cooperation

The vast majority of Jo-Carroll's expense is for the purchase of wholesale power for distribution to our members. We purchase all of this power from another cooperative, Dairyland Power Cooperative. We also purchase much of the line materials such as transformers and poles from yet another cooperative, the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative. We are members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. All of these offer Jo-Carroll the benefits that all cooperatives offer their members. Also, we belong to two labor-pooling groups that can be important during emergency situations such as ice storms or tornadoes. In the event of a natural disaster, these cooperative groups will provide assistance in the form of men and materials, at cost, until the emergency is over.

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Your annual meeting

Your member-owned, member-controlled electric cooperative will conduct two of the most important events in the cooperative's year during the next few weeks.

The first event, one that is very significant in that it firmly places democratic control of your rural electric system in the hands of its member-owners, is the director elections. This year the directors representing Districts 2, 6, and 9 will be up for election, and the nominating committees met at the cooperative headquarters on Jan. 9, and selected the following candidates for election:

District 2-- Stanley Cox, 4693 N. Broadway, Apple River, IL 61001
Bruce Strohacker, 4941 N. Scout Camp Rd., Apple River, IL 61001

District 6-- Thomas Lundy, 17861 Airhart Rd., Savanna, IL 61074
Paul Hertensen, 4991 N. Zion Rd., Savanna, IL 61074

District 9-- John Janssen, 19776 Fairhaven Rd., Chadwick, IL 61014
Leland Forth, 1043 Adolph Rd., Chadwick, IL 61014
Robert Kappes, 4131 Black Oak Rd., Chadwick, IL 61014

Reminder:
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The election for directors from these districts will be conducted through the mail. Only members who reside in the districts in which elections are being held this year will receive ballots. Members in those districts should carefully review the material they will receive in the mail and promptly return their completed ballots to Jo-Carroll Electric.

The second upcoming important event, perhaps the most important of the year, is the 57th Annual Meeting of Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative members. This meeting is scheduled to be held March 16, at the River Ridge High School Gymnasium in Elizabeth. As in the past we will feature reports of directors, officers and the manager of your cooperative. Musical entertainment, a box lunch and attendance prizes will be provided to all Jo-Carroll members who attend. Entertainment will be provided by Willie & Company, a ventriloquist act (see photo on page 16d). More details about the annual meeting will be provided in the coming weeks. We urge all cooperative members to make plans now to attend.

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

Mark your calendar!
March 16

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

The "Blinks"

Overhead and underground electric lines are susceptible to the "blinks." Electrical networks are thousands of miles long. Jo-Carroll Electric has a network of about 1,100 miles of line. This network is divided into sections called distribution feeders. The feeders are protected by devices that interrupt the power when a fault occurs on the line. The device will turn the power back on after a short period of time. If the fault is still present, the device will again turn the power back on after a short period. If the fault is still present, the device will operate again. If the fault is clear, the device remains closed and the power stays on. When these operations occur, they cause the "blinks."

The causes are many

Faults may be caused by several problems. Lightning damaged equipment, tree limbs making contact with the line, animals touching energized conductors and equipment, and loose connectors are just some of the reasons these faults occur.

During storm season, distribution feeders are hit by lightning numerous times. Insulators, switches, transformers and other line equipment are exposed to high voltage surges caused by lightning strikes.

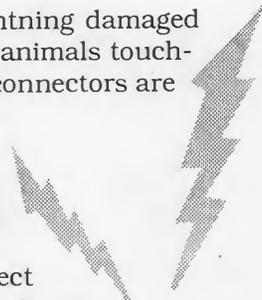
Lightning arresters are installed to protect



the equipment. Lightning puts an enormous amount of stress on the arresters and line equipment.

An example of a problem would be an insulator slightly damaged during a storm. The damage at the time of the strike would be small and the line would operate normally. A month or two later, regular operating stress may break the insulator down. The

line then starts to blink occasionally.

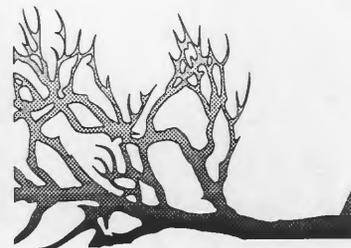


Miles of line and hundreds of insulators

There are approximately 600 insulators on a distribution feeder. The average length of a distribution feeder is 20 miles. This includes all branch taps and services. Each insulator has to be inspected to be sure it has not been damaged. Arresters, switches and transformers are also damaged in much the same way and require inspection. The damage may be very hard to detect visually and can require many hours of manual inspection by our crews. **Robert Graziano**

Tree limbs

Tree limbs contact lines and cause "blinks." Jo-Carroll's forestry program operates year-round. Approximately \$200,000 is budgeted per year for forestry work. For the past three or four years, our service area has had ideal conditions for the growth of brush and trees. Ample rain early in the spring accelerates tree growth.



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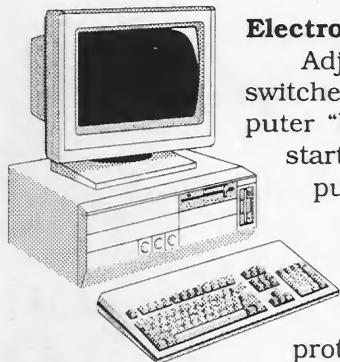
Animals

Animals can cause problems as well. Squirrels, raccoons, snakes and birds also cause many "blinks" on the system. Animals come in contact with conductors and the pole or other equipment at the same time causing a fault. Usually the equipment is damaged by the large electrical arc and the high current involved.



The demand for inexpensive solid state equipment is very high. To keep costs

down, manufacturers do not provide battery backup. A small battery backup in a digital clock could stop the nuisance of resetting clocks, VCRs and microwave oven clocks. A one dollar capacitor would also help with the problem. **Kurt Hubbard**



Electronic equipment

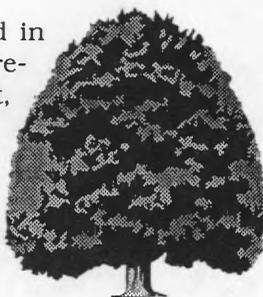
Adjustable speed drives on computers, dimmer switches or other electronic controls can cause computer "blinks." An electric coffee maker with a high starting current was found to be the cause of computer blinks when both were on the same circuit in a house.

In recent years, improvements in lightning arrester technology have given electrical suppliers a dependable and economical tool to protect electrical equipment. With the new technology, equipment will be better protected and decrease the problem with blinking lights. In 1990, Jo-Carroll began to use the new arresters. Results have been good and improvements can clearly be seen.

Forestry program

A comprehensive forestry program was initiated in 1987. Tree swap, tree removal, mechanical brush removal, ground treatment, year round basal treatment, low volume foliage spray and new trimming methods were all utilized. We continue to make good progress with our tree problems.

A member who doesn't want a tree trimmed may cause reliability and safety problems for many members down the line.



Working together

We all need to all work together to solve these problems.

You can help us eliminate some of the outages caused by trees by allowing us to trim under primary lines. Planting trees under power lines costs the cooperative considerable time and labor. Always plant trees away from lines.

Animals cause many problems yearly. There were several members without power last year due to animals making contact with energized conductors and equipment. Animals making a slight contact with electrical equipment will cause the "blinks." Several products are on the market now that prevent some of these problems. Jo-Carroll uses some animal guard products. We are looking at more products that will improve and prevent more problems in the future.



Safeguarding solid state equipment, computers and household appliances can be accomplished by the member. Surge protectors that prevent lightning surges from entering the home can be purchased from many local retailers. Nothing is available that will protect your home from a direct strike, but small surges can be prevented. Computers should be protected independently with special surge protectors. A UPS system will prevent data loss. A separate in-house circuit for your computer could also help.

If you have "blinks," write down the date and time and call us. We monitor our substations and distribution feeders at the substations. The branch lines from the main feeder are not monitored. If you see problems in your area, call and let us know. Your call and information may help us track down the cause.



Willie & Company, a ventriloquist act, will entertain at Jo-Carroll Electric's annual meeting. Pictured with Willie, left, is Peggy Miller.

Willie & Company to entertain at Jo-Carroll's 57th annual meeting

Willie, who is billed as not just a character, but a personality unto himself, will be the star of the show at Jo-Carroll's annual meeting this year, and he should prove to be worth watching.

With the face of a 5-year-old and the mind of a lad much older, he loves the ladies, torments the men and steals the hearts of both.

He is a smart alecky—but totally sincere—young man whose attributes include a tremendous wit, an appreciation for a good-natured audience, and the humbleness with which he accepts being a star.

Occasionally, he may give a little grudging credit for his appeal to his mentor and lifelong companion, Peggy Miller, who usually has her hands full just keeping Willie in line.

Peggy, who got interested in ventriloquism at age 14 after watching an act at a church revival, has a knack for convincing the audience that Willie is doing all the talking. By the time she was 17, she was taking her act all over New York. Since then, she has performed in Germany and England and throughout the U.S.

Be sure to come to your annual meeting to take care of the co-op's business—and to watch Willie steal the show!

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Utilities announce "strategic alliance"

Two of the Midwest's leading generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) will create a unique integrated generation alliance to supply more than one million electric consumers in four states.

At a joint meeting, the boards of directors of Cooperative Power (CP) and Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) voted to support the integration resources and directed their staffs to finalize the terms and conditions under which such an operation could occur.

Integration of the power production resources of the two G&Ts began on Jan. 1, 1996, with savings up to \$60 million over the first 10 years projected from joint dispatch and fuel procurement alone.

This innovative alliance positions the two G&Ts among the largest consumer-owned electric generation entities in the country. In addition to substantial savings for their member-cooperatives and other customers, CP and DPC expect to enhance their competitive position in wholesale markets, while improving the environmental performance of their generation resources.

Don Jackson

Bill Berg, DPC general manager, and Julian Brix, CP general manager, call the alliance a natural strategic fit. "Our organizations work closely and share the 377 megawatt capacity of DPC's Genoa Number 3 generating station. For several months, our two G&Ts have been discussing the possibility of forming a closer relationship to mutually strengthen our systems' competitive positions. We focused on generation, where the largest savings could be realized in the shortest time frame," the two general managers' statement said.

CP is the wholesale power supplier for 17 member-cooperatives in west-central and southern Minnesota. DPC provides wholesale electrical requirements and other services for 28 distribution cooperatives and 15 municipal utilities in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, including Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative.

Berg and Brix cite numerous benefits of the combined generation resources, adding that "our strategy is to capitalize on the synergies resulting from the diversity of our generation resources and the complimentary seasonal demand patterns of our service areas." CP peaks during the summer, while DPC is winter peaking. This should result in a higher system load factor which would improve operating efficiency.

Board Presidents Gerald Koeller (DPC) and Lowell Peterson (CP) described the sharing initiative as a "strategic alliance." In addition to generation resource integration, the guiding principles adopted by the boards call on the parties to continue to find other ways to share and benefit from each other's strengths.

It's now seven cooperative principles

For the past 30 years, there have been six guiding principles adhered to by co-ops around the world. As of Sept. 23, that number increases to seven, the result of a vote taken at the 1995 General Assembly of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in Manchester, England.

