

Safeguard your home: How we did it

By Cindy Ladage and Janna Seiz,
members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co.

Accidents happen even to careful people. The first line of defense is prevention; the second is preparation. Accidents can be prevented and consequences can be minimized.

Last summer, we decided to make our lives safer. First, we designed emergency kits and placed them in all of our vehicles. They have come in handy many times for cuts, headaches and car sickness. We included first-aid items, a fire extinguisher and jumper cables.

Because so many accidents happen in the home, we decided to focus on home safety.

Getting Started

First, we walked through our homes to assess what was right, wrong or missing. We looked for fire hazards, chemical dangers, and physical or structural hazards. Then we set up a communication plan to bring help.

We did the walk through together so that one might catch something the other would miss. For example, Cindy had smoke detectors on the first and second floor, but Janna pointed out the danger of the need for a detector in the basement stairwell.

What We Found

While both families have designated escape routes, it had been awhile since our families had reviewed them. We now make reviews part of our fall heating season routine. As furnaces, water heaters and storm windows are checked, we also review safety procedures.

We installed smoke detectors on levels where there were none before.

Fire extinguishers were in place on the first floors of each home, and we added one to the other levels and in the garage. We checked the gauges and found two out of three in one home needed to be replaced. We showed family members where the new extinguishers were, reminded them of the old ones, and reviewed their use.

Emergency phone numbers were listed in both homes by the first-floor phone, and we added a list on each level. The list included, fire, police,

doctors, insurance contacts, neighbors and family phone numbers.

We read about carbon monoxide build-up in homes, so we bought detectors and installed them in our basements. Installing them was as simple as plugging them into a wall outlet. According to the package, potential sources of carbon monoxide are clogged chimneys, gas or oil furnaces, gas water heaters, wood or gas fireplaces, wood stoves, automobiles, and gas and kerosene heaters. Exposure can produce headaches, dizziness, shortness of breath, and nausea, and can result in permanent brain damage.

Radon gas is another indoor air hazard. Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that comes from uranium in the soil and is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Cindy tested her home and found levels above the EPA's action level of 4.0 pico curies per liter. By laying plastic in the crawl space and sealing it off from the rest of the basement, radon concentrations were reduced. Test kits are available in many hardware stores.

We put a first-aid station on first floor levels in both homes. The first aid kits include:

1. A 6-inch pressure bandage, to control heavy bleeding;
2. Two or three gauze roll bandage that are 2 inches by 5 yards;
3. Three or four sterile gauze pads;
4. An antiseptic cream;
5. Band aids, including several sizes and shapes;
6. A dozen safety pins, including some diaper pins for the heavy duty stuff, to hold bandages or slings together;
7. A roll of adhesive tape;
8. Alcohol swabs;

9. Tweezers;
10. Scissors;
11. Pain relievers, including non-aspirin ones (remember, children should not be given aspirin without a doctor's prescription because of the risk of Reye's syndrome);
12. Cotton triangular bandage to serve as a sling for an injured arm;
13. Antiseptic wash;
14. Nail clippers;
15. Latex gloves;
16. A CPR micro shield, which not only protects you from AIDS if you have to administer CPR, but also helps get a better seal over the lips so that you can be more effective. These may be hard to find. They are disposable form and cost about \$6;
17. Eye wash (look for one with eye



Allison Ladage, left, and her sister Carrie, right, review the use of a fire extinguisher.

cup built into top);

18. Dust mask; and
19. Although our household cleaners are stored both in the kitchen and the bathroom, many are hazardous. Where we can, we buy multi-purpose, non-toxic biodegradable cleaning materials. Where small children are in the home, make sure cleaning supplies are placed out of reach in child-proof containers.

Keep cleaning solutions in their original containers, so you can refer to the label to determine when and if it is necessary to dial 911. Labels also help paramedics know how to treat the injured party.

Remember, if you have small children, install cabinet locks and electrical outlet covers, and learn how to handle choking hazards.

We thought our homes were safe ones, but we learned that we had gaps in our safety net. By working together, and with minimal time and expense, we vastly improved our homes' safety.

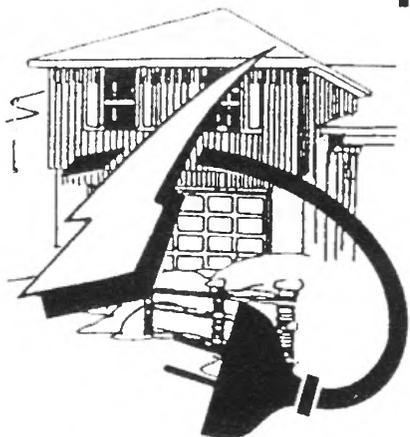
*** Available Services and Programs ***



Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Featuring this month



Dual Energy—Off-Peak—Low Rate... Save with the affordable choice

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

It is a system which combines two energy sources—electricity as a primary source and an alternate energy system such as electricity, gas or oil, as a secondary source during interruptible periods.

- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents kilowatt-hour.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for installation.—Primary Electric
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation—All Electric Dual Energy System—(Alternate energy must be electric)

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

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$400 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125 for IVEC members only—\$125 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit on billing statement if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September —\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- ★ EnergySTeller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience
- ★ Home lightning protection—surge protection equipment and installation service.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0002677600

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

Call toll-free—800-654-1088

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

Soyland completes debt buyout— Illinova acquires Soyland's part ownership in Clinton Power Station

Soyland Power Cooperative has achieved a major breakthrough in its long struggle to restructure its debt and lower the cost of wholesale power for its 21 distribution cooperative members, including Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. However, it is still uncertain how this will affect Illinois Valley Electric's retail rates charged to its members over the next several years.

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

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

Soyland and we at Illinois Valley Electric, credit the support of Congressman Dick Durbin and other members of the Illinois congressional delegation for breaking a deadlock in Soyland-RUS negotiations. We were basically at a standstill in our RUS negotiations when our congressional leaders went to Springfield to convene a meeting of RUS officials with the Soyland negotiating team. Attending the meeting besides Rep. Durbin were representatives of U.S. Senators Paul Simon and Carol Moseley-Braun, along with representatives of U.S. Representatives Glenn Poshard, Thomas Ewing and Ray LaHood.

We basically laid out our concerns that our extraordinarily high costs of debt service were hurting our member-cooperatives' rural service

areas and stifling economic development. With some form of electric utility deregulation expected within a few years, Soyland leaders made it clear the cooperative had to obtain some form of debt cost reduction. The Rural Utilities Service responded to Soyland's concerns a short time later with the buyout proposal that met our goals. The RUS leadership is to be commended for this realistic solution. Soyland has received a reduction in its debt load and the federal government received a substantial payment under the plan.

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

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

The Soyland-Illinova agreements are an important second step in Soyland's long-term plan to reduce local cooperatives' wholesale power costs. Those agreements call for Illinova or an unregulated subsidiary to acquire Soyland's

(Continued on page 12f)

If you worry about a parent living alone . . .

FIRST CALL
Personal Emergency Response



Portable Pendant

.....talk to Illinois Valley Advanced Communications about its new personal emergency response system.

Your parent will get the extra ordinary life-saving service. You get the peace of mind.

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

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

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



MainStreet Messenger Telephone

SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

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



Your house: 1 Lightning: 0

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

Meter socket adapters

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

*MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector

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

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

Plug-in protectors—optional

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

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

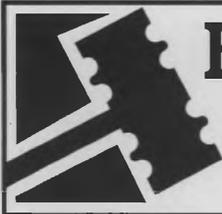
*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to all electronic equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

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

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

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

Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22, 1996 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and

accepted after due consideration.

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to sponsor the Illinois Youth Tour to Springfield and the Youth to Washington tour.

The November board meeting will be November 26, 1996. The December board meeting will be held on Friday, December 20, 1996.

(Continued from page 12c)

Clinton plant ownership. Illinova Power Marketing, Inc., (IPMI) will provide Soyland with firm power requirements and energy needs. The power supply agreement is proposed to run for 10 years with an option to extend for another 10-year period.

Many Illinois cooperative leaders contributed to the successful completion of negotiations with RUS and with Illinova. Our negotiating teams, our

board of directors and the leadership of our Illinois congressional delegation all helped to make RUS understand our problems and to realize we had to have some debt relief. I want to express my appreciation to Illinois Valley Electric representatives director Jack Scott and former director Joe Danielson for their service on the Soyland board of directors. They made a valuable contribution.

Low and high voltage occurrences and suggested protection

Sometime, no doubt, you'll experience a low-voltage situation at your home. How will I know, you ask? Well, the lights will go dim and stay that way. Something is amiss on our distribution system. Usually it is nothing the co-op has any control over but we do repair it. Under low-voltage conditions, the motors in your motor-driven appliances may be damaged because they are not getting enough power to operate normally.

If this situation should occur we strongly advise you to immediately unplug or shut off those appliances that are motor driven. Many are listed in the "may damage" column below. Then call Illinois Valley Electric at 800-654-1088 to report the occurrence. Do not attempt to use the appliances until the lights come back to full brilliance and remain so for at least 15 minutes.

What if you're not at home when this condi-

tion occurs? Automatic protection is available. Many home centers stock a plug-in device called a motor controller into which an appliance is plugged. Some manufacturers build their controller to protect the motors against low-voltage brownouts and high voltage surges in addition to controlling the amount of electricity the motor uses under varying conditions.

The protector continually monitors the voltage on the circuit and, if a low-voltage situation occurs, it will automatically shut off the power to the appliance. The protector will not let the motor operate until some minutes after it senses that the voltage has returned to an acceptable level. It is recommended that all appliances and pieces of home-entertainment equipment have a plug-in surge protector, so the motor controller serves this function also.

Low voltage Will not damage:

Lights
Stoves

Toasters
Water Heaters

Low voltage May damage:

Air Conditioners
Dishwashers
Clothes Washers
Computers
Clothes Dryers

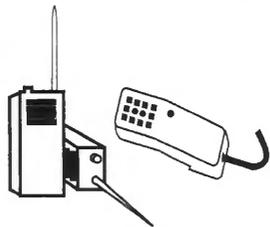
Furnaces
Pumps
VCRs
Freezers
Hair Dryers

Refrigerators
TVs
Disposers
Compactors



Now serving over 1,700 radio users in north-central Illinois!!!

Portable or mobile radio and telephone service
from
Illinois Valley Advanced Communications



★ Two-Way
radio service

Agent for
SEGNO
Communications, Inc.

 Providing
MOTOROLA
COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

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

★ Offering
area-wide coverage

★ Reach your people
in the field or on the road

The Radio System features the following specifications:

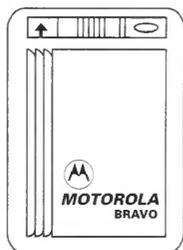
- The 800 MHZ Frequency Trunking System “pools” several radio channels so that all users in a given area have automatic access to any free channel.
- A trunked system provides added privacy to conversations.
- Interruptions from outside conversations are almost impossible.
- Operation is simple: After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

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

Optional Telephone Interconnect

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

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



Paging Services

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

Types of pagers available:

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

For as little as \$10.50 per month

—OPTIONAL FEATURES AVAILABLE—



Illinois Valley Advanced Communications, Inc.

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Call Toll Free 800-654-1088 — Ask for the member services department



Winter outage ready

Illinois electric cooperatives are prepared for the worst. Are you?



Ice on power lines is so heavy it's like hanging a small car between each set of poles. Lines sag to the ground and poles can snap like tooth picks. Winter storms can cause long power outages at the worst possible time. Be sure you have the supplies you need like flashlights, blankets, food and water to ride out a winter power outage.

Above all else remember to stay clear of any downed power lines. A power line

on the ground can still be energized.

The electric cooperatives of Illinois have an emergency plan and can send crews from across the state during large outages. But even with extra help winter outages can take a long time to repair. We appreciate your patience when thousands of customers are trying to call at the same time. Cooperation is the key to meeting nature's challenge.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

Fighting for our communities

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 because you are 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 that 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 services—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 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 Illinois Valley 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.
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 to 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 Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is a locally owned, private business, it will continue to fight for the people who own it—you and your neighbors.

Electric cooperatives are fighting hard to ensure everyone benefits from changes in the electric utility business

Stanley Ballard retires after 50 years

It was a balmy summer day in 1946. Bureau native Stanley Ballard, a railroad employee and recently discharged Navy veteran, was visiting home from Kansas. While strolling down Princeton's Main Street, he happened to notice the Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative building.

With his electrical experience on the railroad, where he worked in the signals department, he figured he'd be a natural for a job there, close to home. He applied immediately.

He got the job, starting as a journeyman lineman working for the princely sum of 85 cents an hour. Before closing out his career some 50 years and six months later, Stan would work for five different IVEC managers, relocate to Galva, and put some 1,750,000 miles on a series of co-op trucks.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. Stanley, who'd dropped out of school during his junior year to work for the railroad, had been there about a year when he became old enough to join the Navy. "World War II was on," he says, "and it seemed like the thing to do. I was on the destroyer Massey doing radar picket duty off Okinawa.

"We steamed back and forth keeping a radar watch for incoming enemy planes. The idea was that we were supposed to open fire on any that came in range, in hopes of diverting them from the other, more important ships we were screening."

After leaving the Navy shortly after the war ended, Stan went back to work for the railroad, which put him to work in Kansas. It was on a home visit from that job that he happened into the IVEC office.

Shortly after coming to IVEC, Stan married his first wife, Margie, and they had two sons and a daughter. Margie died in 1991, and Stan married his present wife, Robyn, about a year ago.

Stan notes that he's surprised at how many things have remained unchanged in his half-century of work, although there have been many changes, too.