The new principles essentially combine two of the old principles (limited return on investment and return of patronage) into a principle called "economic participation." Two new titles have been added and language generally reworked.

New cooperative principles

1st Principle: Voluntary and open membership

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

2nd Principle: Democratic member control

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

3rd Principle: Member economic participation

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

4th Principle: Autonomy and independence

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

5th Principle: Education, training, and information

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

6th Principle: Cooperation among cooperatives

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

7th Principle: Concern for community

While focusing on member needs, cooperative work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

*Adopted in Manchester (UK)
September 23, 1995*

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through
Friday

Outages and emergencies

call 1-800-927-5254
24 hours a day

Reader prize

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When the temperature drops, energy bills rise

Why is my electric bill so high this month? This is a question we often hear, especially during the cold winter months. For those who question why their electrical energy usage increases in the winter, here are some possible reasons.

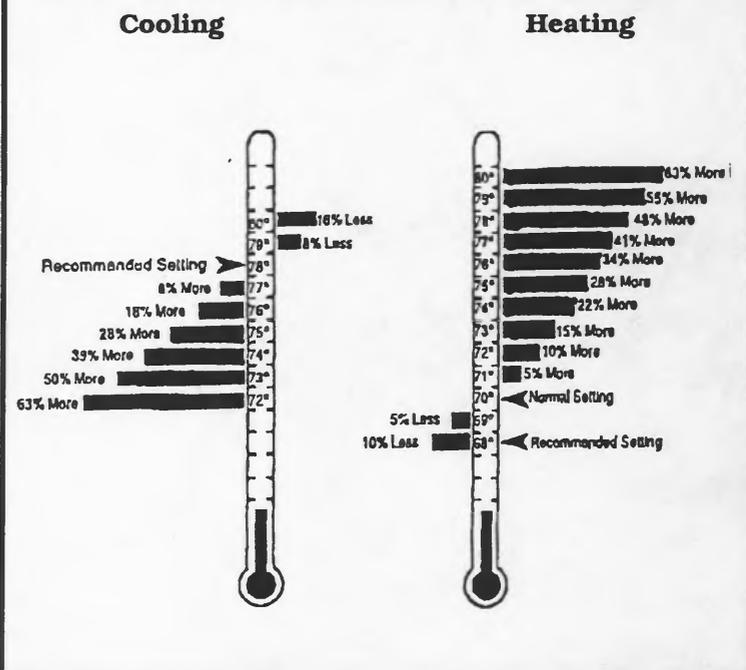
Most heating systems require electrical power for fans and blower units. During extremely cold periods, these systems may run almost continuously. Electric space heaters see increased usage during cold weather.

Tank heaters, heat tapes, and heated livestock waterers are in use. Also, electric blankets and heating pads are being used more. Clothes dryers may see increased use because it's too cold to hang clothes outside.

People tend to stay at home and indoors more in the winter. As a result, we watch more TV and spend more time cooking and cleaning. More lighting is needed because there are fewer daylight hours.

It's important to remember that individual consumers use electricity in many different ways. Therefore, it is difficult to compare your electrical usage or your bill with the neighbors'. We hope this information helps to explain why electrical usage increases for most homeowners in the winter months. If you have other questions about energy usage, call Jo-Carroll for answers.

Changing your thermostat will cost you.



Electric water heaters safer than gas

Heating water with electricity is seven times safer than heating water with gas, according to a study by the National Fire Protection Agency.

The agency found that gas water heaters cause seven times as many home fires as electric water heaters.

Here are additional reasons why you should have an electric water heater:

- Electric water heaters can be placed virtually anywhere, with no need for a flue or vent.

- Electric water heaters do not use air for combustion, so there is no danger of explosion from gas leaks, no danger of carbon monoxide poisoning, and indoor air quality is not compromised.

- Electric water heaters do not require the purchase of carbon monoxide alarms associated with gas heating equipment.

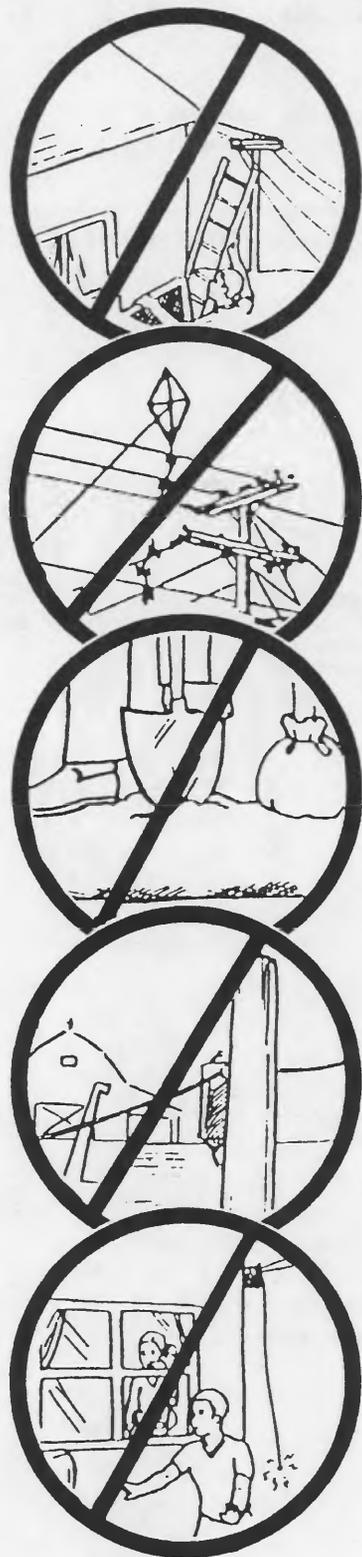
- Electric water heaters require less maintenance because there is no pilot light, no vent, no flue nor a heat exchanger that corrodes.

- Electric water heaters have more insulation than most gas models because they can be insulated on all sides—including the top and bottom.

- Electric water heaters are more efficient than gas—electric heating elements are in direct contact with the water so they are 100 percent efficient, while a gas water heater loses 40 to 60 percent of its energy up the flue.

- Electric water heaters are free through Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative when you agree to participate in the load management program. Call Jo-Carroll for more information.

Look up and be safe!



This time of the year most people are outside enjoying the nice day...cleaning up, making home improvements, getting into the fields or just enjoying the nice weather.

Whatever takes you outdoors this spring, remember to look up and be safe! Electric lines, both overhead and underground, can be deadly!

Whether you're moving tall farm equipment, flying kites, cleaning gutters or planting trees, be aware of the electric lines in the area. Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, your member-owned utility, wants you to be safe and sound this spring. Electricity is a wonderful, often taken for granted servant. But remember not to take those electric lines for granted--they can be deadly!

Look around!

Watch the overhead power lines in the farmyard and near the fields! These lines carry deadly, high-voltage loads. Any contact between the lines and augers, combines, antennas or other equipment might be deadly.

Don't fly kites...

...near power lines. Spring is ideal kite-flying weather, but keep those kids and kites away from the utility lines. Electric lines and kites form a deadly combination!

Call before you dig!

Putting in a brand new garden or planting trees this spring? Be sure that you don't plant or dig near underground power lines. You might be shocked to find buried cables by accident. If in doubt, call Jo-Carroll Electric to find the location of underground lines in your area.

Look up around the home or farm!

When you are carrying metal ladders, long boards, pipes or poles, remember to be on the alert for any utility lines in the yard. When you're on the roof making repairs, cleaning gutters or working on an antenna, be alert for any power lines within reach.

During emergencies...

stay clear of fallen electric lines. Call your electric cooperative immediately! Never assume that a fallen power line is dead!

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc., Elizabeth, Illinois — (815) 858-3311

MANAGER'S REPORT by Connie M. Shireman



Shireman

Illinois group visits China

It's halfway around the world to China, but a group of Illinois electric cooperative representatives brought the midwestern United States a little closer to that Asian country in March. I was fortunate to have been a part of that delegation, and so was my husband, Jim, and our daughter, Jacqueline. We were part of a 21-member group that toured the People's Republic of China as part of an informational exchange.

We had a fantastic tour of China, and were surprised by the progress they've made there. While they have a long way to go, they have made major strides in modernizing. During the trip we met with many of the key leaders of China's electric programs and toured their power systems. We were impressed with the progress they've made toward meeting the power needs of their people and enlarging their ever-growing industrial base.

The Chinese government invited us to tour their nation and to attend a Chinese rural power conference. The invitation was extended after three groups of Chinese rural electric leaders visited Illinois through an international training program developed by the University of Illinois-Chicago. The Chinese invited us to a return visit as a way of thanking their American friends, and to show us how far they have progressed.

Through the training program with the U.S., more than 100 key Chinese rural power officials, primarily electrical engineers, visited America in an effort to learn more about how electric co-ops provide service to rural areas. During their visits to the U.S., the groups toured several Illinois cooperatives, where they had a first-hand look at all facets of co-op operations.

We left Illinois March 3 and arrived in Hong Kong, where we spent three days. From there we flew to Shanghai. We spent several days touring this rapidly growing metro area, then spent a day visiting the Pudong area, one of China's designated economic development zones.

Then it was on to the rural area of Taicang, where we met with some 80 leaders of China's growing rural power program. After several days of business meetings and exchanges, we

(Continued on page 12d)



From left, Jacqueline, Connie and Jim Shireman at the Great Wall of China.



Results of the 1996 director elections were announced during Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative's 57th Annual Meeting of Members. New to the board is Bruce Strohacker of Apple River, left, with re-elected directors John W. Janssen of Chadwick and Thomas F. Lundy of Savanna. Voting by members of the not-for-profit utility was done by mail. The annual meeting took place on Saturday, March 16, at River Ridge High School, Elizabeth.

Jo-Carroll gearing up for change

Members attending the 57th annual meeting of Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative heard not only the results of the 1996 director elections but a report on the rapidly changing electric industry. The meeting was conducted on Saturday, March 16, at River Ridge High School, Elizabeth.

Re-elected to three-year terms on the member-owned utility's board of directors were Stanley B. Cox of Apple River, Thomas F. Lundy of Savanna and John W. Janssen of Chadwick. Elections were conducted by mail.

Centerpiece of the meeting was the report to members from the cooperative's board president, Richard H. Reusch of Elizabeth, and co-op President Connie M. Shireman. Their videotaped presentation described Jo-Carroll's history and its current operations, and cast a look to the future.

The report noted Jo-Carroll's efforts to lower the cost of power it purchases and distributes to members. That cost depends largely on how much electricity its members use at peak demand times, the coldest evenings of winter. To lower this cost, Jo-Carroll and its power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, developed Load Management Programs, designed to control some of the electric use.

For example, electric heating systems can be installed with back-up gas or wood heaters. During peak demand times, a radio signal sent out by Jo-Carroll briefly turns off the electric heat while the alternative heat fills in. Special rates are offered to members who take part. More than 300 of these systems are in place at members' homes.