"When I first got into maintenance in 1948," he says, "we had several members who'd use 40 kilowatt-hours, which was the minimum then, and quit using electricity. They didn't think they were allowed to use any more than that. A few literally went out and took the fuses out of their

fusebox. That went on in some places up into the 1970s. The minimum bill back then was \$3.50, plus 11 cents tax."

IVEC, like virtually every other co-op, used military surplus trucks with A-frames attached, to set poles. "We didn't have bucket trucks or diggers. We dug all the holes by hand. There's no doubt that things have gotten a lot easier than they were then."

As might be expected in a career spanning some five decades, Stan remembers a storm or two, and says that the granddaddy of them all was an ice storm that hit on New Year's Day, 1948.

"It didn't do a tremendous amount of damage because all the lines were nearly new," he says, "but all the work we did had to be done with hooks and belts, so it took a long time. It took three weeks to get everybody back into service.

"But it wasn't as bad for the members back then as it is now. Most people could pump water with an old hand pump, could heat with wood, and so on. They weren't as dependent on electricity as they are now. That makes a lot of difference. People miss electricity quickly now."

Stan was around for the construction of the present headquarters building, which was begun in 1955, although he was working in the Galva area by then. The grand opening was held in 1957. Area outposts were built in Ottawa in 1980 and in Galva in 1981.

Working in the Galva area involved covering the western one-third of IVEC's service area, which includes all or parts of some five counties.

"Working for IVEC has been really great," he says, "and I've had a good rapport with most of the people I've worked with over the years. I'm retiring partly because I don't feel that I can do as good a job for them as they deserve, and partly because 50 years is long enough anyway. We have good men working over there, and I know they'll do well by 'my' people."

As mentioned in an accompanying ad on this page, IVEC is hosting a reception for Stanley at the Galva warehouse building located at 200 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Galva. The event is set for Jan. 30, from 1-3 p.m. We invite all IVEC members to come out and help us wish Stanley a happy retirement.



Stan Ballard

Notice To: All Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative members

You are cordially invited to attend a retirement reception in honor of Stan Ballard. Stan has been with Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for 50 years and has served the Galva area as foreman since 1956.

The reception will be held on Thursday, Jan. 30, 1997, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Galva Warehouse Building located at 200 SW 6th Avenue, in Galva.



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26, 1996 with all directors but Ralph Freebairn present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present. **Curt Podobinski**

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

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to purchase a used 1994 Lumina Van for the cooperative. The van would replace a 1990 Lumina Van with 164,000 miles.

2. The President gave a complete update on the IVEC radio system.

3. The Board reviewed a preliminary draft of the 1997 budget. A special board meeting was scheduled for December 30, 1996.

4. The board was updated on the current status of providing electric service to the Timberline Subdivision in Putnam County.

5. It was reported that the cooperative's banker, National Rural Utilities Cooperative (CFC) would be paying future capital credit dividends to IVEC in cash as opposed to applying these amounts to IVEC's capital loan balances.

The December board meeting will be held on Friday, December 20, 1996. The January board meeting is January 28, 1997. The February board meeting is scheduled for the 25th.

IVEC personnel notes

We'd like to keep our readers up to date on what's happening around the co-op in these changing times, and as we get enough material to make half a page or so, we plan to detail board and staff changes and events. As you can see, we've saved some from as far back as the annual meeting. We'll try to keep things more timely in the future.

Robert Angus of Ottawa was reelected to the board of directors, while Charles Meisenheimer of Walnut and Don Rogers of Altona were elected to their first three-year terms.

Stanley Ballard, Glava area foreman, was recognized for 50 years of service to the cooperative.

T. J. Cornog, field engineer, has been promoted to coordinator of planning and special projects.

Alan L. Meissner has been hired as field engi-

neer. He holds an electrical engineering degree from Southern Illinois University.

Debra Higgins has been hired as an accountant. She holds a B.S. degree in accounting from East Central University at Ada., Oklahoma.

Michael Rivara has been hired as a journeyman lineman. He previously worked as a lineman for various contractors.

Gerald Henning has been hired as a journeyman lineman. He previously worked for several contractors.

Carrie Harrington has been hired as coordinator of office services. She holds a B.S. degree in business administration from the University of Denver. She is also a certified public accountant.

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, below are the meter reading dates for January. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

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

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0003432001

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

Call toll-free-800-654-1088

WE'RE SERVING UP THE HOTTEST DISH IN TOWN.



- DSS equipment**
- ★ only \$399
 - ★ financing available
 - ★ self install or professionally installed

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

COME IN TODAY FOR A TASTE OF DIRECTV.

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

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. DIRECTV.



Call Member Services...

Illinois Valley Advanced Communications

Rt. 6 & 34W • Princeton, IL 61356

Telephone 800-654-1088

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

DSS
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM

DIRECTV
SATELLITE TV AT ITS BEST



Illinois Valley Advanced Communications

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Providing communications technology for the 21st Century"

DSS
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM



DIRECTV
SATELLITE TV AT ITS BEST

Featuring this month



18-inch receiving dish

- ★ DSS Satellite Equipment at low price of \$399
- ★ DIRECTV programming packages from \$14.95/mo.
- ★ financing available
- ★ self install or professionally installed

The Choice is clear. DirecTV

- ★ Satellite television dish antenna systems for C-Band (24 channel) and Ku-Band (32 channel).
- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star-Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.
- ★ Paging communications service-wide area coverage in Illinois.
- ★ Personal emergency response systems—hands free two-way communication for seniors or persons living alone.
- ★ Two-way 800 Mhz radio system with telephone interconnect service at low monthly rates.
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS digital satellite system—programming from \$14.95 per month.
- ★ Tower space rentals—tower structures located across north-central Illinois.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Advanced Communications. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.

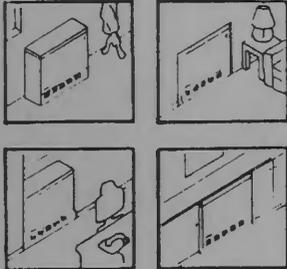
*** Available Services and Programs ***



Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

E.T.S.



Example of...
Warm room concept
installations

Featuring this month OFF-PEAK Electric Thermal Storage

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



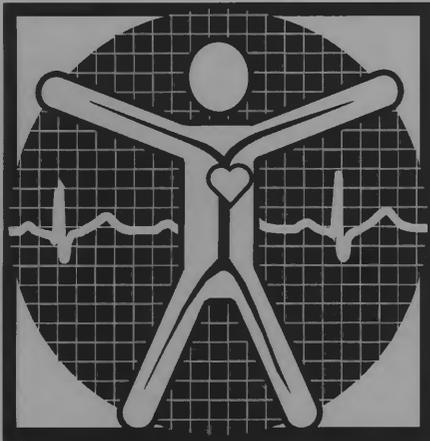
Electric thermal storage heating is a clean, safe, comfortable and reliable secondary method of heating your home during "on peak" times when primary electric heat is interrupted. This heating choice provides consumers with considerable savings in heating costs. These savings are realized by members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

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

All-Electric or Dual Energy Off-Peak Heating Systems offer efficiency and savings

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh--\$75 per kw rebate up to \$400 for installation. If alternate energy is electric--\$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate--for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate--back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125 for IVEC members only--\$125 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September--\$40 total benefit--no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September --\$40 total benefit--no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
 - Up to 400% efficiency--ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month--no maintenance headaches
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience
- ★ Home lightning protection - surge protection equipment and installation program

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.



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

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

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

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

**Special
price
\$399**

YOUR 18-INCH SATELLITE DISH HAS NEVER BEEN SO CHEAP!

**Special
price
\$399**

The digital satellite system

★ DSS
Satellite Equipment
low price
of \$399

★ financing
available
Call for details!

★ DIRECTV
programming
packages from
\$14.95/mo.

★ self install or
professionally
installed



—18-inch dish—

It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™ —so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV™** programming! Our new, monthly payment plan makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

The choice is clear. DIRECTV.

Illinois Valley Advanced Communications, Inc.

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Call Toll Free 800-654-1088

Ask for member services



DSS™
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM

DIRECTV™
SATELLITE TV AT ITS BEST

Moonlight is nice—



but you can depend on a rental security light

You don't have to depend on the uncertain light of the silvery moon when you install a rental security light at your home, farm or business. For a few dollars a month, your property can be bathed in bright light. Studies have shown that outdoor lighting reduces the chance of burglary and vandalism.

A moonlit night is great, but for peace of mind, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative and have one of the following security lights installed. Security lights are installed on a meter or transformer pole owned by the cooperative.

Free installation, maintenance and service.

100-Watt HPS

\$11.75 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$13.25 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

400-Watt HPS

\$16.00 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$17.50 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

**Call your cooperative toll-free at (800) 654-1088 for more details.
Ask about the rental security light program.**



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:

- 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 com-

bustion, 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.

Ask about the Switch Makes \$cents\$ program Don't miss out on your chance to save \$40 a year on electric water heating costs!

How does it work?

- If you have an electric water heater with capacity of 40 gallons or more, you are eligible to participate in the Switch Makes \$cents\$ program.

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

- You will receive a \$10.00 credit for June, July, August and September on your electric bill for the controlled water heater.

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

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

How do I sign up for the Switch Makes \$cents\$ program?

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

YES, please send me information on the \$10.00 per month electric water heater credit. Total benefit—\$40 per year.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ZIP Code _____

Phone Number _____

Best Time to Call _____

Date _____

Location Number _____

NOTE: Location number is on your electric billing statement.

Simple detectors can save lives

The increase in energy costs in the last couple of decades has put many people in a difficult situation. As we've "snuggled up" our homes to prevent the loss or gain of heat, we've wound up with unexpected problems.

Harmful by-products of the combustion process used to just slip out through all the little nooks and crannies that all houses had.

With energy as inexpensive as it was, we resorted to a simple solution: We turned the thermostat up or down, depending on whether we needed more heating or cooling. If we thought about it at all, we understood that our thermostat adjustment would cost us a few dollars more a couple of months down the road.

During the winter, many turned to supplemental heat, often using fireplaces, wood stoves or kerosene heaters, all of which add to the danger of fire.

As energy costs went out the ceiling, we sought other ways to save. We added insulation, and took some other steps to avoid the loss of our heated or cooled air. We caulked and weather-stripped and covered our windows with film. New houses were built much tighter than older ones, and nearly all houses being built now are completely wrapped in plastic.

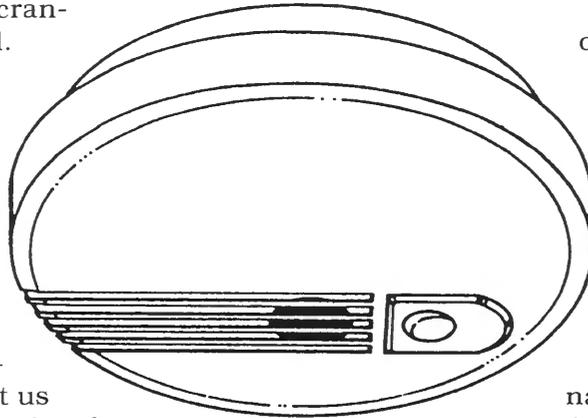
This means that smoke and poisons such as carbon monoxide, which used to flow out without any trouble, were stuck in the house, along with its occupants. The comedian of the 1960s who said "I shot an arrow into the air... and it stuck!" might well have been referring to air in many of today's homes.

Fortunately, there are devices on the market that will give you some warning of trouble, whether it's from fire or carbon monoxide. The first has been around for some time. Smoke detectors have been used for years to alert people of fires in their homes. They've saved countless lives. They're cheap, starting at about \$5, and are easy to install. Illinois law requires that smoke detectors be installed in homes.

You should have one near each sleeping area, in any basement stairway, and near any fossil-fueled supplemental heating unit. If you have battery-powered smoke detectors, change

your batteries annually on the same date. Your birthday, New Year's Day, or any other memorable time would be fine.

Most battery-powered units will start "chirping" when the battery's getting low. Smart homeowners will change batteries before that happens.



Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors have come on the market in the last few years, and are gaining in popularity as people come to realize that there's a down side to having a snug house. CO is a killer gas that results from any combustion process, including the burning of LP gas, natural gas, kerosene, wood, gasoline, charcoal, or whatever.

There's a simple rule about CO: "If something's burning, it's putting out CO."

CO can kill in just minutes, and if you have a gas water heater, cookstove or furnace in your house, you're potentially at risk. You can reduce your risk by having all fuel-burning appliances checked annually by a qualified serviceman. You can eliminate the risk of CO in your home by the use of new electric technologies to heat your home, your water, and your food.

Know the symptoms of CO poisoning, which many people often mistake for the flu, since the symptoms are similar. Headaches, drowsiness, nausea and a bright red or flushed face and neck are warnings, and you also may experience a loss of vision, poor muscular coordination, an inability to concentrate, and memory loss.

You can find CO detectors in the home supply section of many department stores at about \$30. Most simply plug into an outlet.

While you're thinking about CO detectors, it's a good time to give some serious thought to installing a heat pump or geothermal system when you need to replace an existing fossil-fueled furnace. They're cleaner and safer than gas or oil units, and far safer than burning wood or kerosene!

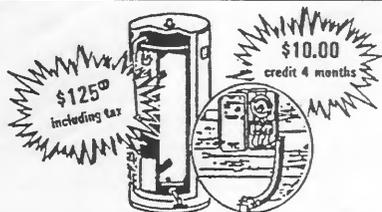
For information about replacing home appliances that use combustible fuel with electric appliances, talk to your friends at your local electric cooperative. They'll be glad to help.