In recent years, Jo-Carroll Electric has added two new services for its members. One is the Enviro Watch. The device, which plugs into a wall outlet and existing phone jack, works while residents are away from home. It lets the cooperative know if the power has gone off in the house, or if the



Clockwise from above: There was a good crowd at the meeting. Don Schleicher, Jo-Carroll marketing and safety director, discusses the ETS heating system with a member. A youngster "takes a spin" on the Pedal Power demonstration bicycle.

indoor temperature has fallen to 42 degrees. The other service is the Main Street Messenger, for senior citizens living at home or persons just out of the hospital. This highly developed telephone comes with a pendant that can be worn like a necklace or attached to a belt. By pressing the button on the pendant, the wearer can be in contact with the live operator at the Messenger's answering center, who can call paramedics if necessary.

While Jo-Carroll's board and management consider such new services to improve the lives of members, they are also keeping an eye on the far-reaching changes brewing in the electric utility industry. Retail wheeling — allowing customers to select their electricity provider, shopping for the best price — is one of those changes being debated across the nation. It stems from a push to deregulate the industry, much as the telephone and airline industries have been deregulated. Large industrial and commercial electric consumers are promoting retail wheeling as a way to gain great savings. However, that may leave remaining smaller customers to bear the cost of a local utility's expenses.

"No one knows how changes in the electric industry will affect all those involved," the presidents' report stated. "The challenge facing your electric cooperative is how to maintain its local strengths, those qualities that have brought its successes, while getting into position to compete with large utilities."

Paul Hoffman

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative serves nearly 5,400 members on 1,069 miles of energized line in Carroll, Jo-Daviess and Whiteside counties.

New director profile--Bruce Shrohacker



Bruce Shrohacker

Jo-Carroll's newest director is Bruce Shrohacker. Bruce was elected to a three-year term on the Board from District 2 in the mail balloting by the members in that district. He was seated at the Annual Meeting on March 16th.

A native of the German Valley area, Bruce has lived in Jo-Davies County since 1991. Prior to coming to this area, Bruce was involved with utility construction in various capacities in the Lake Geneva and Southern Wisconsin region. He has more than 20 years of experience to his credit and has worked with major utilities such as Wisconsin Power and Light and Northern Illinois Gas Company.

Currently, Bruce is busy with several interests. He is a real estate agent for Indian Creek Realty and is involved with general maintenance work in the Thompson Township area. He first became acquainted with Jo-Carroll Electric when he began to develop the campground he owns near Apple Canyon Lake on East Lake Road #2, and the Cooperative extended electrical service lines.

Bruce is looking forward to working with the Jo-Carroll Board of Directors. He also remarked, "I have not had that much board experience, but I am very familiar with utility work. I have worked with several Cooperatives in the past, and I do strongly support the Cooperative way of doing business."

Jo-Carroll is pleased to have Bruce as a part of this organization, and we look forward to working with him in the coming months.

Illinois groups visit China

(Continued from page 12a)

visited Taicang area power transmission and distribution systems and visited schools, businesses and a farm.

Then we spent two days in Suzhou, the capital of China's silk industry, after which we flew to Xi'an, the country's historic old capital. After two days there, we flew to Beijing, where we met again with rural power leaders and toured historic and cultural areas.

We returned to the U.S. on March 19. There was no cost to Jo-Carroll members for this trip.

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through
Friday

Outages and emergencies

call 1-800-927-5254
24 hours a day

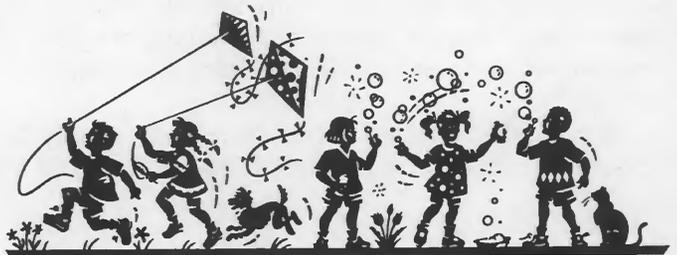
Reader prize

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At work or play, stay safe outdoors.

Summer's here! While you work and play outdoors during the "outdoors" months, keep in mind a few safety tips, such as:

- When power lines are nearby, use wooden or fiberglass ladders--not metal.
- Never use an electric mower on wet grass.
- Fly kites with dry string only; never fly kites or model airplanes near power lines.
- Tell children to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.
- Make electrical safety part of your daily routine. And, contact us for more guidelines to help you work and play safely all summer long.



Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc., Elizabeth, Illinois — (815) 858-3311

MANAGER'S REPORT by Connie M. Shireman



Shireman

Bits and pieces

A number of unrelated items need to be included in this month's Manager's Report:

- First, my title is no longer the General Manager of Jo-Carroll Electric. In a Board action, my title was changed to President/CEO (Chief Executive Officer). John Selleck, formerly Assistant Manager, is now the Vice-President, and Richard Beusch, formerly known as the President is now the Chairman of the Board. These positions will still carry essentially the same duties and responsibilities. The changes were made to prepare the Cooperative for the future.

- Jo-Carroll still offers FREE electric water heaters to our members. (Well, we charge one dollar so the unit can be under warranty in the member's name). These high quality, energy efficient units are controlled on Jo-Carroll's load management program.

- The Cooperative does not install or deliver these: The homeowner must pick them up at Jo-Carroll and get a contractor to put them in place. The load control receiver is installed free of charge. Having the unit shut off during the peak times saves enough money that Jo-Carroll can give the water heaters away. Over 750 have been installed to date.

- I sometimes receive questions about the facility charge on the monthly electric bill from Jo-Carroll. It is on the bill every month and is the same regardless of how much electricity is used. Different rate schedules have different amounts, based on the type of service. The lowest, and most common, is \$15.00 for single phase "regular" service.

Basically, the facility charge represents how much it costs your Cooperative for poles, wire, and the other equipment necessary just to bring the electricity to your site. This is calculated by dividing the total costs in each rate class by the number of members in that rate class. Also, it is considered a minimum bill, if you used 0 kWh, you will still be required to pay the facility charge.

The facility charge ensures that every member pays a fair portion of the Cooperative's basic expenses.

- The revised By-Laws of the Cooperative have been printed and are available to any member at the Jo-Carroll office in Elizabeth. Or, if you write or call the office, we will mail you a copy.

- Don't forget that we still make house calls—24 hours each day, 365 days a year for outages and emergencies. We have two toll free numbers for your convenience: (800)858-5522 and (800)947-5254.

- The "Main Street Messenger" is now known as "First Call"—same fine product and terrific service, just a new name. See the ad elsewhere in this month's issue.

Save money with Jo-Carroll's special rates

In cooperation with our power supplier, Dairyland Power, Jo-Carroll will be participating in programs for energy-efficient lighting, motors, and central air conditioning. The purpose of these programs is to encourage energy efficiency and to provide more value to our members.

Three types of energy-efficient lighting qualify for the following incentives. Any combination of five ballast or fixtures is required as a minimum.

Electronically Ballasted Fluorescent Fixtures	\$ 6.50 per ballast
Metal Halide Fixture	\$10.00 per fixture
Sodium Vapor Fixture	\$10.00 per fixture

The central air conditioner program is designed to reduce your summertime air conditioning cost and at the same time reduce Jo-Carroll's increasing summertime "peak." The program offers incentives for energy-efficient air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, and earth-coupled heat pumps as follows:

SEER 12	\$40.00 per ton
SEER 13	\$50.00 per ton
SEER 14	\$60.00 per ton
All Earth-Coupled Heat Pumps	\$60.00 per ton

Energy-efficient three-phase motors also qualify for incentives. Qualifying motors from 1 to 200 horsepower that meet or exceed our efficiency requirements are eligible for cash incentives as follows:

1 to 10 HP Three-Phase Motors	\$7.50 per Horsepower
11 to 200 HP Three-Phase Motors	\$4.50 per Horsepower

There are numerous details involved with obtaining rebates, so we urge you to call Jo-Carroll for more information on these or any other of our load management programs at 800-858-5522.

Help us credit your account properly

When paying your bill by mail, please send the stub from your bill, or write a note indicating to which account the payment should be credited. In the past we have received checks in the name of an individual who may have more than one account or have the bill in some other name. By sending in the stub, we can be sure that the payment is credited to the proper account. If the stub is not available, please include a note indicating to which account the payment should be credited. **Dan Upstrom**

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

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

Local calls — dial 858-2207

Outside Elizabeth — dial 1-800-858-5522



Please help us find these members

The following is a list of former Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative members for whom we do not have current addresses. They are entitled to receive capital credit refund checks. Capital credits are the margins, or "profits" that Jo-Carroll made in excess of the cost of providing service. Since Jo-Carroll is a not-for-profit cooperative, this "profit," or margin is returned to the members, based on their patronage with the cooperative.

If you can help us find these people or have information about the current address, please call Jo-Carroll at 800-858-5522 and ask for Helen. We will be more than happy to forward their capital credits to them.

Jerry Adams	Raymond Ralnes	John Lee	Floyd Simmons
Jerry Adamson	Jerome Fahrenback	R M Lindemer	Stephen Sandels
Karrt Abgakt	Frank Feffer	Stanc McCullick	Edwin Spirka
Larry Anhalt	Ronald Fishler	Charles McDougal	Don Sallman
Paul Arle	Robert J Foley	E F McFarland	Ted Strauch
Kenneth Ashmore	Ronald Fishler	Robert McMamara	Grace Stroud
FP Avellone	Donald Fitzgerald	Dale Mitchley	David Smith
Dennis Bandy	Ray Gaskill	Steven Mackenize	Jeremy Smith
Bill Badger	Louis E Gaul	R L McNamer	Raymond Smith
Gerald Badger	Carolyn Goodrich	John Means	David V Smith
Terry Barnhart	John Gordon	Jon Mellhouse	Lambert Snyders
Norman Barnhart	David Gosse	Kathy Messmer	Ed Schriener
J Gary Barthell	Stanely Grotegut	Albert Miller	Sylvia Schwantz
Thomas Bechem	Mrs. Pat Grochowski	Warren Miller	H C Starr
Cecil Bobey	Richard Haas	Alvin Miller	Chester B Swanson
Clifford Bolsinger	Joseph Haak	Anthony Montryn	Edward F Schofield
Andrew Bodnar	Anthony Havegar	Melvin Nowak	Margaret Stenner
John Brooks	Wm J. Hartman	Wm Nesbitt	Leroy Semon
Marvin Bregman	Frank Hale	Roger Nank	Freece S Senneff
Richard Bearsley	John Harper	Wm Olson	John Skanderup
Vera Biehl	Richard Henson	Curtis Opsohl	John B Smith
Robert Brooks/ R Means	Wayne Hicks	Michael Otoole	George Taylor
Richard Brown	Norm Homb	Mrs. Roy Palmer	Robert Taylor
Frank Cavallaro	John Hirn	Robert Pearson	Ron Ties
Michael Camp	Ted Hoppe	Carol Pickel	Thomas Thill
Phyllis Carroll	Betty Hazekampp	L A Pelej	Larry Ties
Carolyn Carney	Roger Hook	Vincent Panella	Wm Townsley
George Carr	Michael Holznagel	Ralph Perkins	Dennis Trieweiler
Terry Colan	James Jenik	Wm Peters	Basil Tysz
Orville Conley	Stanley Kolodziej	Orris Peterson	Warren Uecker
David Crane Jr.	Wm Koshial	Sam Puccio	Nicholas Vanderah
James Clark	Guenther Krakau	James Redman	Leo Vogt
Thomas H. Clark	Donald Krueger	Dennis Reitz	Max Vogan
Benjamin Clouser	Vance Kirby	Mike Rehak	Gregory Vorwald
John Colin	David Kaiser	Paul Rice	Gerald Wagner
Clarence Cook	Alice Kinsella	Kenneth Rich	Darlene Werner
R W Dasso	Robert Kammerude	Richard Richman	Lindsay Water
Joseph Dorlaque	J H Kirkpatrick	Ed Ricke	Arthur Walker
Clarence Dayton	Ray Kunz	L C Ritchie	Larry Workman
Dean Degeeter	Carl Larsen	Don Ritenour	White Adv
Ted Drapala	Pat Laudner	James Robertson	Ronald Williams
Jerry Driscoll	Jerry Law	Gerald Robinson	Erwin Wilke
Dave Droessler	Lynn Leighton	Bill Rosencrans	Leslie Wilson/Meteler
Richard Emmert	Jerry Levy	Debbie Roth	David Weitz
Wm Epstein	G Lesser/Crown Ranch	Robert Ross	John Welter
Wallace Ericskonf	John Lopp	James Rupp	Bruce Yenny
Delores Feather	Ike La Soya	Robert Schmidt	
		David Schoenhard	

The Call to Care



When you were young, you looked to your mother to care for you. You had the peace of mind to know that she would respond to your first call for help.

Now, mom is looking to you for her care. Offer her peace of mind today. Install the First CallSM medical monitoring service in her home.

With just the touch of a button, our professional response center will be in voice contact with her and help will be on the way.

After all the care she gave to you, show her you care by giving her First CallSM. Available through participating electric cooperatives and health care providers.

First CallSM Personal Emergency Response Service

1-800-858-5522

Jo-Carroll Electric Coop Inc.

P. O. Box 390

Elizabeth, IL 61028

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Monday through Friday**

Outages and emergencies

**call 1-800-927-5254
24 hours a day**

Jo-Carroll Hi-Lines

44

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc., Elizabeth, Illinois — (815) 858-3311

MANAGER'S REPORT by Connie M. Shireman



Shireman

Vacation won't cut electricity bill

"There must be something wrong with our meter. We were gone on vacation most of the month and couldn't have used this much electricity."

Variations of that comment are heard many times every month of the year. Rarely is anything wrong with the meter. What we tend to forget are the many, many appliances in our homes that operate automatically day in, day out whether we are there or not. However, when we get back from vacation we are upset to discover they have turned into liabilities simply because they have continued doing their jobs, automatically, while the house was empty.

Refrigerators and freezers are big users of electricity. During the summer, an old refrigerator can account for as much as 25 percent of the monthly electric bill. And the older they are, the more electricity they use. Old doesn't mean ancient either. Even those purchased two or three years ago consume more than those manufactured today. And, they are making them even more efficient.

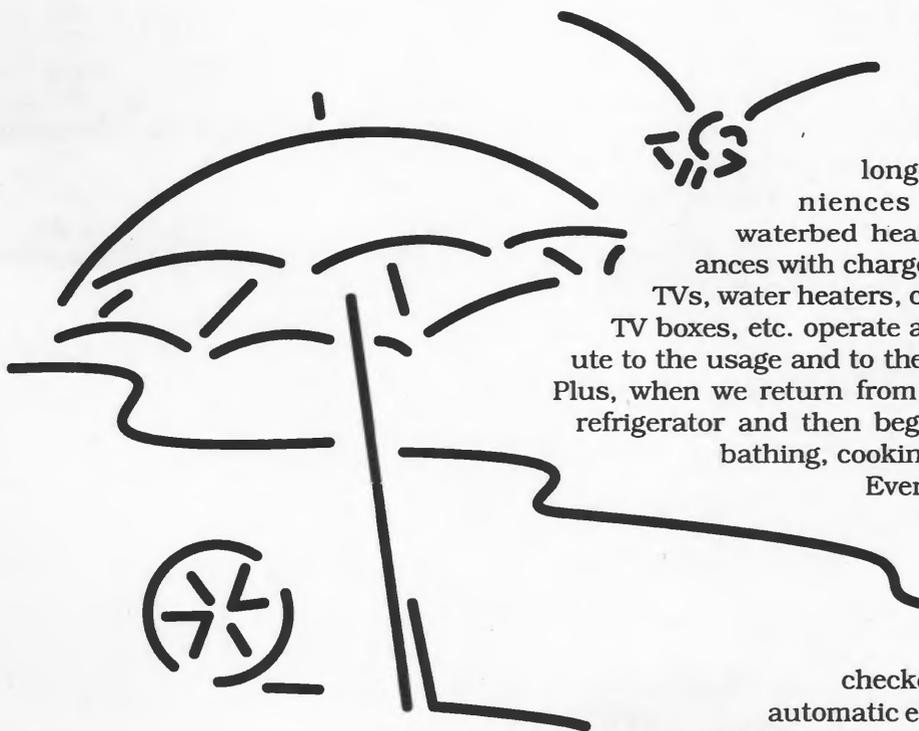
Assuming the air conditioner was shut off during your absence, the warmer house will cause the refrigeration equipment to run longer. Other automatic conveniences such as dehumidifiers,

waterbed heaters, battery-powered appliances with chargers, sump pumps, instant-on TVs, water heaters, clocks, security lighting, cable TV boxes, etc. operate automatically and all contribute to the usage and to the bill.

Plus, when we return from vacation we restock the old refrigerator and then begin washing, drying, ironing, bathing, cooking, etc. using more electricity.

Even if we have saved some kilowatt-hours by being away we use them after we get back — and maybe use more.

Your electric meter probably does not need to be checked. Just keep in mind that the automatic electrical devices are operating while you are away.



Fuse box safety and you!

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

1. Stand on a piece of dry wood when you change fuses, especially if the fuse box is located in a basement or garage area with a damp floor.
2. Keep one hand on your hip or in your pocket while you change the fuse with the other hand. This is to keep the unoccupied hand from coming in contact with anything that would ground it, such as a pipe, sink, or the fuse box. If the hand is grounded, there is the danger of a possible fatal short circuit traveling through your chest.

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

- Never stick a coin behind a blown fuse to get the fuse to work again. This hampers the safety valve effect at the fuse and can cause an electrical fire.
- Use the proper fuse for the circuit. For example, if the blown fuse is a 15-amp, replace it with a 15 amp. Do not use a larger capacity fuse. The amperage rating of a fuse is usually on the tip of the screw threads.
- If the fuse is a cartridge fuse (it looks like a roll of coins), pull the fuse straight out of the connectors in the entry box. Do not touch the connectors with your hand.
- If your home is equipped with a circuit breaker, flip the toggle switch to the "reset" or "on" position to reactivate the circuit.
- If the fuses continue to blow or the circuit breaker continues to trip, call in an electrician to check the circuits in your home. Overloaded circuits have the potential of causing electric fires.

If you plan to dig near buried cable on the weekend, please let the Engineering Department at Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative know well in advance. This will ensure that its location will be pinpointed before you go to work on your project. In any event call before you dig at least 48 hours in advance. Phone 1-800-858-5522.



Electricity thieves steal from all of us

Cooperatives make no profit in the sale of power and we have to pay for every kilowatt of power members use. If some of that power is used dishonestly, we all have to pay the bill. When someone steals electricity, the result is higher rates to all members to cover losses.

Reporting such dishonest actions may prevent the death or injury of someone who is tampering with something they know little or nothing about.

Don't pay more for electricity than necessary. If you know of anyone involved in meter tampering, notify our office at once.

1-800-858-5522

Thinking of stealing electricity?

Don't do it. Here's why.

You can and probably will get hurt.

1. Bad burns at a minimum
2. Possible loss of limb or other appendages.
3. Death from electrocution.

You can and probably will get caught.

	<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Fine</u>
1. Meter tampering or circumvention	6 months	\$ 500
2. Theft of electricity less than \$150	1 day	\$ 1,000
3. Second offense	1-3 years	\$10,000
4. Greater than \$150	2-5 years	\$10,000

It's really not worth it!!

Director districts

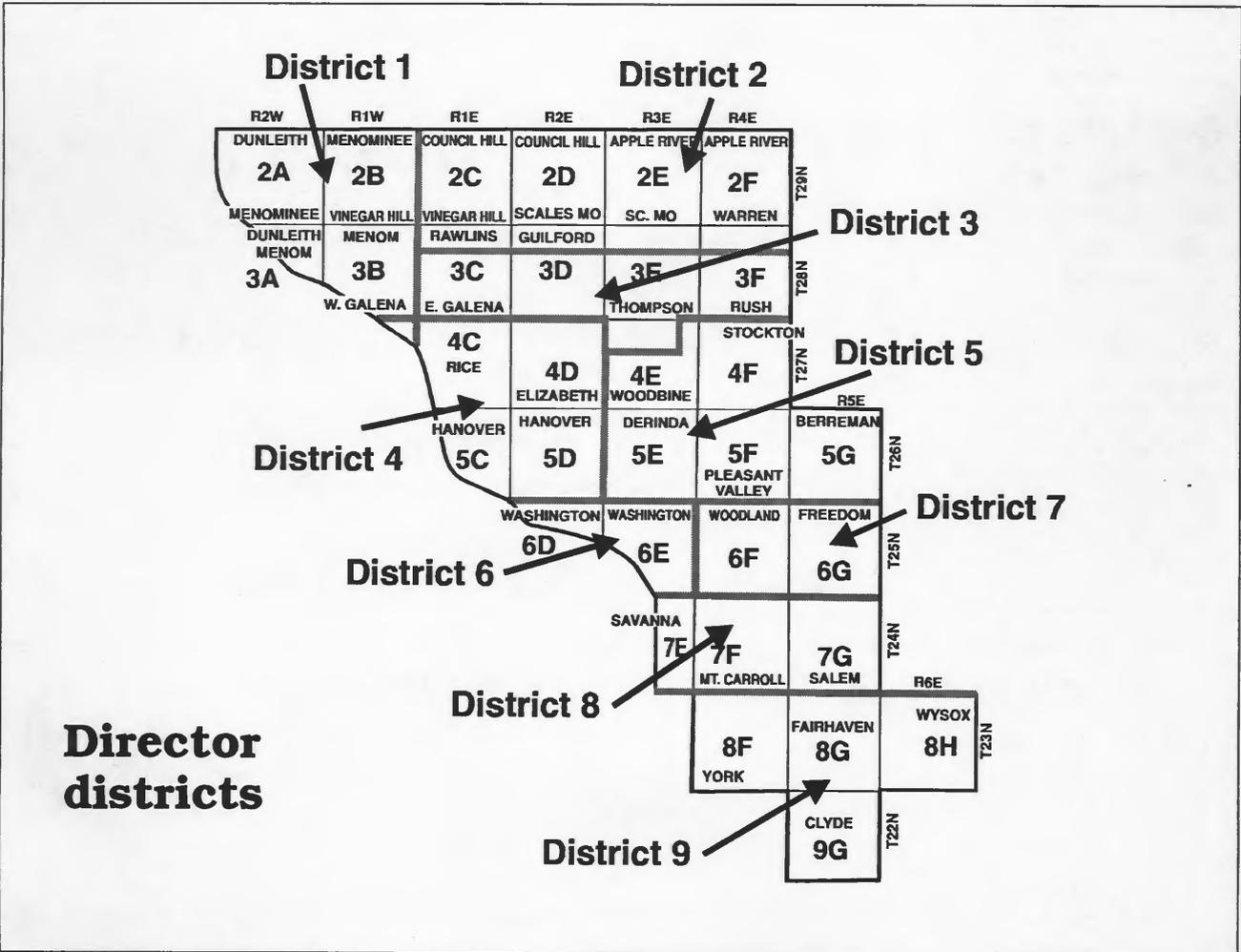
Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative is owned by its members: those who receive electric service. It operates on a not-for-profit basis. Any extra revenue after operating expenses are met are allocated to each member receiving service. The Cooperative is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors elected from the membership.