*** Available Services and Programs ***



Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



60 or 80 gal. water heater

Featuring this month

- **High-Efficiency electric water heaters** at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only.
- **Earn \$10 credit** on your electric bill with control device on water heater for months of June, July, August, and September. (\$40 savings!!)
- **\$125.00 Rebate** if control device is installed after 30 days.

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$400 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125 for IVEC members only—\$125 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September —\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- ★ EnergySTeller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience
- ★ Home lightning protection - surge protection and installation service.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.



Illinois Valley Advanced Communications

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Providing communications technology for the 21st Century"

Featuring this month

Paging Services

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

Types of pagers available:

- ★ Tone only ★ Tone & Voice ★ Digital Display

For as little as \$10.50 per month

—OPTIONAL FEATURES AVAILABLE—

- ★ Satellite television dish antenna systems for C-Band (24 channel) and Ku-Band (32 channel).
- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star—Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.
- ★ Paging communications service—wide area coverage in Illinois.
- ★ Personal emergency response systems—hands free two-way communication for seniors or persons living alone.
- ★ Two-way 800 mhz radio system with telephone interconnect service at low monthly rates.
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS digital satellite system—programming from \$14.95 per month.
- ★ Tower space rentals—tower structures located across north-central Illinois.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Advanced Communications. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris) Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

IVEC sponsors youth tours in 1997



Washington tour winners chosen last year
Four area youths were winners in IVEC's 1996 "Youth-to-Washington" program. They were part of a group of 70 students and chaperones from Illinois that toured the nation's capital June 14-21. From left are: Shelly Williams, Heather Grant, Dawn Amrein and Melissa Tiller.

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

We want to encourage students to learn more about government and their role in it, so IVEC is providing student leaders a chance to get a close-up look at their government.

Illinois electric cooperatives have sponsored these programs for 38 years. Today, many "alumni" of these programs work in state or federal government or have gone on to serve as elected officials, including two current members of the Illinois General Assembly.

IVEC will sponsor two sophomore or junior students from each high school in its service area on an all-expense paid bus trip to Springfield on April 30. Governor Jim Edgar has declared that day as Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day. The students and their counterparts from other Illinois high schools will meet their elected senators and

representatives at the Capitol and learn about the workings of state government. They will be honored at a special luncheon and could meet with Governor Edgar.

Youth-to-Washington

At the close of the Springfield trip, four students will be selected to represent IVEC on an all-expense paid trip to the nation's capital June 13-20. **Phil Guntion**

They will be selected during interviews following the day-long Springfield activities.

The Washington tour winners will be part of a group of about 80 students and chaperones from across the state who will represent their respective electric cooperatives on the 1997 tour.

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

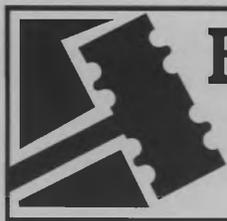
Dawn Amrein of rural Princeton was one of four students who represented IVEC on the 1996 tour, and was chosen by her peers to represent Illinois on the NRECA Youth Consulting Board (YCB). Dawn was a guest speaker during the 55th Annual Meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield in August. She has represented the state at several national youth and electric cooperative activities during the past year, and will serve also at NRECA's annual meeting March 17-20 in Las Vegas.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?
0004244507

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

Call toll-free—800-654-1088



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 20, 1996 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

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

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. The President gave a complete update on the IVEC radio system and several options are being pursued for future expansion.

2. A special board meeting was scheduled on December 30, 1996 to review the 1997 budget in detail. At the January Board Meeting, the 1997 budget will be approved.

3. A reception is planned for Thursday, January 30, 1997 for Stan Ballard in honor of his retirement

after 50 years with the cooperative. The reception will be in Galva at the Galva warehouse between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

4. It was reported that a past director, J. Wayne Williams of Victoria, passed away. A motion was made and approved to give a donation to the IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund through Northern Illinois University in memory of past and present directors, employees and their immediate families. Other names would be brought before the board for approval as they occur.

5. A motion was made and approved to elect Dennis Fredrickson to serve as the delegate to the NRTC Annual Meeting in March. John Scott will be the alternate.

6. A motion was made and approved to retain Larson, Allen, Weishair & Company to audit the 1996 cooperative books.

7. A motion was made and approved to accept the 1995 uncollectible accounts and that they be placed in the inactive accounts receivables.

8. A motion was made and approved to accept the insurance quote from Federated Rural Electric Insurance for 1997. A 2 percent reduction was received under the 1996 premium.

9. A motion was made and approved to pass a resolution to accept the future power requirement study done by the AIEC for IVEC.

The January board meeting is January 28, 1997. The February board meeting is February 25, 1997. The March meeting is scheduled for the 25th.

Member Services

SAFETY TIPS FOR RURAL HOMEOWNERS

If you're a rural homeowner who maintains a few acres beyond the city limits, there are important safety tips that can make your use of electricity safer and more efficient. While electricity is one of the safest forms of energy, the absence of electrical codes and inspections in rural areas means that homeowners must take greater responsibility for recognizing unsafe wiring and other hazardous conditions. Here are a few guidelines that can save lives, property and money:

USE GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCI)

Use wherever electricity, water and you come together. GFCIs are electrical-protection devices that sense a ground fault or short and instantly disconnects the circuit. Unlike fuses and circuit breakers that depend on heavy overloads or shorts to function, GFCIs sense even small electrical faults and disconnect the circuit

before anyone is injured. This is particularly important for outdoor and farmstead electric use in operating power tools, lawn trimmers, hedge clippers, power spray washers, and all-electric use around swimming pools and hot tubs. Some GFCIs are designed to replace standard outlets; other portable units simply plug into existing outlets and can be moved from one location to another. For new homes and additions, the National Electrical Code requires the use of GFCIs in garages, bathrooms, and on outdoor receptacles. Around pools, use GFCIs on lighting fixtures, recirculating pumps and on all receptacles within 20 feet of the pool.

Ground fault circuit interrupters can be purchased at any major hardware and electric supply store.

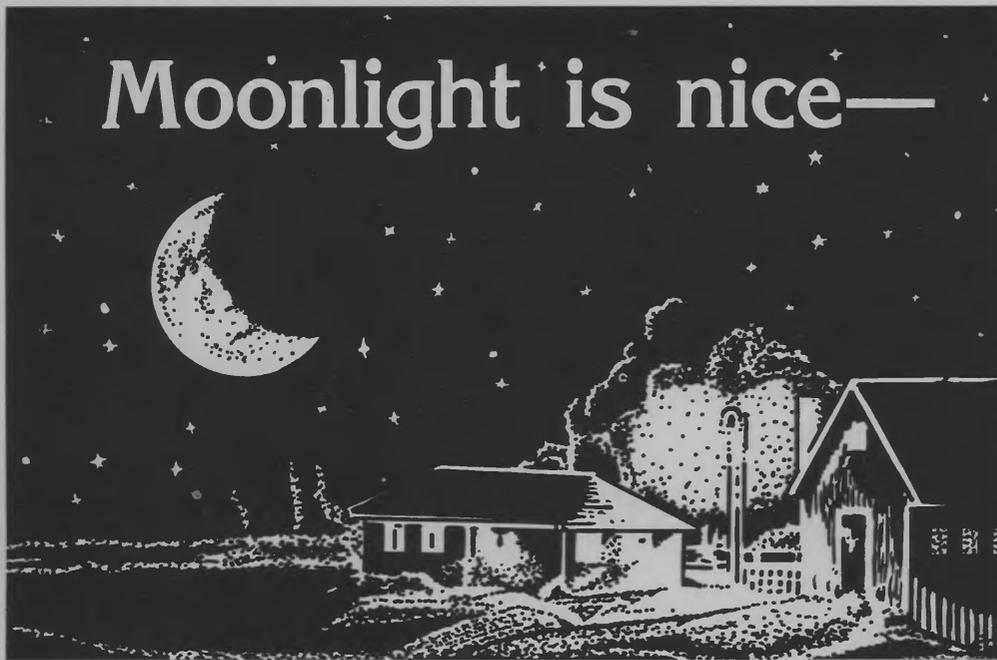
CHECK WIRING IN BARN AND OUT-BUILDINGS

If you have a detached shop, storage building, or even a barn for horses or other livestock, specific wiring materials and methods must be used, especially where dusty or moist conditions exist, or where heat lamps will be used. Typical hazards include improper grounding, residential-type fixtures that are not designed for use in barns, and undersized heat lamp circuits.

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, calendar at right shows the meter reading dates for February. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

FEBRUARY											
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22					
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Moonlight is nice—

**but
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rental
security
light**

You don't have to depend on the uncertain light of the silvery moon when you install a rental security light at your home, farm or business. For a few dollars a month, your property can be bathed in bright light. Studies have shown that outdoor lighting reduces the chance of burglary and vandalism.

A moonlit night is great, but for peace of mind, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative and have one of the following security lights installed. Security lights are installed on a meter or transformer pole owned by the cooperative.

Included is

*** free installation**

*** free maintenance**

***free service**

100-Watt HPS

\$11.75 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$13.25 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

400-Watt HPS

\$16.00 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$17.50 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

*** * * Special offer * * ***

Order a light today and no rental fee will be charged for first month's service

For those members who order a 100- or 400-watt high-pressure sodium rental security light from now through the end of March, 1997, Illinois Valley Electric will not charge for the first month's rental fee.

**Call your cooperative toll-free at (800) 654-1088 for more details.
Ask about the rental security light program.**

SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

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



Your house: 1 Lightning: 0

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

Meter socket adapters

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

*MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector

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

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

Plug-in protectors—optional

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.

**Special
price
\$399**

YOUR 18-INCH SATELLITE DISH HAS NEVER BEEN SO CHEAP!

**Special
price
\$399**

The digital satellite system

★ DSS
Satellite Equipment
low price
of \$399

★ financing
available
Call for details!

★ DIRECTV
programming
packages from
\$14.95/mo.

★ self install or
professionally
installed



—18-inch dish—

It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™—so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV™** programming! Our new, monthly payment plan makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

The choice is clear. DIRECTV.

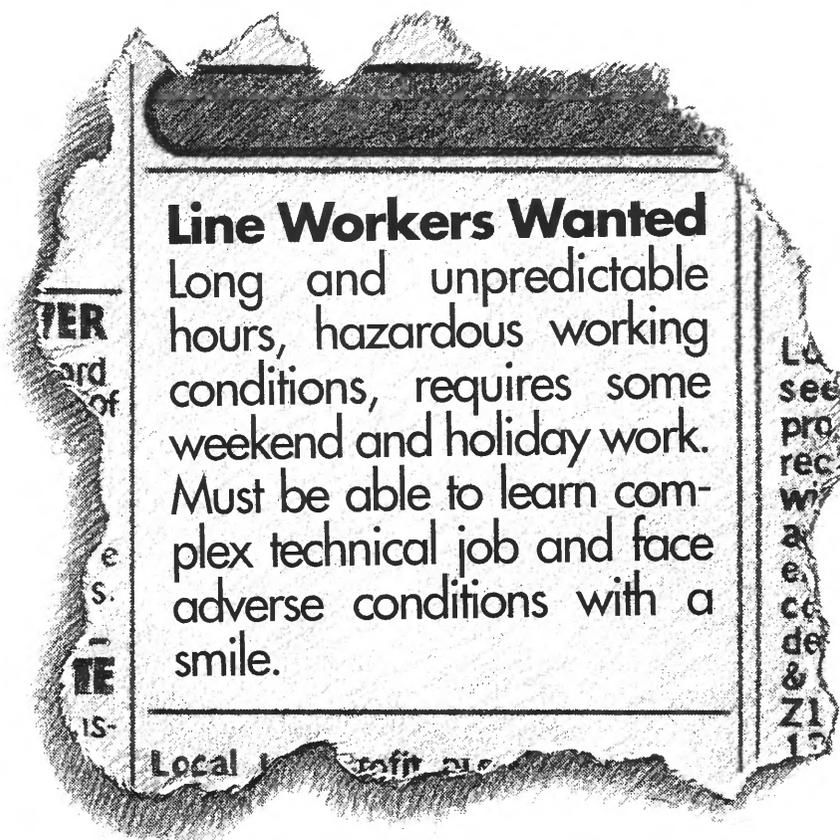
Illinois Valley Advanced Communications, Inc.

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Call Toll Free 800-654-1088

Ask for member services





Fortunately, there are people who actually love a job like this.

You'd think a job description like this would scare people off, wouldn't you? But it doesn't. In fact, these very demanding jobs attract some very dedicated people. People who understand the importance of keeping electricity in your home or business. People who know that they'll be out in the middle of the night in a driving snowstorm. People who just seem to be born with a desire to do more than just have a job. We'd like to thank our line workers for their hard work and dedication. And if you agree, give them a thumbs up when you see them at work. Your appreciation is a big reason they take such pride in a very tough job.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Rooted in Our Communities

Don't fight that old gas mower - get a new cordless electric one!

While it seems as though this winter has lasted for 14 months, and while it often gives the impression that it'll go on forever, it won't. History tells us that most years in the last millenium or so have had a spring and a summer, and it's reasonable to expect that this one will, too.

With that in mind, it may be time to turn your thoughts to dragging out the lawn mower and getting it ready for the cutting season. And consider this: If you had trouble starting that old mower last year, you'll probably have even more trouble this time around! And if you want to get it into the shop before everyone else takes theirs in, now's a good time to do that.

If your mower's old enough that you dread having to try starting it again, it just might be the time to junk that old dog and buy a shiny new cordless electric mower. They're relatively inexpensive, require little maintenance, are easy to use and don't cost a lot to operate.