The voting for the Board of Directors takes place through the mail each spring, prior to the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative. The service area covered by Jo-Carroll was divided into nine separate districts when the Cooperative was first incorporated in 1939. Members who take electric service from a location within a district are eligible to vote for the Director for that specific district.

Voting is based on the principle of "one member, one vote." This means that a home with a husband and wife does not get two votes, nor does a corporation with many owners or employees receive multiple votes. Three of the Directors of the Cooperative are up for election for a three year term every three years.

Jo-Carroll's Director Districts were re-aligned this year, prior to the most recent Board election. The change was very slight, only a few members were affected. The reason for the re-alignment was to better conform to township lines.

A map of the new Director Districts is shown. If anyone should have a question as to their location or what District they are in, please feel free to call the Jo-Carroll office at 800-858-5522.



Director districts



Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through
Friday

Outages and emergencies

call 1-800-927-5254
24 hours a day

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any story, contact Jo-Carroll and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication

Notice of closing
Our office will be closed on

Thursday, July 4, 1996,

**in observance of
Independence Day.**

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

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

Local calls — dial 858-2207

Outside Elizabeth — dial 1-800-858-2522



Jo-Carroll Hi-Lines⁴⁴

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc., Elizabeth, Illinois — (815) 858-3311

MANAGER'S REPORT by Connie M. Shireman



Shireman

When was the last time someone said "thanks" to you? Many times, a member will tell one of the employees thank you either in the office or on the job site. We usually receive several thank you notes when the electricity is restored after a storm. Now is our turn to say "thanks" to you, the member. Here is a list of some of the things we need to say thank you to you for.

Thanks to our members . . .

- who call promptly to notify the office when a power outage occurs, telling us exactly where the trouble is located and the cause.
- who grant right-of-way for construction and maintenance of line to serve your neighbors, providing adequate and reliable electric service to everybody on the system.
- who notify the office at least two days prior to moving so electric service can be transferred to the new owner or disconnected if no one will be using the power.
- who keep television antennas and other equipment clear of falling distance on all electric lines.
- who teach children all the rules of electric safety, both indoors and outdoors.
- who are careful when using mowers, trucks and farm machinery around poles, lines and guy wires.
- who use extreme care when cutting trees near your electric lines.
- who grant us permission to trim or cut down trees near your electric lines
- who report anything wrong with the lines such as a bad pole, broken guy wire, broken strands on the line conductors, and cracked or broken insulators.
- who keep signs, fence wires, nails and other hazards off the poles for the safety of our linemen.

Thanks to our members

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New employee profile — Sue Glick



Sue Glick recently came to work with Jo-Carroll as operations coordinator. She gained several years of experience in utility operations with General Telephone in Freeport. In addition she has a college degree from the University of Wisconsin at Platteville.

One of Sue's primary duties is taking calls from our members, prospective members, contractors and home builders, or anyone who calls the cooperative in need of some work to be done. She initiates the work orders, assists in planning work for the line crews and keeps the local builders informed of our work schedules. She is also responsible for keeping track of the material used or retired from jobs.

Since Jo-Carroll averages about 200 new services each year, in addition to several hundred work orders and service orders, Sue's job is a busy one.

However, Sue is optimistic. "I really enjoy a challenge, and learning all the electrical material items, at the same time I will be learning the service area and getting to know the contractors will be a challenge. I'm confident that it will all work out." She went on to say, "Jo-Carroll really has a dedicated work force and they've been very helpful for me to get started."

Sue is a Jo-Daviess County native. She and her husband, Paul, live in a Jo-Carroll-served subdivision near Galena. They have twin 3-year-old boys, who cause Sue to comment "You talk about a challenge!"

Any Jo-Carroll members who need service work can always call (800) 858-5522, and now when they call they will have a change to talk with Sue.

Power tool users:

Avoid shocks with a GFCI

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends the use of a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) with power tools to protect against electric shock accidents.

CPSC reports about 20-30 deaths every year that are associated with power tools. The CPSC says most of these deaths could be prevented by using a GFCI.

A GFCI monitors current flowing in a circuit to sense even a very small amount of lost current. If the current flowing through two circuit conductors differs by even a little bit, the GFCI immediately interrupts the flow of current. A person might feel a shock, but will not be electrocuted.

Grounding and double insulation can provide some protection against electrocution. However, GFCI's offer better protection.

Three common types of GFCIs are available for home use: circuit breaker, receptacle and portable. The circuit breaker type needs to be installed by an electrician. The receptacle type can be installed by someone who is knowledgeable with electrical wiring practices. The portable GFCI simply plugs into a wall receptacle, and the equipment plugs into the GFCI.

Since 1973, the National Electrical Code has required GFCI protection in new homes. GFCIs were first required in outdoor receptacle circuits. Bathrooms were included in 1975, garage wall outlets in 1978, some kitchen receptacles in 1987 and outlets in unfinished basements and crawl spaces in 1990.

We're still looking for these members

The following is a list of former Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative members for whom we do not have current addresses. They are entitled to receive capital credit refund checks. Capital credits are the margins, or "profits" that Jo-Carroll made in excess of the cost of providing service. Since Jo-Carroll is a not-for-profit cooperative, this "profit," or margin, is returned to the members, based on their patronage with the cooperative.

If you can help us find these people or have information about the current address, please Call Jo-Carroll at 800-858-5522 and ask for Helen. We will be more than happy to forward their capital credits to them.

Capital credit checks 1994 & 1995 — looking for them or family members

Jerry Adams	Wm. Epstein	Lynn Leighton	James Rupp
Jerry Adamson	Wallace Erickson	Jerry Levy	Robert Schmidt
Karrt Abgakt	Delores Feather	G. Lesser/Crown Ranch	Stephen Sandels
Larry Anhalt	Raymond Falnes	R. M. Lindemer	Don Sallman
Paul Arle	Jerome Fahrenheit	Stanc McCullick	Grace Stroud
FP Avellone	Frank Feffer	Charles McDougal	David Smith
Dennis Bandy	Ronald Fishler	E. F. McFarland	Jeremy Smith
Gerald Badger	Donald Fitzgerald	Robert McMamara	Raymond Smith
Norman Barnhart	Ray Gaskill	Dale Mitchley	David V. Smith
J. Gary Barthell	Carolyn Goodrich	Steven MacKenzie	Lambert Snyders
Thomas Bechem	John Gordon	R. L. McNamer	Ed Schreiner
Cecil Bobey	David Gosse	John Means	H. C. Starr
Clifford Bolsinger	Stanley Grotegut	Jon Mellhouse	Chester B. Swanson
Andrew Bodnar	Mrs. Pat Grochowski	Anthony Montryn	Edward F. Schofield
John Brooks	Richard Haas	Melvin Nowak	Margaret Stenner
Marvin Bregman	Joseph Haak	Wm. Nesbitt	Leroy Semon
Richard Bearsley	Anthony Havesar	Roger Nank	John B. Smith
Vera Biehl	Wm. J. Hartman	Wm. Olson	George Taylor
Robert Brooks/R Means	Frank Hale	Curtis Opsohl	Robert Taylor
Frank Cavallaro	John Harper	Michael OToole	Wm. Townsley
Michael Camp	Richard Henson	Mrs. Roy Palmer	Dennis Trieweiler
Phyllis Carroll	Wayne Hicks	Robert Pearson	Basil Tysz
Carolyn Carney	John Hirn	Carol Pickel	Warrèn Uecker
George Carr	Ted Hoppe	L. A. Pelej	Nicholas Vanderah
Terry Colan	Betty Hazekamm	Vincent Panella	Leo .Vogt
David Crane, Jr.	Roger Hook	Ralph Perkins	Max Vogan
Thomas H. Clark	Michael Holznagel	Orris Peterson	Rregory Vorwald
Benjamin Clouser	James Jenik	Sam Puccio	Gerald Wagner
John Colin	Stanley Kolodziej	James Redman	Darlene Werner
Clarence Cook	Wm. Koshial	Mike Rehak	Lindsay Water
R. W. Dasso	Guenther Krakau	Kenneth Rich	Arthur Walker
Joseph Dorlaque	Donald Krueger	Richard Richman	larry Workman
Clarence Dayton	Vance Kirby	Don Ritenour	White Adv.
Dean Degeeter	Alice Kinsella	James Robertson	Leslie Wilson/Meteler
Jerry Driscoll	J. H. Kirkpatrick	Gerald Robinson	David Weitz
Dave Droessler	Ray Kunz	Bill Rosencrans	John Welter
Richard Emmert	Pat Laudner	Robert Ross	

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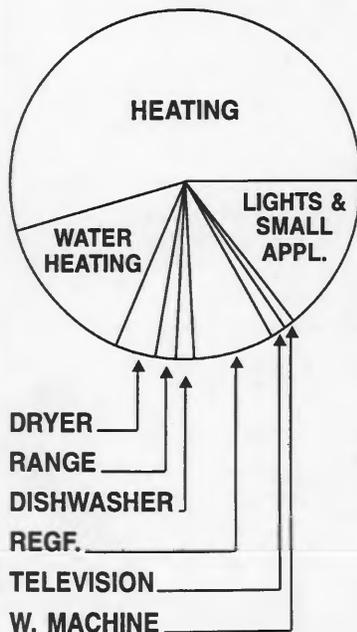
Outside Elizabeth — dial 1-800-858-5522



Where does all that electricity go?