Cordless electric mowers, while fairly unusual, have a lot going for them. They're easy to start, quieter and cost less to operate than their fossil-fueled counterparts, and they pollute far less.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a nationwide study recently to check out the tailpipe emissions of gas mowers. The results were amazing. The agency determined that the typical gas mower emits eight times more nitrous oxides than the electrics, and 3,300 times more hydrocarbons. They also emit 5,000 times as much carbon monoxide and more than twice the carbon

dioxide per hour than electrics. Of course, these figures take into account the emissions of the power plants generating the electricity to run the cordless mowers.

But there's more. The study did not even consider emissions resulting from gasoline spills during refueling, which the EPA estimates may amount to 17 million gallons a year. That's more than the Exxon Valdez spilled when it ran aground.

And it didn't consider emissions from leaky gaskets and other engine parts, emissions that are released after a hot engine is turned off, and the hydrocarbons continuously emitted by gas tanks through evaporation. The California Air Resources Board estimates that these four types of emissions combined may actually be more polluting than the mowers' tailpipe emissions.

Just a few years ago, there were only two manufacturers of cordless mowers, Ryobi and Black & Decker. Now there are several, and it looks as though there will be more. MTD Corporation and Husqvarna have weighed in with their entries, and so has Briggs & Stratton—the world's largest producer of air-cooled gasoline engines! Most cordless electric mowers come with one lead-acid battery, which can easily be recharged by plugging into a 120-volt outlet. The Briggs & Stratton model, however, has two. One can be used while the other's recharging. They are portable and easily lifted out

for exchange.

As is its custom, Briggs & Stratton plans to supply "custom" versions to mower manufacturers who will market them under their own labels. So while you'll be able to find plenty of mowers with Briggs & Stratton powertrains, don't bother to look for a mower under that company's brand.

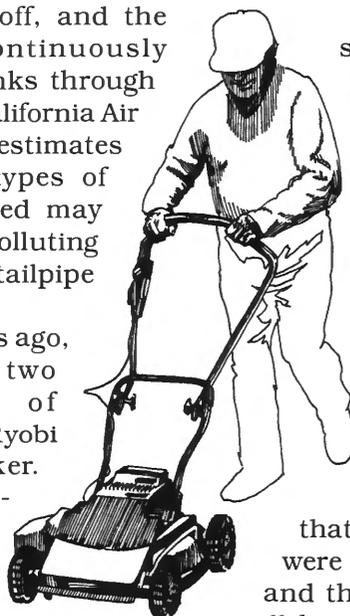
A recent survey of cordless mower users indicated that most were quite satisfied with their cordless mowers, citing light weight, ease of use and quietness as important factors in their satisfaction.

But they offered suggestions for improvement, too.

Some recommended bigger batteries, because their mower wouldn't cut their entire lawn at one go. Others wanted more power because cordless mowers have trouble in tall, tough grass.

Even so, most felt that the manufacturers were on the right track, and that cordless mowers will be an even bigger part of the lawn mowing scene of the future. And they're almost certain to be. Some smog-bound municipalities are urging residents to go back to the old reel-type mowers, and many are considering passing laws to prohibit gas mowers.

While it's difficult and often counterproductive to try to predict the future, it's pretty safe to bet that there's a cordless electric lawn mower in your future!



WANTED!

REWARD OFFERED

To all members of ILLINOIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE who allow a load management switch to be installed on their

WATER HEATER

CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER

\$80 credit over the summer months of June, July, August and September

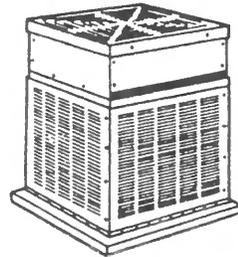
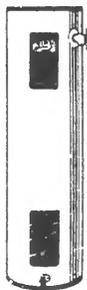
Ask about a

FREE

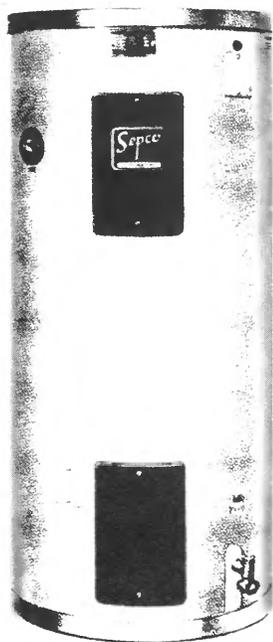
60 or 80 gallon water heater

Call (800) 654-1088 about the

Switch makes \$cents\$ program



Switch Makes \$CENTS\$



A foam-insulated, energy-conservative water heater

Please contact me.

Date _____

- I am interest in the electric water heater Switch Makes SCENTSS Program.
- I am interested in the air conditioner Switch Makes SCENTSS Program.
- I am interested in a Free 60- or 80-gallon water heater.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Daytime phone number _____

Return this coupon to:

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 70

Princeton, IL 61356

Attention: Member Services Department

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

Annual Meetings — An opportunity to participate.

During the next several months, many electric cooperatives across the country will hold their 1997 annual meetings to celebrate their commitment to the people they serve. During these gatherings, member-consumers are elected to lead your electric cooperative during the next 12 months. These meetings of local co-op members are a great opportunity to have your voice heard at your electric utility.

These meetings are an important part of the local service provided by the network of 1,000 electric cooperatives across the country. For example, progress reports and future programs presented at this year's annual meeting by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative not only determines what the co-op will do to improve electric service, but also how the co-op can help make your community a better place to live and work.

These meetings reaffirm five key qualities that make our service

second to none.

First, Illinois Valley Electric is a local business that is part of your community. Because you own a part of that company, you have the opportunity to influence key decisions at the co-op by electing local leaders to represent your interests.

Second, your co-op is staffed by people from your community who understand what is happening in the community. Their closeness to you allows them to provide better service than a phone-bank operator sitting in an office building a thousand miles away.

Third, co-ops across the country use high technology to deliver state-of-the-art service at the lowest possible price. Co-ops are making the improvements necessary to provide you with the higher level of service that today's modern technology requires. **Mark C. Reh**

Fourth, your co-op is working to improve energy efficiency to lower your monthly electric bills. Each month, this publication carries helpful information that you can put to use to keep your electric bill as low as possible.

Finally, your electric cooperative enhances your community's quality of life by performing even the smallest commu-

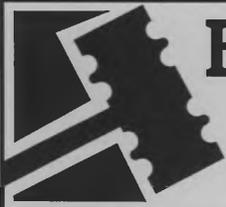
nity service. Whether it is a line worker stopping to help a stranger change a flat tire or the co-op advocating fairness to its rural customer base in the utility deregulation controversy, these considerations build a stronger sense of community in us all.

As your electric cooperative, our main job is to deliver electric power to local homes and businesses at a fair price. And, of course, to be there 24 hours a day should your service be interrupted. That's what people expect of us. But we do a lot of things you may not expect.

Our line workers are always keeping a vigilant eye for suspicious activities in the community. We participate in service organizations and sponsor Youth Tour and student intern activities. In short, we're always looking for ways to do our part as your neighbor and as a part of the service area community. So, don't be shocked if you see us doing something that has nothing to do with electricity. Because to us it's just part of the job.

Every year, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative celebrates its commitment to community by holding an annual meeting. Your personal participation in the 1997 annual meeting will help make this year's meeting even better.





Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 11:20 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 1997, with all directors present except Dorothy Wilson. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

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

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to appoint Ralph Freebairn as the voting delegate

to the NRECA Annual Meeting in March. John Scott will be the alternate.

2. A motion was made and approved to authorize management to attend a CFC borrowers seminar.

3. A motion was made and approved to approve the IVEC 1997 budget.

4. A motion was made and approved to purchase property for addition to the cooperative's maintenance area. This property is located near Bureau Creek off Lovers Lane in Princeton.

5. A motion was made and approved to accept a bid for remodeling the building on the new property.

6. A motion was made and approved to renew subscription to the NRECA Cooperative News for 1997.

The February board meeting is February 25, 1997. The March board meeting is March 25, 1997, but may be changed due to the Soyland Annual Meeting. The meeting for April is tentatively scheduled for the 22nd.

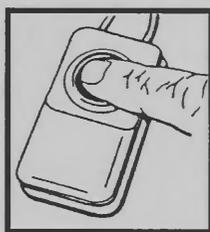
Illinois Valley Advanced Communications

Subsidiary of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Providing communications technology for the 21st Century"



Telephone



Pendant

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

"Personal Emergency Response Systems" MainStreet Messenger Telephone & Pendant

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

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

**Call Illinois Valley Advanced Communications
Ask for the Member Services Department
Toll Free (800) 654-1088**

- ★ Satellite television dish antenna systems for C-Band (24 channel) and Ku-Band (32 channel).
- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star-Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.
- ★ Paging communications service-wide area coverage in Illinois.
- ★ Personal emergency response systems—hands free two-way communication for seniors or persons living alone.
- ★ Two-way 800 mhz radio system with telephone interconnect service at low monthly rates.
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS digital satellite system—programming from \$14.95 per month.
- ★ Tower space rentals—tower structures located across north-central Illinois.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Advanced Communications. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.

Ballard honored at Galva gala

Stanley Ballard, a 50-year employee of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative (IVEC), Princeton, was recognized on Jan. 30 with a retirement reception in his honor at the cooperative's western area facility in Galva. Some 112 persons turned out to wish him well and to take part in the festivities.

Ballard, who began work at the co-op on Aug. 15, 1946, was assigned to the Galva area in 1956, and has worked there ever since. Timothy L. "Kris" Christensen, President/CEO of IVEC, remarked, "Stan and his crews built most of the western half of the cooperative's system, and his leadership will be sorely missed."

John Scott of Neponset, IVEC chairman, presented Ballard with a watch in honor of his dedication.

Christensen, commenting on Ballard's tenure, added, "I've only had the opportunity to work with Stan during the past 15 years, and that's not very long when you compare it to 50 years, but I knew I could always depend on Stan to do over and above what was expected. He is the kind of employee every utility CEO dreams about. He's a true leader of men and I thank him for making my job much easier."

IVEC is a member-owned utility that stretches almost clear across Illinois, from near

the Quad Cities southeast to Galesburg and northeast almost to Joliet, and it has three facilities. The main headquarters is in Princeton, and there are two satellite facilities to help speed up maintenance and repairs in outlying areas. Ballard was in charge of the Galva warehouse, which took care of the cooperative's western area. Another facility is operated out of Ottawa which covers the eastern service area.



Stanley Ballard, left, receives a certificate of appreciation from Timothy L. "Kris" Christensen, president/CEO of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, for his 50 years of dedicated service.

IVEC members: Mark your calendar! 1997 Annual Meeting

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
Thursday, June 19, 1997, at 7 p.m.

Schedule of events

- Registration begins at 5 p.m.
- Refreshments served in cafeteria
- \$10 credit coupon upon registration
- Marketing and load management information
- Electric safety demonstration and exhibit

**** Prizes ****
Drawing for prizes
after adjournment
Must be present to win!

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

Notice

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative office and area stations will be closed in observance of Good Friday, March 28. Call toll free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies - 24 hour a day monitoring and dispatching service.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?
0002325502

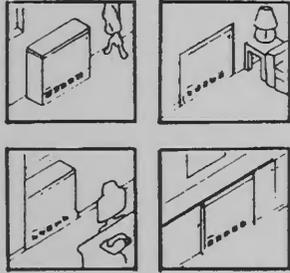
If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize. Call toll-free-800-654-1088

*** Available Services and Programs ***

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

E.T.S.



Example of...
Warm room concept
installations

Featuring this month OFF-PEAK Electric Thermal Storage

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



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

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

★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000.00 for installation of all Electric Heating using E.T.S. as a secondary service during interruptible periods.

All-Electric or Dual Energy Off-Peak Heating Systems offer efficiency and savings

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$400 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125 for IVEC members only—\$125 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September —\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience
- ★ Home lightning protection — surge protection equipment and installation program

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, below are the meter reading dates for March. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area service personnel who need access to your meter in case of outages.

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

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

System:GT[®]

Geothermal heating, cooling and water heating

Heat/cool
with
electricity

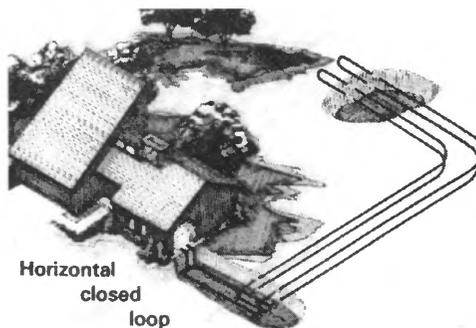
Heat/cool
with
electricity

Heat and cool with up to 400% efficiency

IVEC members, now you can get maximum comfort, energy and cost savings from a system designed to use natural energy from the earth. Better than the best gas furnace!

What is a geothermal system?

Geothermal is the safest, most-energy-efficient, pollution-free heating and cooling system available. Basically it looks like a normal furnace, but that's where the similarity ends. Because it burns no fossil fuel, it emits no pollutants, thus, no chimney is required. Therefore, it can be installed almost anywhere, in a basement, crawlspace, attic or closet. Geothermal is a complete home heating system. In the summer, select the cooling mode on the thermostat and the geothermal system is your complete home cooling center. Geothermal can also supply most of your domestic hot water requirements. Customers report savings up to 60 percent heating their homes. Cooling cost reductions of 50 percent are not uncommon with a geothermal system.