Appliance	Typical Wattage	Estimated Hours used per month	Estimated Monthly Kwh	Cost per Month at 8¢ per kwh
Blanket	150	120	18	\$ 1.44
Blender	385	2 1/2	1	.08
Clock	3	720	2	.16
Clothes Dryer	5,000	16 1/2	83	6.64
Dehumidifier	257	240	62	4.96
Dishwasher (Does not include hot water)	1,200	25	30	2.40
Fan (Attic)	300	360	108	8.64
Fan (Window)	200	240	48	3.84
Fan (Furnace)	300	216	65	5.20
Freezer (15 cu. ft.)	341	293	100	8.00
Freezer (Frostless 15 cu. ft.)	440	334	247	11.76
Frying Pan	1,200	7 1/2	9	.72
Hair Dryer	1,000	5	5	.40
Heater (Portable)	1,500	120	180	14.40
Iron	1,000	12	12	.96
Lighting (Varies widely)	2,000	60	120	9.60
Microwave Oven	1,450	10	15	1.20
Mixer	100	10	1	.08
Radio	.25	60	2	.16
Range with Oven	12,200	8	100	8.00
Refrigerator/Freezer (14 cu. ft.)	326	291	95	7.60
Refrigerator/Freezer (Frostless 14 cu.ft.)	615	250	154	12.32
Television (Black & White) 6 hours per day	100	180	18	1.44
Television (Color) 6 hours per day	250	180	45	3.60
Toaster	1,400	3	4	.32
Vacuum Cleaner	650	6	4	.32
Washing Machine (No hot water)	300	3	10	.80
Water Heater (Varies widely)	4,500	89	400	32.00
Water Pump (Deep Well)	1,000	15	15	1.20

This chart is based on the typical wattage and estimated usage of appliances.



When trying to conserve energy, concentrate on the areas of large usage.

In winter, heating will be more than one-half of the energy going into the home.

The next area with the greatest potential for savings will be your water heater.

Remember:

When looking at your electric bill, please notice the following items:

1. The number of days of service on your bill will affect the total cost. Efforts are made to read meters on a 30 day cycle, but this is sometimes impossible because of weekends, holidays, and weather conditions.
2. The meter reading dates determine the actual period you used the power. What were the conditions like in your home? What was the weather like at that time?
3. kWh usage is the basis for your bill.

MANAGER'S REPORT by Connie M. Shireman



Shireman

The ins and outs of HR 961

During my tenure as chief executive for Jo-Carroll Electric, I have been fortunate enough to develop a strong working relationship with our elected officials. I consider Ron Lawfer and Todd Seiben, our representatives in Springfield, as both professional allies and friends. The same can be said about many of the local mayors and county board members.

For the past several years Donald Manzullo has served the northern part of Jo-Carroll's service area in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. I have met with Don on several occasions, always finding him very interested in Jo-Carroll and the people of his district. Recently when I asked Don how Jo-Carroll could be of assistance to him, he said that he was really concerned about the public impression of HR 961, and asked if we would print some information about this subject.

I am more than happy to help the congressman by printing the following information, which was prepared by Don's staff. Any questions that Jo-Carroll members may have about this should be directed to Congressman Manzullo's District Office at 815-394-1231.

Are Republicans dismantling our clean water standards?

No. Republicans want to inject flexibility into laws that have done a decent job in cleaning up our nation's water, but in some cases have proven unnecessarily burdensome and costly. Republicans aren't gutting environmental standards; we're harmonizing regulations with legitimate business concerns. The standards of the Clean Air Act are maintained and states have the option of enforcing stricter standards.

The issue is whether a remedy to a bad situation is appropriate in terms of the costs incurred and the benefits derived. HR 961 contains a cost assessment provision to find the least expensive remedy for the problem.

States can implement the most cost-efficient way to improve water quality and focus on problems unique to their jurisdictions without complying with rigid, costly and burdensome regulations that have no bearing on water quality for those states.

Companies, therefore, with the permission of the appropriate state and federal officials, may modify requirements when it is determined that such "measures will result collectively in an overall reduction in discharges to the watershed...resulting in a net benefit to the watershed."

HR 961 Title III Section 302(c)(r)(1)

HR 961 will:

- increase current CWA authorization by \$1 BILLION to \$2.3 BILLION annually through FY' 2000—current authorization is \$1.235 BILLION
- gives states flexibility to develop cost-effective programs, especially for non-point source pollution control and watershed management

(continued on page 12b)

- require states to implement measures that will improve water quality and meet current standards

HR 961 WILL NOT:

- lower existing clean water standards or preclude states from requiring more stringent water quality standards

Are Republicans destroying wetlands?

No. Republicans want to bring clarity to a troubled program by clearly defining for the first time regulatory criteria and focusing federal efforts on truly valuable resources. Republicans want to establish a technically supportable definition of "wetlands" that actually requires a reasonable connection to water which can justify stringent federal regulation.

Wetlands should be easily identifiable by a landowner. It is wrong to impose enormous fines or threat of imprisonment on landowners who engage in activities on lands that cannot readily be recognized as wetlands—private lands make-up about 75 percent of current regulated wetlands.

Wetlands definitions and regulation have evolved since 1972 through obscure memos and legal briefs of judges, lawyers and bureaucrats. Congress has never specifically voted on wetlands regulations as it did under HR 961.

Critics say HR 961 will cause great losses of wetlands. They point to a National Academy of Science report that says 60 percent of wetlands will be unregulated by the federal government. There is a vast difference between wetlands being lost and wetlands being unregulated by the federal government.

A change in the 1989 wetland manual vastly expanded the scope of the federal jurisdiction over wetlands. Then-EPA Administrator William Reilly estimated that simply by changing the delineation rules, the 1989 manual "added" over 65 million acres to the nation's wetlands inventory.

During hearings on HR 961, Dr. William M. Lewis, Jr., Chairman of the Department of Environmental Population at the Univ. of Colorado, said he did not know exactly the percentage of wetlands currently under the current wetlands program would be deregulated. When prompted further, he said, "I guess the amount would be in the tens of percent, 20, 30, maybe 40 percent."

HR 961 WILL:

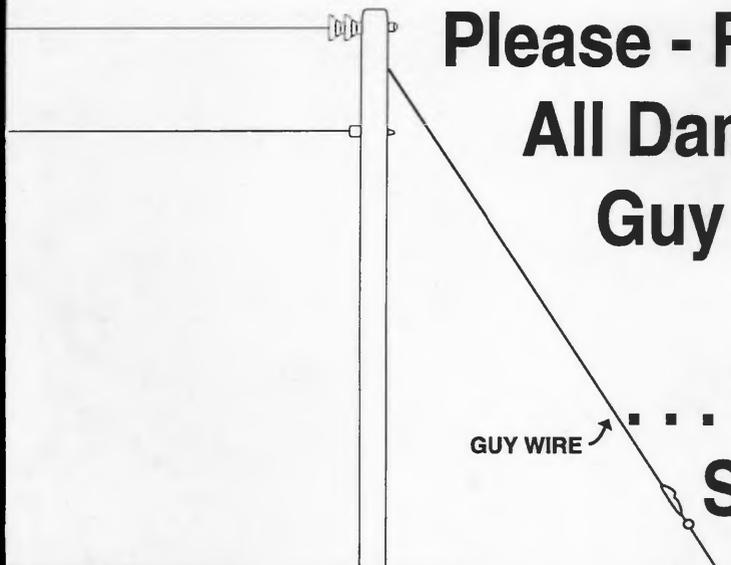
- give certainty to federal regulatory limits and require that wetlands have a clear, defensible, understandable connection to water
- allow for more detailed, science-based classification guidelines to be developed through the public rulemaking procedures that are required by the bill
- require the Interior/Agriculture Secretary to specify regulations on criteria for the A, B and C wetlands categories

Nothing precludes state and local authorities from increasing standards on their own.

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative
will be closed
Monday, September 2,
in observance of Labor Day

Have a safe and happy holiday!





Please - Report All Damaged Guy Wires

GUY WIRE . . . It May
Save A
Life!

PLEASE REPORT ALL DAMAGED GUY WIRES

"That *?!& guy wire!" We're sure this statement has crossed your mind several times especially when you are mowing road banks or clover, plowing, discing or whatever you're doing when a guy wire gets in your way. You probably think your cooperative has a unique ability for cutting guy wires in the wrong place. We sympathize with you. We wish we didn't have to use them at all, but unfortunately this is not possible.

Did you every stop to think why a guy wire is place? Guy wires are used to equalize the strain on poles and prevent them from leaning or even breaking. Another way of looking at them is as a type of insurance to keep the lines up and you and your neighbors in service.

Let's cite an example. Suppose a guy wire is accidentally cut on a pole that supports a span over a roadway. The pole leans enough to cause the wires to hang across the roadway. A motorist traveling the road does not see the wires soon enough and drives right into them. Two things could happen to the people in the vehicle. 1) They could be electrocuted or severely burned, or 2) the strain on the wire could cause the pole to break which could fall across the vehicle. Please note we said "could," because circumstances differ. We are trying to cite potential hazards.

Another example...Suppose a guy was not completely cut, but just frayed. Weeds had grown up around the frayed area and the potential hazard was not clearly visible. A lineman gets called out to correct a problem and has to climb the pole with this frayed guy. Depending on where he "belts-off" when he reaches the top of the pole, his body weight could cause enough strain to break the last strand of wire. As a result, the pole breaks and falls—along with the lineman—enough said.

You say, "They don't climb poles since they got those fancy ladders and basket trucks." Mainly this is true. However, there are times when they must climb poles. To take this one step further—when a lineman in a basket puts a hoist on the wires to pull them together to make a splice he puts strain on the last stand of the guy wire. With enough strain the guy wire could break causing the pole landing across the truck.

These are just examples of what could happen. We are asking that you please report any and all guy wires that you have accidentally cut or frayed or may have seen that do not appear safe. We just don't want anyone, especially you, to get hurt.

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Friday

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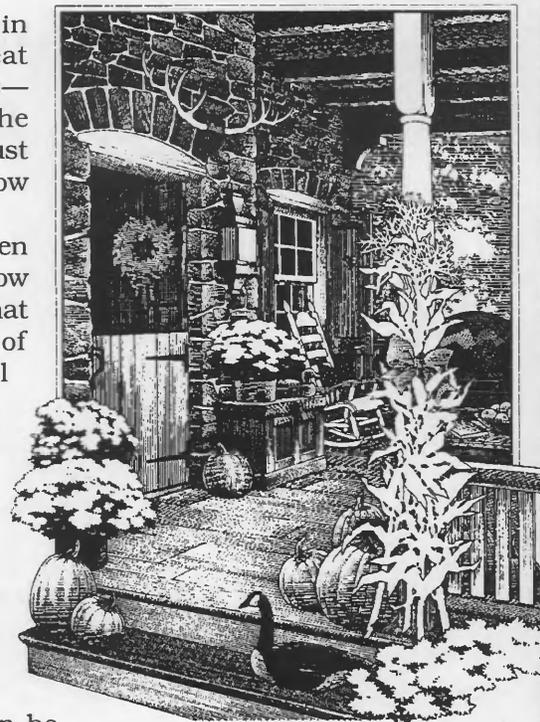
It's a great country!

...and it's even greater in the countryside of this great country. In the rural areas—where the air is fresher, the pace is a little slower, and it just seems like there's more elbow room for living.

You folks who have chosen this kind of country living know what we mean. You know that you don't give up one bit of technology in a rural area...that you have all the entertaining, time-saving advantages of living in the city.

Congratulations to you people who have "the best of both worlds." We hope you'll tell your urban friends about your quality of life.

Also, tell them that their local electric cooperative can be very helpful in supplying information about country living. They can assist in securing electric heating installations, water heaters, heat storage, envirowatch systems, satellite programming, First Call MainStreet Messenger systems and other modern comforts. **Dale Stone**



Electric safety is serious business

When a person thinks of electrical safety, they usually first think about avoiding contact with a power line or keeping electrical appliances away from water. Those things are definitely important.

- Electrical safety also means protecting and maintaining an electrical system and equipment. This helps to prevent injury to humans and livestock and reduces the chances of fires that can cause injury and property damage.
- Electric shock occurs when a person makes contact with an energized object while making contact with another surface such as ground. Current passes between the points of contact.
- Use of unsafe equipment can cause electrical shock. Improperly grounded equipment, improperly used adapter plugs, faulty insulation, loose connections and unguarded "live" parts are some examples of unsafe equipment.
- The National Center for Health Statistics reports approximately 250 fatalities from electrical shock each year in industry and farm-related accidents. In Illinois, annual electric shock deaths average between three and eight per year.

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MANAGER'S REPORT by Connie M. Shireman



Shireman

CO-OP PEOPLE

and co-ops offer a special kind of service

A guest editorial by Glenn English,
CEO, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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

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

Because electric co-ops are so closely linked to their communities, there are countless examples of activities that have the "co-op touch." Conducting safety programs at schools and at the local library, helping elderly citizens repair their homes, sponsoring local fairs, working with community organizations to get new businesses or new housing started, participating with civic groups in developing and improving health-care and crime-watch programs, contributing computers or satellite dishes to schools, community colleges and the local hospitals—the list goes on and on.

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

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

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, or oil burner, or space heater. Check fireplaces for obstructions or creosote buildup—clean at least once a year. Leave the damper slightly open at all times if you have a gas log or gas starter.

Plumbing and water heaters

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

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

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

Install a temperature pressure relief valve and metal overflow line on your 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.

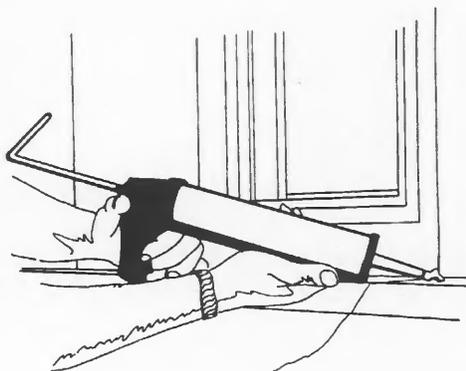
Unplug any large appliances not in use: range, washer, dryer, refrigerator (if empty and defrosted, leave door ajar), television, etc.

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 Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative 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.



If it blinks—it's working

Jo-Carroll Electric is served by a complex system of electric distribution lines subject to many possible occurrences that cause momentary outages or "blinks."

Blinks in your electric service are usually an indication that something has come in contact with the electric lines. Usually these problems can be traced to tree limbs, squirrels, birds, lightning and even cattle or horses rubbing against the guy wires. When the electric line senses a problem, the breaker (which is located on the power line) goes into operation. The breaker will shut the line off for just an instant so the line may clear itself. If it doesn't clear the first time, it may blink two or three times before it shuts the whole line off. Then, a cooperative line crew will be dispatched to clear the line. Were it not for these breakers out on the lines doing their jobs, lines and substations could be destroyed, causing many consumers to be without power.

We realize these blinks are a nuisance to our member because of the need to reset digital clocks and VCRs, etc. However, these blinks are a blessing in disguise. If it were not for the oil-filled reclosers (automatic circuit closers that reset after the blink), each of these instances may have been a long outage. Jo-Carroll Electric regrets these inconveniences, but is pleased that not all "blinks" were lengthy outages.

Electronic equipment such as microwave ovens, digital clocks, VCRs and computers are so sensitive that the slightest blink may cause interruptions. All electric utilities experience these brief outages, and these appliances are the biggest "tattletales" for electric utilities. In most cases, if it were not for the clocks you would never know the power had "flickered" or gone off for a short time.

We have no control over squirrels, birds, lightning, cattle and horses, but we can have some control over trees and tree limbs. If you see limbs on the main lines, please contact us—we'll be out to cut the limbs out of the lines.

Remember—the next time you see your lights blink, you know the system is working right!!

Now, an electric bicycle!

A California company has invented an electric bicycle that takes the legwork out of uphill riding. The electric bike uses old-fashioned pedal power along with a 12-volt battery with a range of about 10 miles. A biker can pedal on his own, coast along on the battery alone, or use a combination of gentle pedaling along with an electric boost, says Gary Starr, managing director of Zap Power Systems, maker of the bike.

"Studies have shown that the reason people don't commute to work by bike is because they get there all sweaty and hot," Starr explains, adding that with the electric bike, commuters stay cool and get where they're going faster than on a conventional bike, without releasing the exhaust that cars, motorcycles and scooters do.

Zap Power Systems recently received funding from the Electric Power Research Institute to refine the bike and test it in different applications, such as police work. Electric utilities could use the bike for their in-town meter readers, Starr says.

Best of all perhaps, when used as a stationary bike, the bike becomes a small power generator. This means a biker can actually get some exercise while storing up enough juice to provide for the next day's commute to work.

from *Rural Electrification Magazine* — July, 1995



Willie says, "Boo to you!"

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

Here are some Willie warnings:

- Trick or treat only at the homes of friends.
- Choose costumes that are nonflammable and light-colored.
- Know phone numbers and addresses of parties your teenagers might attend.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully; watch for children on roadways, medians and curbs.

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

Office hours
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Monday through
Friday

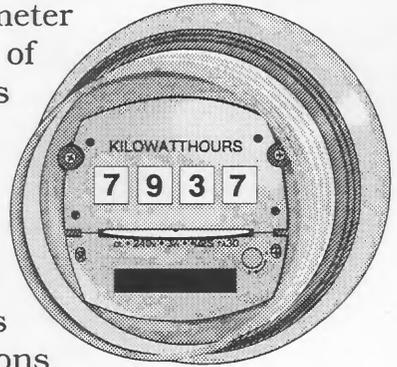
**Outages and
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call 1-800-858-5522
24 hours a day

Reader prize

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

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



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

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative

*We get our power from you . . .
Our Consumer-Owners.*

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

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

Local calls — dial 858-2207

Outside Elizabeth — dial 1-800-858-5522



Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc., Elizabeth, Illinois — (815) 858-3311

MANAGER'S REPORT by Connie M. Shireman



Shireman

The co-op principles



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

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

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

- **Autonomy and Independence**—Cooperatives are autonomous self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

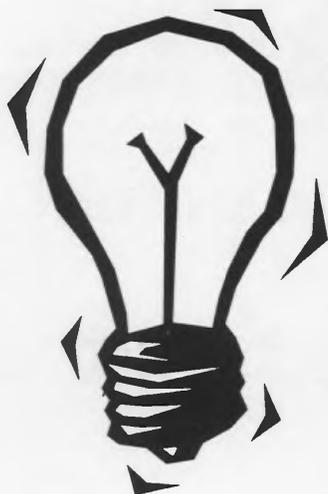
- **Education, Training and Information**—Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public particularly young people and opinion leaders—about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

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

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



Light right to save money



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

Indoor lighting

➡ Turn off lights in any room not being used.

➡ Light-zone your home and save electricity. Concentrate lighting in reading and working areas and where it's needed for safety (stairwells, for example).

➡ To reduce overall lighting in non-working spaces, remove one bulb out of three in multiple light fixtures and replace it with a burned-out bulb for safety. Replace other bulbs throughout the house with bulbs of the next lower wattage.

➡ Consider installing solid state dimmers or high-low switches when replacing light switches. They make it easy to reduce lighting intensity in a room and thus save energy.

➡ Use one large bulb instead of several small ones in areas where bright light is needed.

➡ Use compact fluorescent lights whenever you can; they give out more lumens per watt. These lights can fit into many incandescent lamp sockets and provide the same quality of light. With efficiencies of 50-60 lumens per watt, the compact fluorescent lamps are three to four times more efficient than conventional bulbs and last 10 times as long. For example, an 18-watt compact fluorescent lamp produces the same amount of light as a 75-watt incandescent lamp. Although the initial cost is higher, the savings in electricity costs could pay for the compact fluorescent bulb in about a year.

➡ Consider fluorescent lighting for the kitchen sink and countertop areas. These lights, set under

kitchen cabinets and over counters, are pleasant and energy efficient.

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

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

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

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

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

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

➡ Keep all lamps and lighting fixtures clean. **Julio Ruffo**

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

Outdoor lighting

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

➡ Consider installing solar-powered outdoor pathway lamps or high-efficiency sodium lamps for outdoor security lighting.

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★NOTE: We forgot to put in a name last month, so we're putting in three this month. Be sure to look for yours.

The Figures Don't Lie!

Figures from the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture on federal financing of electric utilities (see the box below) show that electric co-ops receive the least amount of federal monetary assistance per consumer than either the investor-owned or municipal utilities.

Storing heat electrically makes sense

Use low-cost off-peak electricity at night to heat your home both night and day.

If you've been using wood as a primary fuel source, you don't have to be reminded of what a job it can be to keep the home fires burning.

Consider converting to a safe heating system that features electric heat storage, using off-peak electricity at night to heat your home both night and day.

A compact, attractive thermal storage heater works like a thermostat. Insulated brick-like material inside the chamber stores up heat at night when electricity costs less. Then when the heat is needed, a blower directs air through the heated brick and out into the room.

Even hard to heat corners can be warm and comfortable.

With electric heat storage units strategically placed, even the most difficult to heat corners are warm and comfortable. They adapt to any size room, and can be located wherever you choose. There's no need for a central furnace or ductwork. If you presently

The assistance to co-ops is in the form of a **lower-than-market interest rate on loans**. The bonds of municipal utilities are tax exempt. Investor-owned utilities keep the federal taxes they collect from their customers which amounts to interest-free loans.

Federal Assistance To Electric Utilities

RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OPS

1. Number of systems	915
2. Total RUS loans outstanding	\$11,698,818,000
3. Annual cost to gov't (7.27% minus 4.40% RUS rate)	\$347,455,000
4. Total customers	11,482,000
5. Assistance per customer	\$30.26

INVESTOR-OWNED SYSTEMS

1. Number of systems	254
2. Total retained taxes	\$76,607,781,000
3. Annual cost to gov't (at 7.37%)	\$5,645,993,000
4. Total customers	87,560,000
5. Assistance per customer	\$64.48

MUNICIPAL (CITY-OWNED) SYSTEMS

1. Number of systems	503*
2. Tax-exempt bonds outstanding	\$77,480,231,000
3. Total interest paid	\$4,440,943,000
4. Annual cost to gov't (24% tax rate times interest)	\$1,065,826,000
5. Total customers	13,333,000
6. Assistance per customer	\$79.94

*503 out of 2,005 reported statistics to DOE
SOURCE: U.S. DOE, USDA

have electric baseboard heat, you qualify for a low, off-peak rate by installing a heat storage unit.

It's economical too.

Electric heat storage is also one of the safest and most economical ways to heat your home. By storing heat during your electric cooperative's lower rate, off-peak periods for use later, you realize substantial savings.

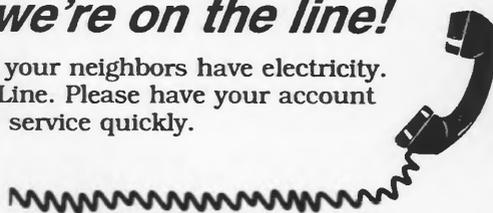
Ask a representative of your member-owned electric cooperative for more information about electric heat storage. Remember, storing heat electrically makes a lot more sense than storing wood.