* *cash rebates* *

- Illinois Valley Electric will rebate \$75 per kw installed up to a maximum \$3,000 for the all-electric geothermal system.
- Ask about IVEC's off-peak rate of 4.0 cents/kwh for more savings combining geothermal heating with ETS secondary heating for on-peak interruptions.

* *For more details* *

- ☆ Call Illinois Valley Electric at toll free (800) 654-1088 or the following WaterFurnace dealers:
- ☆ Philhower Electric Plumbing & Heating, Main Street, Tiskilwa, IL 61368, (815) 646-4481
- ☆ Turczyn Heating and Air Conditioning, 1328 Pulaski Street, Peru, IL 61354, (815) 223-0715
- ☆ Energy Specialists Co., 224 N. Main Street, Toluca, IL 61369, (800) 782-7491
- ☆ Ottawa Heating & Air-Conditioning, 632 First Ave., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 433-1811
- ☆ Johnson Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, P.O. Box 53, 107 E. Mill St., Kewanee, IL 61443, (309) 852-2610

ETS (electric thermal storage) heating

The secondary heating concept for all-electric off-peak systems

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is offering a special reduced rate for off-peak heating with electricity. Electric thermal storage heating is used during the limited number of on-peak hours when the primary-electric heat is automatically interrupted. During this interruption, the ETS (electric thermal storage) secondary heat source is required to earn the off-peak rate. While other methods of providing secondary heat will work, the least costly and very ef-

fective method is the installation of an ETS heater. It is also the only way to qualify for the all-electric off-peak rate.

Warm room heating

Some extra large homes may need more than one ETS unit; however, we suggest you start with one unit in the "living" area of the house. Other units can be added if you find it is necessary. This "Warm Room Concept" of heating certain areas in your home is the cheapest method of providing the secondary heat needed for Illinois Valley Electric's special off-peak rate.

Plant trees the right way

*Your electric cooperative
encourages you to plant trees,
but not near power lines.*

Help us serve you better. Plant tall varieties (like maple, oak, spruce or pine) away from power lines. Or plant a shorter variety (redbud, dogwood, crabapple). Then, with proper pruning, you'll enjoy beautiful trees that won't endanger lines— or lives.

Join the National Arbor Day Foundation and get ten flowering trees free. Send \$10 to the foundation at 211 N. 12th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. You'll also get *The Tree Book* and the bimonthly *Arbor Day*.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for all Illinois.

An affirmative action, equal opportunity employer

Twenty dollars for a light bulb! Are you crazy?

Why would you pay \$20 for a light bulb? To save \$50 to \$100 on your electric bill.

This is how much you can save when you replace an incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent one. Fluorescents use far less electricity than incandescents do. You can replace a 100-watt incandescent with a 20-watt fluorescent—and still have the same amount and quality of light.

In the last few years, compact screw-in fluorescent bulbs—just the right size for lamps, ceiling fixtures and recessed lighting—have been introduced for use throughout the home. They are much more technologically advanced than the flickering, humming fluorescent tubes you may be familiar with.

One of the best features of these new fluorescents is that they last about 10,000 hours (10 to 13 times longer than an incandescent). This works out to over a year of continuous use. Under normal circumstances, a typical fluorescent bulb will last several years. During this time, you won't need to buy new bulbs and you'll spend less time changing bulbs in hard-to-reach places.

Since the up-front expense is high, replace bulbs that get the most use first—kitchen, hallways, stairwells, porch—to realize your savings quicker.

Incandescents turn as little as 6 percent of the energy they use into light; the rest goes to heat. If you are concerned about high cooling bills, this is an added incentive to switch.

Tips on buying

- Before you buy any fluorescent bulb for the first time, request a sales person to light it for you. Some brands may appear too yellow or too dim.
- The least expensive bulb may not be your best choice in the long run. Compare life ratings with the cost. If the manufacturer does not offer a warranty, ask your retailer for one.
- A regular light fixture needs a ballast before it will hold the compact fluorescent bulb. A ballast converts the house power to the form needed for the fluorescent. It also regulates the voltage and current. Some bulbs come with a built-in ballast. Consider buying a ballast that allows you to replace just the bulb, since it should last as long as four to five bulbs.
- Electronic ballasts are better than core and coil, or magnetic ballasts. They weigh less, start the light instantly, run silently, operate cooler and are flicker-free.
- Some compact fluorescents are longer than regular bulbs. To ensure a proper fit, measure your light fixture and seek brands that match incandescents in size.
- Some fluorescents are not designed for enclosed fixtures.

Other considerations

- Full light output may be delayed one to two minutes for some bulbs as they warm up. This is an intentional design feature that helps extend the life of the bulb.
- Compact fluorescent bulbs do not work with dimmer switches but many work with timers.
- Outdoor lights may not last as long as those used indoors. Check the label to determine outdoor life and/or cold weather usage.
- Consider using the full-spectrum fluorescents in rooms where you spend a lot of time. This type bulb is considered healthier, since the light it produces contains all the colors of sunlight. Manufacturers say this type of light reduces eyestrain and fatigue.

Since purchasing a number of these bulbs at one time is expensive, you might consider buying one each time an incandescent bulb burns out. This way you can spread the initial cost out over time.

There is another important reason to switch to fluorescents. Over 700 pounds of coal are burned to light an incandescent bulb over its lifetime; a fluorescent only requires 180 pounds over its much longer life. Reducing energy usage has a positive impact on our environment.

See, it really is a bright idea to spend \$20 on a light bulb.

Richard L. Hepburn is the author of "Understanding and Reducing Your Home Electric Bill" (Emerald Ink Publishing, \$19.95). His book provides energy saving tips and information about the latest technology and inventions designed to help you cut your electric bill. Call (800) 324-5663 to order your copy.

Savings calculation

Compact fluorescent vs. incandescent

	20 Watt Fluorescent	100 Watt Incandescent
Expected Life	10,000 hours	750 hours
Watts used per hour	20	100
Cost per watt hour*	\$0.00009	\$0.00009
Total cost of electricity over 10,000 hours	\$18.00	\$90.00
Cost of one bulb	\$20.00	\$0.50
Number of bulbs	1	13
Total bulb expense	\$20.00	\$6.50
Total expense	\$38.00	\$96.50
Lifetime savings**	\$58.50	

* Your electric bill will show cost per kwh (kilowatt hour). A \$.00009 cost per watt hour equals \$.09 per kwh. Your cost per kwh may be higher or lower.

** Because lower wattage bulbs are cooler, you may realize another 25%-50% in lifetime savings due to lower cooling costs.

**Special
price
\$329**

YOUR 18-INCH SATELITE DISH HAS NEVER BEEN SO CHEAP!

**Special
price
\$329**

The digital satellite system

★ DSS
Satellite Equipment
low price
of \$329

★ DIRECTV
programming
packages from
\$14.95/mo.

★ financing
available
Call for details!

★ self install or
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installed



—18-inch dish—

It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™ —so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV™** programming! Our new monthly payment plan makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

The choice is clear. DIRECTV.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



**Call Toll Free 800-654-1088
Ask for member services**



Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

Meter testing is a continuing program

When you rely on 6,300 automatic cash registers for your revenue, we want to be sure that the equipment is registering and operating correctly! That is what your electric meter is, a cash register that tells Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative exactly how much electric energy is used by members each month.

A meter is on duty 24 hours a day, month after month, year after year, to measure electrical consumption with remarkable accuracy. This reliability gives both cooperative and member-user the confidence that you pay for just the kilowatt hours you use—no more and no less.

Most meters work for many years with no problems, but Illinois Valley Electric continuously checks and tests them to make sure the meter is in good condition and within tight guidelines for accuracy.

This year, your cooperative plans to inspect approximately 700 single-phase and 350 multi-phase meters at various locations across the service area. Meter inspections will begin in June for residential and small commercial loads and larger loads will be checked in October.

As in past years, Illinois Valley Electric has contracted with Electric Lab and Sales Corporation of Mattoon to perform the testing procedure. Its technicians will be issued proper identification to access metering equipment at the member location.

IVEC meter testing set for June and October

The annual meter testing program has been scheduled to begin in June 1997.

Beginning in June, and again in October, contract meter testing personnel from Electric Labs and Sales Corporation of Mattoon, Illinois, will be conducting random tests on approximately 700 single-phase meters and 350 three-phase meters at various locations over the service area.

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

To actually field test a meter, the technician removes it from the member's meter socket and plugs in a feed-through base that keeps power flowing to the house and/or to other types of loads. He then takes the meter to his van or truck and plugs it into a calibrated tester which puts a specified load on the meter. By timing the revolutions of the meter disk, the technician can quickly determine how accurate the meter is.

Almost all meters tested for Illinois Valley Electric over the years have met the required accuracy range of 99 and 100 percent. If the meter tests even slightly out of this tight range, the technician will adjust it accordingly.

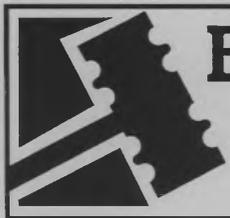
We would all like to think the electric meter must be running fast, but we do not find that problem very often. As a matter of fact, the inspections are indicating the meters are very accurate.

All single-phase meters are tested about every seven years to assure this accuracy. Three-phase meters, usually installed on large commercial or industrial loads, are tested every two years, large power loads exceeding 225 kva transformer capacity are checked every year.

So when your next electric bill arrives and you think, "Did I really use that much energy last month?" your dedicated cash register on the pole or house is assuring you that your bill is indeed accurate.

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

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



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 1997, with all directors present except Ralph Freebairn and Dorothy Wilson. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

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

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. It was reported that Soyland Power Cooperative, IVEC's wholesale power supplier, annual meeting is scheduled for March 26, 1997, in Decatur, Illinois.

2. It was reported that the cooperative and the City of Princeton have reached an agreement and will share services and inventories.
3. A motion was made and approved to appoint President T. L. Christensen and Chairman John Scott to serve as directors on the Soyland Board for 1997.
4. Board approved a contract for a temporary accounting services employee.
5. A motion was made and approved to join Illinois Cooperative Assn. d/b/a Clear Talk Communication. This new Cooperative will greatly expand the IVEC 800 Mhz radio system from it's present local coverage area to approximately 2/3 of the entire State of Illinois.
6. The Tuesday, March 25, 1997, board meeting has been changed to Thursday, March 27, 1997, due to the Soyland Power Cooperative annual meeting which IVEC board members who are delegates will attend.

The March board meeting is March 27, 1997. The April board meeting is April 22, 1997, at which time the Nominating Committee will also meet to select candidates for directors at the 1997 Annual Meeting.

1997 Annual meeting IVEC members—Mark your calendar!!!

June 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

**Thursday, June 19th,
at 6:30 p.m.
Princeton High School
Auditorium
103 South Euclid Ave.,
Princeton, Illinois**

- ★ Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.
- ★ Dinner buffet served in cafeteria
- ★ \$10 credit coupon upon registration
- ★ Marketing and load management information and exhibit booth
- ★ Drawing prizes after adjournment
- ★ Electrical safety demonstration

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, check the meter reading dates for April. It is our hope that you will use this information so that necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

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

Moonlight is nice—



but you can depend on a rental security light

You don't have to depend on the uncertain light of the silvery moon when you install a rental security light at your home, farm or business. For a few dollars a month, your property can be bathed in bright light. Studies have shown that outdoor lighting reduces the chance of burglary and vandalism.

A moonlit night is great, but for peace of mind, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative and have one of the following security lights installed. Security lights are installed on an existing meter or transformer pole owned by the cooperative.

Free installation, maintenance and service.

100-Watt HPS

\$11.75 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$13.25 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

400-Watt HPS

\$16.00 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$17.50 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

**Call your cooperative toll-free at (800) 654-1088 for more details.
Ask about the rental security light program.**

SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

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



Your house: 1 Lightning: 0

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

Meter socket adapters

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

*MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector

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

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

Plug-in protectors—optional

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.

*** Available Services and Programs ***



Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



Featuring this month

Lower air-conditioning costs with a "control switch"

Enjoy the summer season and keep cooling costs economical with electricity. Help reduce summer peak demand and earn a \$10 credit on your electric bill for June, July, August and September.

The Earned Credit—\$40 over four months

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$400 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125 for IVEC members only—\$125 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September —\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience
- ★ Home lightning protection — surge protection equipment and installation program

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. Call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for the member services department.

Peak alert season is June 15—September 15

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

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

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

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

Thomas Strader

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

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

Notice of holiday closing

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holiday: **Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th.** Please call toll-free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies 24-hour-per-day monitoring and dispatching service.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?
0000468001

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

Call toll-free—800-654-1088



Taking the Big Step?

When you take that big step and remodel or build your new home, spend as much time thinking about your home's energy source as you did your China and crystal, the floor plans, and the carpet pattern.

When you choose electricity, you choose the safe, dependable, low-cost alternative. No flames. No fumes. No fuel tanks to fill.



Good for *all* Illinois.

An affirmative action, equal opportunity employer

Handy gadgets offer convenience, savings

Once in a while gadgets come along that look like they might make life easier, more convenient or less expensive, and Intermatic, Inc., a Spring Grove, Illinois firm, has three that look like winners.

One is a small night light with a difference. Called the PR3 Power Failure Safety Light, it comes on full blast the instant the power goes out, and stays on for an hour or so. It's frustrating and potentially hazardous to grope around in the dark for a flashlight, and this little gem helps you avoid that. Billed as three lights in one, it serves as an emergency power failure light, can be used as a flashlight, and the indicator light that tells you it's charging gives off enough light to serve as a night light.

It plugs into a standard household electrical outlet, so it's always charged and ready for use. It has a twist-off cover that enables you to change the crypton bulb without a lot of fuss.

The Easytrac Power Outlet Kit lets you add electrical outlets virtually anywhere they're needed, without any wiring. Designed for quick and easy installation, the kit also eliminates those jumbled masses of tangled wires, extension cords and overloaded outlets that seem to proliferate in homes and offices.

The system features a pre-wired track that you can install in minutes on virtually any interior surface. You simply plug the grounded starter into

a standard electrical outlet and connect the pre-wired track components, then place the receptacles where you want them. Then you snap the cover over the track to finish the job. You can move

the outlets around easily as your electrical needs change.

Available in white and almond, the units can be painted, papered or decorated to match any decor. They are childproof, and won't operate unless all components are properly installed.

The firm's new heavy duty timer is bigger and sturdier than those little timers people have used for years to turn lights on and off to discourage burglars. It enables you to maintain your home's comfort level while saving money by saving electricity.

Instead of agonizing over leaving your air conditioner running all day, or spending your first hour back home in stifling heat, the timer allows you to set a room air conditioner to come on about half an hour before you're due home. It will do the same thing for you in the winter, by activating a space heater.

The timer, the TN311C model, has a 15-amp, 1 horsepower rating, making it ideal

for use with all air conditioners that have a standard plug.

These products are all UL listed and CSA certified, and are available at hardware stores, home centers, discount outlets and mass merchants.



The Intermatic Heavy-Duty Grounded Timer automatically controls air conditioners and other heavy-duty loads, providing an excellent way to shrink electric bills.



The Easytrac Surface Power Outlet Kit from Intermatic permits electrical outlets to be added in workshops and other locations without any wiring.

1997 Annual Meeting Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Princeton High School Auditorium
103 South Euclid Avenue • Princeton, Illinois
Thursday, June 19, 1997

- ★Registration Begins at 4:30 p.m.
- ★Meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.
- ★Complimentary dinner to be served in cafeteria beginning at 4:30 p.m.
- ★Drawing for prizes after meeting—Grand prize is a 20-inch color TV



Complimentary Dinner Buffet

- * Choice of Beef, Pork or Turkey
- * Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
- * Choice of Lemonade, Iced Tea or Coffee
- * Ice Cream Sundaes for Desert
- * Green Beans
- * Olive Garden Salad
- * Homemade Bread



Registration Prize

\$10.00 credit coupon to be awarded
to IVEC members upon registration.
This credit can be used on your next electric bill.



Entertainment prior to meeting in auditorium

From 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Featuring: The Covered Bridge Chorus

Barbershop singing including a wide range of songs.

The group has appeared for many years in the local area entertaining large audiences.

From 7:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Featuring: Cadence

This group was organized in 1991 and their repertoire includes a variety of songs and style ranging from straight barbershop to modern '50s and '60s, religious and spiritual music.

Visit IVEC's Marketing and Load Management Booth

- SurgeGuard Home Lightning Protection
- DIRECTV and DSS Satellite Dish Program
- Energy\$Teller Service-Auditing Electric Usage
- Load Management-Off Peak Credits
- IVEC Payment Centers
- Rental Security Lights
- High Efficiency Electric Water Heaters
- Geothermal Heating/Cooling
- Dual Energy-Off Peak Rates
- Life Support Registry

After IVEC Meeting—Beginning at 7:45 p.m.

Panel Discussion on Retail Wheeling/Deregulation of Utility Industry

Panelists: Jim Monk, president of the *Illinois Energy Association*;

Anthony Vaniesky of the *Illinois Commerce Commission*;

Don Long, Assistant manager of the *Illinois Municipal Association*;

Earl Struck, president and CEO of the *Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives*

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris) Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

What is retail wheeling?

The definition of retail wheeling is the process of allowing any electric utility to provide electrical service to any customer using another electric utility's power lines and might be more correctly called "electricity dealing." No one is really quite sure what it will mean to the average residential electricity user. Now, each electric utility has an assigned area in which it serves. If your home, farm or business falls within it, you have a designated electric utility service provider, and there is no choice. It appears that retail wheeling got its start when large businesses and manufacturers pressured the federal government for open competition in which they would be able to purchase bulk electricity at the lowest cost possible. This all boils down to profits and the possible deregulation of the electric utility industry.

The electric cooperatives were born back in the 1930s and 1940s when electric companies refused to serve the rural areas because there was no chance for a profit. Today, co-ops still serve the rural communities, as well as the outskirts of expanding urban areas, and these areas seem to be the target of deregulation. Deregulation of the electric utility industry would allow all electric utilities (cooperatives as well as investor-owned companies) to compete with each other to be your electric service provider. The problem with this lies in several areas:

1. Will all consumers (residential and business) be treated equally?
2. Will all rural areas continue to receive quality electric service?
3. Will all electric utilities be treated equally?
4. Will residential consumers have to pay for the savings passed on to the large businesses and manufacturers?
5. What about the safety and reliability of that chosen service provider? Who is going to come out in a storm at 3 a.m. to fix a power outage? And, how long will it take for someone to get there? We have seen and read about a large investor-owned utilities closing their local offices and combining them into district offices farther away.

We all want to buy the best possible product at the lowest possible price. In order to get that, sometimes service and reliability fall by the wayside. Past deregulations have cost us

all money at one time or another. The deregulation of the airline industry has meant fare increases, service and safety reductions and the loss of services in many of our towns. Cable television deregulation meant a hefty increase in the average monthly bill, with a decrease in the number of stations local cable companies carried. As for telephone deregulation, we are all reminded every time we sit down to dinner when the phone rings and the voice on the other end wants you to switch long distance carriers.

The member-owned electric cooperatives throughout the nation are fighting for the rural communities they were born to serve. Several states are trying test programs to see how these different changes to the electric utility industry will affect the cooperative members. The cooperatives will not rush into deregulation because a large business might benefit by increasing its profits to stockholders. Instead they want to make every effort to assure the co-op consumer that they will receive the maximum benefit possible from these changes. Your Illinois electric cooperatives have adopted a position on deregulation to guide their legislative efforts and not those of investor-owned utilities. Their position is as follows:

Francis J. Tucker

"Support deregulation/direct access of the electric utility industry so long as such action ensures benefits to all electric cooperatives and their members, and guarantees adequate and reliable service to all present and future members."

There will be a lot of legislative changes made to the electric utility industry in the year ahead.

Whatever changes occur, you can be assured that your local member-owned cooperative remains committed to maintaining a high level of quality service that rural families and businesses have come to expect over the years. You, our members, are our reason for being.

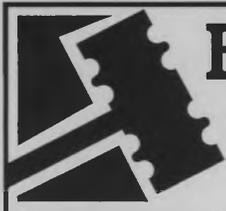
You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0002261001

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

Call toll-free—800-654-1088



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 12:55 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 1997 with all directors present except Don Rogers. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

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

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to purchase a computerized telephone system from United Security Communications, Inc. for the coop headquarters.
2. A motion was made and approved to table a bid for the headquarters east building roof repair until further investigation.
3. The May Board Meeting was changed from May 27, 1997 to May 23, 1997 and the June 24, 1997 Board Meeting to June 26, 1997.
4. A motion was made and approved to release the membership mailing list to a member according to Policy #57 and provided the mailed material demonstrates a proper purpose.

5. A motion was made and approved to have a meal at the IVEC Annual Meeting on June 19, 1997 beginning at 5:00 p.m. The registration will be from 5:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. with the business meeting following at 7:00 p.m. The theme of the Annual Meeting will be on Retail Wheeling. Entertainment will be provided before the business meeting.

6. A motion was made and approved to make changes to Operational Policy #7, Conditions Under Which the Cooperative Can Deny or Discontinue Service.

7. It was reported that all the letters have gone out to the area high schools for the youth tours to Springfield and Washington, D.C.

The following have been appointed to the 1997 Nominating Committee which will meet on April 22, 1997 at 3:00 p.m. at IVEC headquarters. Members of the committee are: Wilbur Bennett, P.O. Box 16, Neponset, IL 61345, (309) 594-2191; Marion Rieker, RR 2, Sheffield, IL 61361, (815) 454-2332; Julie Mathew, Rt. 1, Walnut, IL 61376, (815) 379-9304; Glenn Selvig, 1082 N. 36th Rd., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 434-0315; Debra Vaughan, RR 1 Box 117, Sheridan, IL 60551, (815) 496-2751; Fred Ingold, 1455 N. 2401st Rd., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 433-4670; James King, RR 1 Box 4, McNabb, IL 61335, (815) 882-2154; Earl Bates, 23951 Tower Rd., Rt. 1, Kewanee, IL 61443, (309) 853-3230; Vincent Fredrickson, RR 2 Box 188, Victoria, IL 61485, (309) 879-2383.

The April board meeting is April 22, 1997. The May board meeting is May 23, 1997. The June board meeting will be June 26, 1997.

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

The following banks are available to accept and process member payments. Payments may also be made at Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office located on Route 6 & 34 W., Princeton, or mailed to P.O. Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356.

All questions relating to energy usage or a billing problem must be directed to Illinois Valley Electric's billing department in Princeton—Phone (800) 654-1088.

• **Kewanee Area**
Peoples National Bank of Kewanee
207 North Tremont St.
Phone (309) 853-3333

• **Galva Area**
The Galva Bank
112 N. Exchange St.
Phone (309) 932-2131

• **Ottawa Area**
First National Bank of Ottawa
Main Bank/Downtown
701 LaSalle
Phone (815) 434-0044

Bank Plaza
300 W. Madison
Phone (815) 434-3456

South Branch
601 State St.
Phone (815) 434-2077

Northfield Branch
2771 Columbus St.
Phone (815) 434-2265

• **Amcore Bank**
Princeton Main Bank
815 S. Main
Phone (815) 875-2828

Princeton North Branch
1407 N. Main
Phone (815) 875-2828

Sheffield Bank
113 S. Main
Phone (815) 454-2311

First of Wyandot Branch
130 E. Main
Phone (815) 699-2254

• **Citizens First National Bank**
Princeton Main Bank
606 S. Main St.
Phone (815) 875-4444

Princeton North Branch
2101 N. Main St.
Phone (815) 875-4444

Princeton East Branch
423 S. Sixth St.
Phone (815) 875-4444

Peru Bank
925 Shooting Park Rd.
Phone (815) 223-7500

Oglesby Bank
114 E. Walnut St.
Phone (815) 883-8473

Spring Valley Bank
100 E. Dakota
Phone (815) 664-2321

Depue Bank
219 W. Fourth St.
Phone (815) 447-2171

Henry Bank
624 Second St.
Phone (309) 364-3971

Sandwich Bank
200 E. Church St.
Phone (815) 786-2115

Plano Bank
505 West-Route 34
Phone (630) 552-7686

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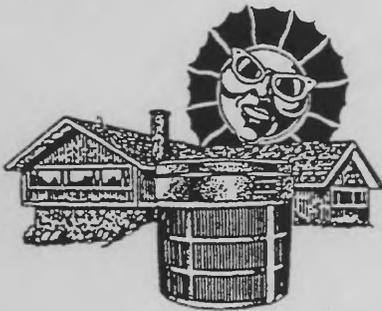
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Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



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The Earned Credit—\$40.00 over four months

Other programs for IVEC members

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$400 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules)
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125 for IVEC members only—\$125 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—200 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System—programming from \$14.95 mo.
- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star-Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95., and other program selections.
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans
- ★ Gatekeeper program—assistance for seniors and older persons needing help
- ★ Crime Watch Program—alerting authorities to emergencies

**Meter reading dates for May
are Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31.**

**Reduced
sale
price
\$150**

YOUR 18-INCH SATELITE DISH HAS NEVER BEEN SO CHEAP!

**Reduced
sale
price
\$150**

**Check IVEC's Reduced Price . . .
The digital satellite system**

★ DSS
Satellite Equipment
low, low price
of \$150

★ financing
available
Call for details!

★ DIRECTV
programming
packages from
\$14.95/mo.

★ self install or
professionally
installed



—18-inch dish—

It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™—so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV™** programming! Our new, monthly payment plan makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

The choice is clear. DIRECTV.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



**Call Toll Free 800-654-1088
Ask for the member services department**



Expecting a full house this summer?

**Company from out of town?
Friends from the neighborhood?
Kids in an out all day long?**

Your home could be booked up all summer. Keep things cool and friendly with an economical and highly efficient geothermal heat pump. Call your local electric cooperative today for more information about geothermal heat pumps. We'll help you keep your cool.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for all Illinois

Affirmative Action, equal opportunity employers



Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

Electricity shortage looming?

For the first time in several years, the electric utilities in the Midwest are going into the summer season with serious concerns about having enough electricity to provide all everyone needs.

But IVEC is preparing to help the national electricity system in the event of possible power supply shortages this summer.

Due to normal maintenance scheduling, nuclear refueling and accidents, an energy shortage could take place if the summer turns hot soon. This problem is due to numerous generating plants being out of service for maintenance in Illinois and Wisconsin. As much as 5,000 megawatts may still be unavailable this summer, causing problems if the weather becomes abnormally hot.

If these problems occur, electrical system rolling blackouts may be required to protect the entire high voltage electric grid. Soyland Power Cooperative members, including IVEC, have participated in drills to cope with this situation if it should occur.

IVEC is taking part in these drills to minimize inconvenience to its members this summer if these power supply shortages develop.

What all this means to IVEC members is fairly simple: it's very likely that we will be issuing "Peak Alerts," asking you to curtail usage of appliances and air conditioners dur-

ing the hottest part of the day, to help curtail our costs.

Now, more than ever, I encourage you to give serious consideration to signing up for our water heater and air conditioner peak shaving programs. They'll save you money, and we'll both be glad you did!