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

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

Local calls — dial 858-2207

Outside Elizabeth — dial 1-800-858-5522



Electric Water Heaters Safer Than Gas

According to a study by the National Fire Protection Agency, heating water with electricity is seven times safer than heating with gas (manufactured natural gas). The agency found that gas water heaters cause seven times as many home fires as electric water heaters!

Some additional reasons why you should have an electric water heater: **Donald Behrnes**

- Electric water heaters can be placed virtually anywhere because there is no need for a flue or a vent.
- Electric water heaters do not create heat from burning something. There are no products of combustion, no danger of explosion from gas leaks, no threat of carbon monoxide poisoning, and indoor air quality is not compromised.
- Electric water heaters do not require the purchase of carbon monoxide alarms.
- Electric water heaters require less maintenance because there is no pilot light, no vent, no flue nor a heat exchanger that can corrode.
- Electric water heaters have more insulation than most gas models because they can be insulated on all sides - including the top and the bottom.
- Electric water heaters are more efficient than gas. The electric heating elements are in direct contact with the water so they are 100 percent efficient, while a gas water heater loses 40-60 percent of its heat up the flue.

Call Jo-Carroll Today And Get A FREE 52-Gallon Electric Water Heater!

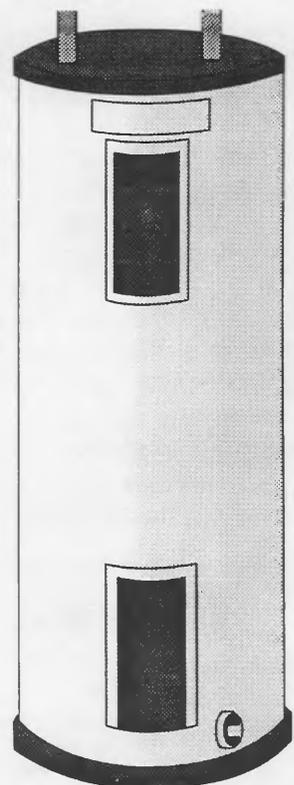
Would you like to replace your old gas water heater? Are you building a new home? Call JCEC today and get set up with a FREE 52 or 80 gallon electric water heater and participate in our special load management program.

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 390

Elizabeth, IL 61028-0390

1-800-858-5522



Jo-Carroll Hi-Lines ⁴⁴

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc., Elizabeth, Illinois — (815) 858-3311

MANAGER'S REPORT by Connie M. Shireman



Shireman

Board of directors election

One of the most important aspects of a cooperative is the democratic election process that decides which of the cooperative's members will serve on the Jo-Carroll board of directors. Here is how the election process works at Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative:

Prior to the annual meeting, a special mailing is made to elect the directors for a three-year term. Only the members who receive electric service in the district may vote for the director from their district, on the basis of one vote per membership.

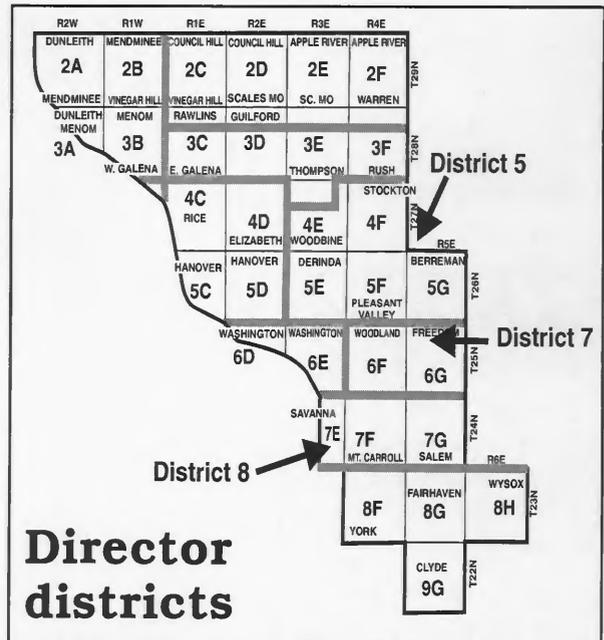
The nominees who will appear on the ballot are chosen by a nominating committee of Jo-Carroll members. This year's nominating committee will meet at the headquarters building to submit the names. Any members interested in becoming candidates should contact this committee. Directors are to be elected in Districts 5, 7, and 8 this year.

Members of the committee include:

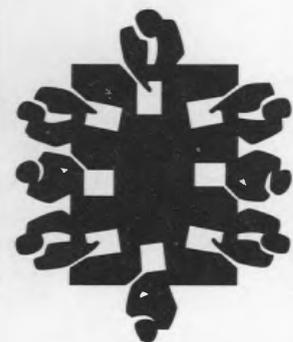
DISTRICT 5: (Incumbent: Richard Reusch) Donald Thoren, 8033 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028-9711; Robert McLane, 3188 E. Liebert Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028-9526; Raymond Steffes, 6950 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028-9709.

DISTRICT 7: (Incumbent: Rodney Fritz) John Fecke, 13611 Loran Road, Mount Carroll, IL 61053; Jeffrey Judas, 17880 Meyers Road, Mount Carroll, IL 61053-9636; Greg Flikkema, 19951 Townline Road, Lanark, IL 61046-8818.

DISTRICT 8: (Incumbent: Vernon Law) Harlan Brunner, 15416 Scenic Bluff Road, Savanna, IL 61074; Leroy Getz, 11576 Jacobstown Road, Savanna, IL 61074; Allan Krum, 15256 Airport Road., Mount Carroll, IL 61053.



Director districts



Mark your calendar!
March 8
Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Here's the
church,
here's the
steeple . . .



Moving this 136-year-old church 14 miles took nine hours atop a 24-wheeled truck. Two Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative crews hustled to disconnect overhead lines wherever they crossed the road, then quickly reconnected them to minimize disruptions in service.

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to
4 p.m.
Monday through
Friday

Outages and emergencies

During hours call
1-800-858-5522,
after hours call
1-800-927-5254.

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Sandy and Duane Wolfram dreamed of relocating and refurbishing St. John's Lutheran Church. The deteriorating white steepled church sat for 136 years at the unincorporated Jo Davies County settlement of Guilford, a few miles north of Elizabeth until recently when it was moved to the Wolfram home 14 miles away near Apple River.

A restored one-room school already had been located at the Wolfram home, which is the site of the annual Labor Day celebration of old-fashioned farming called Echoes of the Past.

"We wanted to have a family cemetery on the property and a church to go with it," Mrs. Wolfram told Gregory Douglas, a Journal-Standard reporter.

Unfortunately, Mr. Wolfram died in February, before the couple's wish could be fulfilled. So, Mrs. Wolfram had her husband's body buried on the farm and had the church placed beside his grave.

St. John's, a part of the Hills Lutheran Church near Schapville, closed in the late 1970s. Parishioners gave it to Mrs. Wolfram for the cost of hauling. The move attracted dozens of people, many of them former parishioners, including Erma Ohms, who attended the church all her life, until the last regular worship service on Christmas day, 1969.

"It's good they are moving this to a place where it can be restored," Ms. Ohms told the reporter.

Mrs. Wolfram said she plans to make the church available again for selected special events, but the first such event already has been booked for her daughter Becky's wedding next summer.

Fighting for our communities

Electric cooperatives across the country are fighting hard to make sure everyone benefits from changes in the electric utility business

Once again, just as they have over the past 70 years, locally-owned electric cooperatives across the country are fighting for the future of the communities they serve. Because they are involved in the changes confronting the electric utility industry, they are fighting for you as an owner of these local, private businesses.

Recent history gives us good reason not to change too quickly. We've learned from past efforts to deregulate. What at first looked great to everyone, has ended up costing a lot of people more.

The natural gas industry is one example. That industry was deregulated several years ago amid great promises of reduced bills for everyone. In fact, today average residential consumers have seen their natural gas bill increase. Promises made by big corporations as they fought for deregulation of the natural gas business have not been kept.

A few years ago Congress deregulated the cable television industry amid great expectations of reduced monthly cable bills. Today, newspapers across the country are reporting that the average monthly cable bill is up nearly 10 percent since deregulation.

And, we can't overlook the airline industry. While it is true that some of the largest cities in the United States have benefited, many cities and towns have seen dramatic increases in airline fares and dramatic decreases in airline service—another example of how deregulation has not helped everyone.

For generations, the electric utility business has been a government-regulated industry. While no one can say for certain what the final outcome will be, you certainly will have a greater degree of choice and a wider variety of service options to meet your energy needs.

Already a few states are implementing pilot programs to see how different changes to the electric utility industry will affect consumers. As these pilot programs move forward, you can be assured that your local electric cooperative, in partnership with other electric co-ops around the country, are on the front lines of the effort to make sure you benefit as much as possible from these changes.

These are six key points that are guiding our work for you:

- 1) All consumers should be treated equitably; no single group of consumers should benefit at the expense of others. **James Kramer**
- 2) Consumers who stay with their current utility should not have to pay for investments in utility equipment left idle by consumers leaving the system.
- 3) All energy suppliers—not just utilities—should be subject to the same rules and standards.
- 4) All consumers should have access to electric service.
- 5) The safety and reliability of electric service must not be jeopardized.
- 6) Defined delivery service areas should be maintained to avoid costly duplication of utility infrastructure.

All six of these criteria must be met before we can be sure you'll get the maximum possible benefit from the proposal. Until we can be sure that will happen, we should not rush to deregulate simply because some large corporation might benefit.

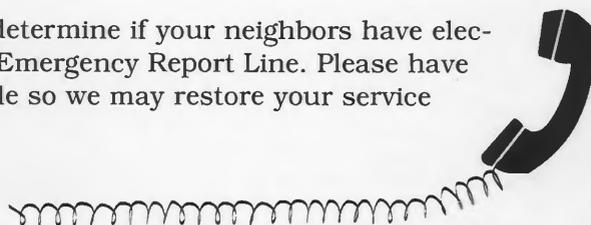
Make no mistake, there are very real opportunities to change the electric utility business to give all electric co-op consumers greater flexibility and choice in the types of energy services they want. And because your local co-op is a locally owned, private business, it will continue to fight for the people who own it—you and your neighbors.

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Reap The Benefits of Rural TV and Your C-band Satellite Dish!



This year, reap the full benefits of your C-band satellite system. With your Full View system, you can watch hundreds of channels, many of them available for free. Plus, you'll be able to subscribe to some of the best television programming around. Watch family favorites like A&E, Discovery Channel, and The Disney Channel; sporting events on ESPN, SportsChannel, and SSN; hit movies on HBO, Showtime, and Starz!; news and information on CNN, Headline News, and MSNBC; music on CMT, Gospel Music Television, and TNN; and much more! Best of all, you can subscribe to all of these services through people you know and trust -- your local Rural TV provider. So what are you waiting for? Packages start at under \$10 per month and you'll receive the best customer service around. That's variety and value...just what you're looking for.

Welcome Home To Rural TV.



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