North American Electric Reliability Council



ECAR
East Central Area Reliability Coordination Agreement

ERCOT
Electric Reliability Council of Texas

MAAC
Mid-Atlantic Area Council

MAIN
Mid-America Interconnected Network

MAPP
Mid-Continent Area Power Pool

NPCC
Northeast Power Coordinating Council

SERC
Southeastern Electric Reliability Council

SPP
Southwest Power Pool

WSCC
Western Systems Coordinating Council

AFFILIATE

ASCC
Alaska Systems Coordinating Council

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The peak switch and you

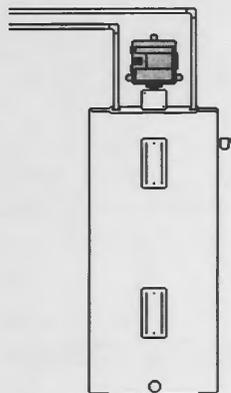
Members who allowed IVEC to install a peak switch on their water heater and air conditioner, when our demand side management program began in 1986, have received substantial savings without investing one thin dime.

Also, dual heat installations by members require little investment to receive a rebate and 4 cent kwh rate.

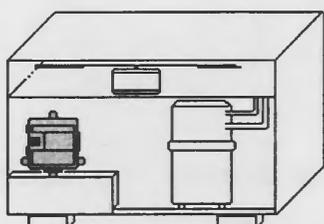
These participating members will continue to be rewarded for their early actions, but it is not

too late for you to share in the savings. Simply call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for Member Services; we welcome your inquiries.

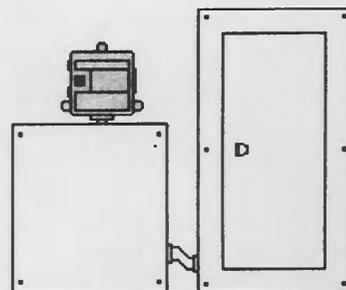
Your peak switch will be installed free of charge and you will save money like the other 1,000-plus active members. Also, don't forget the dual heat option can offer big savings when you heat electrically. So call us now and start benefiting from the "Peak Switch."



Water Heater
\$8 per month
\$40 total savings
(June through September)

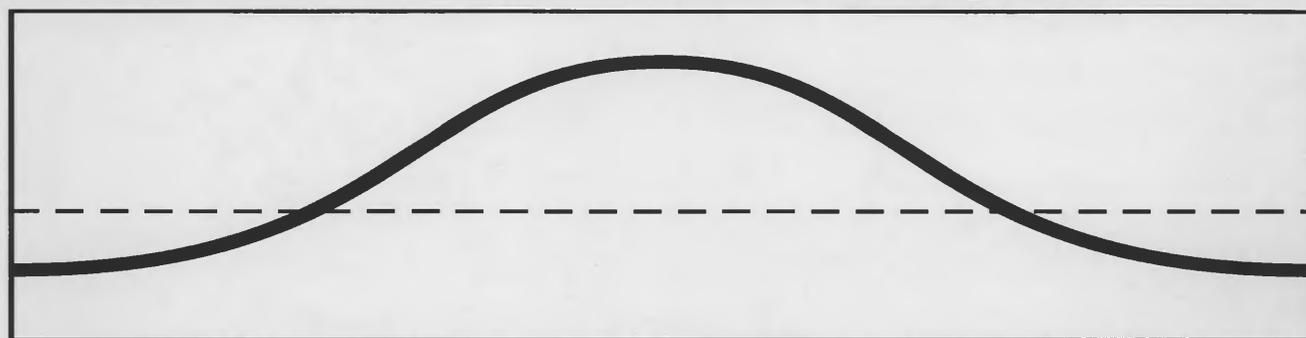


Air Conditioner
\$8 per month
\$40 total savings
(June through September)



Dual Heating Systems
Rebates and 4 cent kwh rate
Save money on heating costs.
(October through May)

Peak Alert Season June 15—September 15



The wholesale rate schedule of our power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, focuses on Soyland's system demand peaks between June 15 and Sept. 15.

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

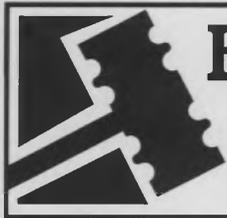
Several factors are working to contribute to Soyland's peak. The most important of these is temperatures. We believe that the days when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees are the most likely days for Soyland to peak. Because of Soyland's loads, the time of day for the peaks to occur will be between 2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

When peak conditions are near, Soyland will

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

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

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



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 10:50 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 1997 with all directors present except Ralph Freebairn. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present. Zane Juncker of Larson, Allen, Weishair and Company was at the meeting to give the audit report. Three candidates running for the board for 1997 also attended the meeting. They are as follows: Alvin Hepner for District 1, Willis Heaton for District 1 and Larry Priest for District 7.

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

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. It was reported that the new CRC computer

system has been installed in the Operations Department to report outages.

2. It was reported that the new telephone system has been installed at the Princeton headquarters. The old GTE system could not be repaired anymore.

3. It was reported that a patronage refund for 1996 was received from Rural Electric Supply Cooperative in Madison, Wisconsin.

4. The following candidates were nominated by the Nominating Committee at their meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 1997. These candidates are seeking nomination for a three year term beginning June 1997.

Alvin Hepner for District 1
Willis Heaton for District 1
Ralph Freebairn for District 5 renomination
Larry Priest for District 7

5. The Board adopted a policy for Director Duties and Standards of Conduct Performance.

6. The Board adopted an amendment to Operational Policy #7, Conditions Under Which Cooperative Can Deny or Discontinue Service.

7. The Board approved repair of the east building roof.

The May board meeting is May 23, 1997. The June board meeting will be June 26, 1997. The July meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 22nd.

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, the calendar circles the meter reading dates for June. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

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

Notice of holiday closing

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holiday: Independence Day, July 4. Please call toll-free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies. 24-hour-per-day monitoring and dispatching service.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

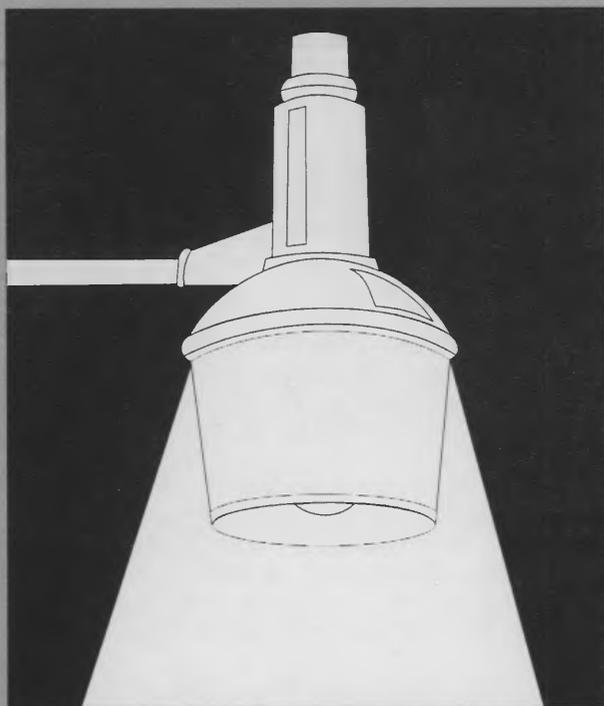
Is this your account number?

0003562501

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

Call toll-free
-800-654-1088





Lighting... YOUR way...

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

Rental Security Lighting for...

Security

Outdoor lighting protects your family and property from criminals.

Safety

Lighting illuminates your late-night arrival home.

Curbside Appeal

Lighting accents distinctive features of your home or business.

Extending the Day

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

Economy

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

YOUR Way

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

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

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

For more information, call.....

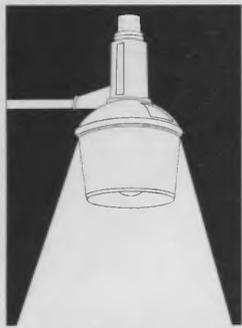
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Toll-Free 1-800-654-1088



Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



Featuring this month

Security light rentals for approximately \$12 per month—call Illinois Valley Electric for details

- * **No maintenance headaches**
- * **Free installation and service**
- * **Automatic—no light switch**

Available options

Electric programs for IVEC members

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

★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.

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

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

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

★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of

June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .

- Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
- Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- Economical/affordable
- \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation

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

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

★ EnergyTeller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.

★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric programs for IVEC members

★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star—Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.

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

★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.

★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.

★ Helping the financial needs of area busi-

nesses with CDC loans.

★ Gatekeeper Program—helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.

★ Crime Watch—Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.

★ Monthly magazine—Illinois Country Living for informational articles and marketing programs.

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

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

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

SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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

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



Your house: 1 Lightning: 0

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

Meter socket adapters

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

*MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector

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

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

Plug-in protectors—optional

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Heat/cool
with
electricity

System:GT[®]

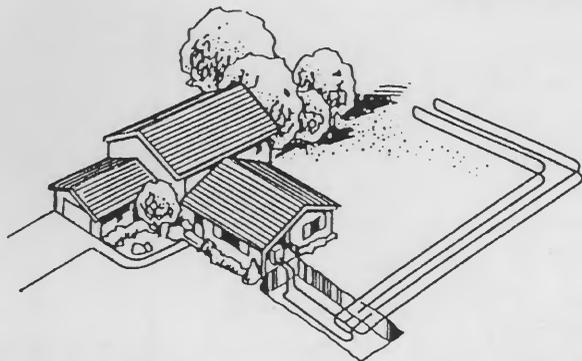
Geothermal heating, cooling and water heating

Heat/cool
with
electricity

Heat and cool with up to 400% efficiency

IVEC members, now you can get maximum comfort, energy and cost savings from a system designed to use natural energy from the earth. Better than the best gas furnace!

What is a geothermal system?



Geothermal is the safest, most-energy-efficient, pollution-free heating and cooling system available. Basically it looks like a normal furnace, but that's where the similarity ends. Because it burns no fossil fuel, it emits no pollutants, thus, no chimney is required. Therefore, it can be installed almost anywhere, in a basement, crawlspace, attic or closet. Geothermal is a complete home heating system. In the summer, select the cooling mode on the thermostat and the geothermal system is your complete home cooling center. Geothermal can also supply most of your domestic hot water requirements. Customers report savings up to 60 percent heating their homes. Cooling cost reductions of 50 percent are not uncommon with a geothermal system.

Customers report savings up to 60 percent heating their homes. Cooling cost reductions of 50 percent are not uncommon with a geothermal system.

* *cash rebates* *

- Illinois Valley Electric will rebate \$75 per kw installed up to a maximum \$3,000 for the all-electric geothermal system.
- Ask about IVEC's off-peak rate of 4.0 cents/kwh for more savings combining geothermal heating with ETS secondary heating for on-peak interruptions.

* *For more details* *

- ☆ Call Illinois Valley Electric at toll free (800) 654-1088 or the following WaterFurnace dealers:
- ☆ Philhower Electric Plumbing & Heating, Main Street, Tiskilwa, IL 61368, (815) 646-4481
- ☆ Turczyn Heating and Air Conditioning, 1328 Pulaski Street, Peru, IL 61354, (815) 223-0715
- ☆ Energy Specialists Co., 224 N. Main Street, Toluca, IL 61369, (800) 782-7491
- ☆ Ottawa Heating & Air-Conditioning, 632 First Ave., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 433-1811
- ☆ Johnson Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, P.O. Box 53, 107 E. Mill St., Kewanee, IL 61443, (309) 852-2610

ETS (electric thermal storage) heating

The secondary heating concept for all-electric off-peak systems

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is offering a special reduced rate for off-peak heating with electricity. Electric thermal storage heating is used during the limited number of on-peak hours when the primary-electric heat is automatically interrupted. During this interruption, the ETS (electric thermal storage) secondary heat source is required to earn the off-peak rate. While other methods of providing secondary heat will work, the least costly and very effective method is the installation of

an ETS heater. It is also the only way to qualify for the all-electric off-peak rate.

Warm room heating

Some extra large homes may need more than one ETS unit; however, we suggest you start with one unit in the "living" area of the house. Other units can be added if you find it is necessary. This "Warm Room Concept" of heating certain areas in your home is the cheapest method of providing the secondary heat needed for Illinois Valley Electric's special off-peak rate.

WANTED!

REWARD OFFERED

To all members of ILLINOIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE who allow a load management switch to be installed on their

WATER HEATER

CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER

\$80 credit over the summer months of June, July, August and September

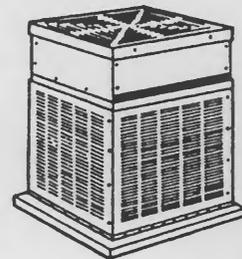
Ask about a

FREE

60 or 80 gallon water heater

Call (800) 654-1088 about the

Switch makes \$cent\$ program



Switch Makes \$CENT\$\$

Please contact me. Date _____

- I am interest in the electric water heater Switch Makes \$CENT\$\$ Program.
- I am interested in the air conditioner Switch Makes \$CENT\$\$ Program.
- I am interested in a Free 60- or 80-gallon water heater.

Name _____

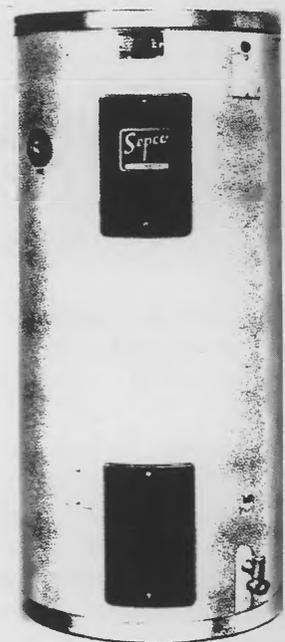
Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Daytime phone number _____

Return this coupon to:

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 70
Princeton, IL 61356
Attention: Member Services Department



A foam-insulated, energy-conservative water heater

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

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

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

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



Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative president T. L. Christensen, right, welcomes Alvin Hepner of Kewanee on his election to the cooperative's governing board. The election was held during Illinois Valley's 58th annual meeting of members Thursday, July 19, at Princeton High School. Hepner earlier served on the IVEC board from 1966 to 1981. Reelected to a fourth three-year term was Ralph Freebairn of Ottawa, left, while Larry Priest of Hennepin, second from left, was elected to his first term. Illinois Valley is a not-for-profit electric utility providing service to more than 6,000 members over 1,769 miles of energized line in parts of eight area counties.

(Following is the text of the management report delivered by Illinois Valley president and chief executive officer T. L. Christensen at the 58th annual meeting of members on June 19. We are printing a shortened version for the information of members who could not attend the meeting.)

I appreciated Mayor Arnie Clayton's warm welcome at the start of our meeting tonight. It was not too many years ago that I stood before you on several occasions to report on the many legal and other problems being fought out between Illinois Valley and the City of Princeton. Tonight I can report to you we have a new era in our relationship with the City of Princeton and its municipal electric agency, thanks in no small part to the leadership of Mayor Clayton and your board of directors.

During the past year the Illinois Valley Board of Directors and the Princeton City Council ratified a number of joint agreements that will help lower costs and improve operations for both organizations. Among those agreements are:

- Princeton Municipal Electric employees will participate in joint training at Illinois Valley in courses conducted by training and safety instructors from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.
- We will participate in joint purchasing to increase our volume purchase discounts. We will also maintain joint inventory control to lower our total investment in inventory of materials.
- We will work together in periods of extreme weather to increase the availability of personnel and equipment we can commit to an area hit by ice or wind damage.
- We are exploring other areas where our two elec-

tric systems can share personnel and equipment to lower costs and improve operations for the benefit of our members and the citizens of Princeton.

It seems only natural that municipal electric systems and electric cooperatives should work closely together. After all, we both are owned by the consumers who use our services. Tonight's public forum on electric utility deregulation is another expression of our community of interest with the City of Princeton and its citizens.

Sharing services and facilities with neighboring electric utilities is only one of the many avenues your board of directors and management continue to explore as we seek to control our operating costs and minimize the rates you pay for electricity. As a result of those efforts, we continue on a solid financial footing and can assure you we see no rate increase this year or in the foreseeable future.

Wholesale power continues to be the major cost of providing your electric service, claiming about 55 cents of every dollar you pay to your cooperative. And it is the high cost of wholesale power that continues to hold our electric rates above rates charged by neighboring electric utilities. Soyland Power Cooperative is our bulk power supplier and has the highest wholesale power costs of any generation and transmission cooperative in the country. Soyland has bought out of its Rural Utilities Service debt at a sharp discount and sold its ownership interest in the nuclear Clinton Power Station back to Illinois Power Company. Those are important achievements for Soyland but it will be four or more years before we see any appreciable benefit through reduced wholesale power costs.

Because Soyland does not plan a major re-

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

duction in its rates any sooner, your board and management are exploring the feasibility of buying out of our contracts with Soyland Power and seeking bulk power supplies from other sources. We have been assured by our banker that we can finance a contract buy-out if that is in your best interest and will result in lower cost power. Before we move ahead with a contract buy-out, we are waiting to see what shape electric utility deregulation takes in Illinois and what the timetable for deregulation will be.

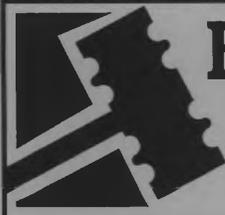
If deregulation is approved and all consumers are free to shop for their bulk energy supplies within a short time, as some propose, we will not buy out of our Soyland contract. Instead, we will work closely with our members to help them find lower cost power in the open market that can be delivered over our lines. That way we can avoid the cost of a contract buy-out and still help our members get lower cost power. As you can see, this is a complicated question and a lot still depends on what happens in Springfield with utility deregulation. We'll keep you informed.

During 1996 Illinois Valley Electric merged its Illinois Valley Advanced Communications, our 800 megahertz mobile radio service subsidiary, with three other Illinois electric cooperatives to form

Illinois Cooperative Association doing business as Clear Talk. We are very excited about this new communications cooperative. When construction is completed we will provide seamless radio and telephone interconnections from Interstate 88 on the north to Interstate 64 in southern Illinois. Our medic alert service and Rural TV are continuing to be popular among our members and with many non-member customers. With the continuing success of these non-electric services, your cooperative earned almost \$250,000 in margins last year that will flow back to members as capital credits.

We were pleasantly surprised a short while back to find through a survey by our statewide association to see the amount of trust our members have in Illinois Valley. We work hard to develop and maintain your trust but we wonder sometimes how you perceive us, given our high rates. Several questions asked in the survey had to do with our non-electric services. Generally, the responses were very positive, as were the overall evaluations of our electric cooperative. On a question about whether the cooperative should enter into the propane gas business, nearly half the respondents said a definite "Yes".

(continued on page 16d)



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman John Scott at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 1997 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, Attorney Gary Barnhart and Alvin Hepner, a director candidate were also present.

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

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. It was reported that the Bureau Creek property where the IVEC mechanic will be located has been completed. The warehouseman has been moved to the building east of the headquarters building. Remodeling is under way for offices in the back of the main building.

2. It was reported that Micah Schmitt of Mendota High School will be an intern student at IVEC for the summer beginning June 9. He will work with the engineering department.

3. A motion was made and approved to send a

donation to the IEC Scholarship Fund in Claire Moore's name. Claire is the wife of the former Manager of AIEC.

4. A motion was made and approved to send Dawn Amrein a card and gift from the cooperative. Dawn is the Illinois representative to the NRECA Youth Council.

5. It was approved that the cooperative will proceed according to the budget for asphaltting the parking lot at headquarters.

6. A motion was made and approved to install a new radio system and purchase new switches for load management required to be used in June, July and August when Soyland has peak alerts.

7. A motion was made and approved to contribute 5 percent of CFC patronage refund each year to the CFC Integrity Fund.

8. The board will meet on June 19 at 3:30 p.m. to approve memberships before the annual meeting.

9. A motion was made and approved to appoint Robert Angus as the NRECA voting delegate and Dennis Fredrickson as the alternate to the AIEC annual meeting.

10. A motion was made and approved to appoint Marvin Polte as the AIEC voting delegate and Dennis Fredrickson as the alternate to the AIEC annual meeting.

The June board meeting is scheduled for June 26, 1997. The July board meeting is scheduled for July 22, 1997. The August board meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 26.



1997 Annual Meeting Highlights



There were several nice attendance prizes given out at the meeting. Here, a young man draws a ticket for a satellite TV system.



The dinner buffet line was a popular place.

If any member wishes to view a video on the deregulation panel, contact IVEC and they will send you one.



Earl Bates, former IVEC director and chairman of the nominating committee, gives the nominating committee report. From left are Gary Barnhart, attorney, T. L. "Kris" Christensen, IVEC president/CEO, Bates and Albert Hagenbuch, secretary-treasurer.



Earl Struck, president/CEO of the AIEC, speaks during a deregulation presentation. Anthony Visnesky, manager of energy programs, ICC, and Dan Long, assistant general manager, IMA, look on. Jim Monk, president, IEA, was also on the panel.

★ ★ ★ Drawing prize winners ★ ★ ★ at 1997 annual meeting

W. Nantus, Wyand
H. Hjertstedt, Sheffield
Donald O. May, Princeton
Paul Yucus, Spring Valley
L.A. & Doris K. Nelson, Galesburg
John D. Miller, Princeton
Mary Jo Hetrick, Princeton
Harry G. Wallace, Galva
Bureau Township Comm. Church,
c/o Jay Meisenheimer, Princeton
John C. Ott, La Fayette
Tammie & Robert Peebles, Princeton
Rodney E. & Sharon H. Dienst, Toulon
Zelda M. & Robert E. Craig, Magnolia
Eldon R. Eigsti, Buda
Grace L. Henning, Hennepin
Tony Figurin, Sheffield
Lynn and/or Marlene Klingenberg,
Princeton

**Grand
Prize
Winner**

**20-inch
color TV**

Robert &
Donna Dobbels,
Cambridge

Maurice Franck, Cambridge
Earl W. & Kleo Bates, Kewanee
J. Steven Barlow, Princeton
Joe & Louise Stremlau, Mendota
John G. & Cynthia Springer, Princeton
John Cromien, Galva
Donald L. Bradley, Princeton
Darwin A. Ross, Mendota
A. J. Immesoete, Mineral
LeRoy & Fran Larson, Sheffield
David O. & Denise M. Mallery, McNabb
Kenneth Stier, Manlius
Harry Fairbanks, Princeton
Keith Heinzeroth, Mendota
Joe Wittmeyer, Neponset
Joseph Eigsti, Buda
Dorothy J. Wilson, Hennepin
Albert Hagenbuch, Utica
Charles Meisenheimer, Walnut

Attention IVEC Members! Earn an \$80 credit and free water heater

To all members of ILLINOIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
who allow a load management switch to be installed on their

WATER HEATER AND CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER

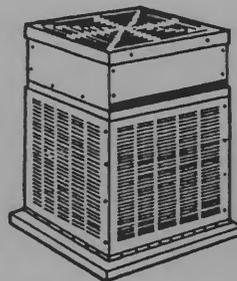
\$80 credit over the summer months
of June, July, August and September

Ask about a

FREE

**60 or 80 gallon water heater
Call (800) 654-1088 about the**

Switch makes \$cents\$ program



We are definitely looking at purchasing an existing propane gas business or starting a new propane gas business to offer competitive propane gas supplies to our members and the general public. Again, this would be a service for rural residents, members and non-members alike, with the benefits to flow through to the members of Illinois Valley Electric. This is one more example of how your board of directors and management are seeking to provide needed services in rural areas to earn margins to offset our high cost of wholesale power. We expect our margins on non-electric services to continue in the future and they will benefit you. **Clifford L. Varland**

I'd like to close tonight by noting that two of our most experienced directors are leaving the board of directors at the conclusion of this annual meeting. John Scott and Dorothy Wilson have provided exemplary service to your member-owned cooperative. In the last two years, we lost five experienced directors. Tonight we lose two more. We appreciate the talents of those who have served and those who have sought election to join the board of directors. Losing seven experienced directors in three years means you have basically a new board of directors facing new challenges in this complex industry.

Your management and staff appreciate the service of our departing directors and look forward to serving the needs and directions of our new directors. We are in a period of flux in our industry. We are facing new opportunities to provide services in our rural service area. We have an excellent staff at Illinois Valley. We have a board committed to serving the needs of our membership. As expressed in the theme for this 58th annual meeting of members . . . We are rooted and we will remain rooted . . . in our communities.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0002340500

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



Call toll-free
800-654-1088

Heat/cool
with
electricity

System:GT[®]

Geothermal heating, cooling and water heating

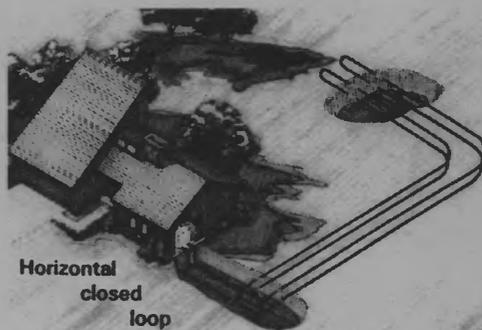
Heat/cool
with
electricity

Heat and cool with up to 400% efficiency

IVEC members, now you can get maximum comfort, energy and cost savings from a system designed to use natural energy from the earth. Better than the best gas furnace!

What is a geothermal system?

Geothermal is the safest, most-energy-efficient, pollution-free heating and cooling system available. Basically it looks like a normal furnace, but that's where the similarity ends. Because it burns no fossil fuel, it emits no pollutants, thus, no chimney is required. Therefore, it can be installed almost anywhere, in a basement, crawlspace, attic or closet. Geothermal is a complete home heating system. In the summer, select the cooling mode on the thermostat and the geothermal system is your complete home cooling center. Geothermal can also supply most of your domestic hot water requirements. Customers report savings up to 60 percent heating their homes. Cooling cost reductions of 50 percent are not uncommon with a geothermal system.



* *cash rebates* *

- Illinois Valley Electric will rebate \$75 per kw installed up to a maximum \$3,000 for the all-electric geothermal system.
- Ask about IVEC's off-peak rate of 4.0 cents/kwh for more savings combining geothermal heating with ETS secondary heating for on-peak interruptions.

* *For more details* *

- ☆ Call Illinois Valley Electric at toll free (800) 654-1088 or the following WaterFurnace dealers:
- ☆ Philhower Electric Plumbing & Heating, Main Street, Tiskilwa, IL 61368, (815) 646-4481
- ☆ Turczyn Heating and Air Conditioning, 1328 Pulaski Street, Peru, IL 61354, (815) 223-0715
- ☆ Ottawa Heating & Air-Conditioning, 632 First Ave., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 433-1811
- ☆ Johnson Heating, A/C, Refrigeration, P.O. Box 53, 107 E. Mill St., Kewanee, IL 61443, (309) 852-2610

ETS (electric thermal storage) heating

The secondary heating concept for all-electric off-peak systems

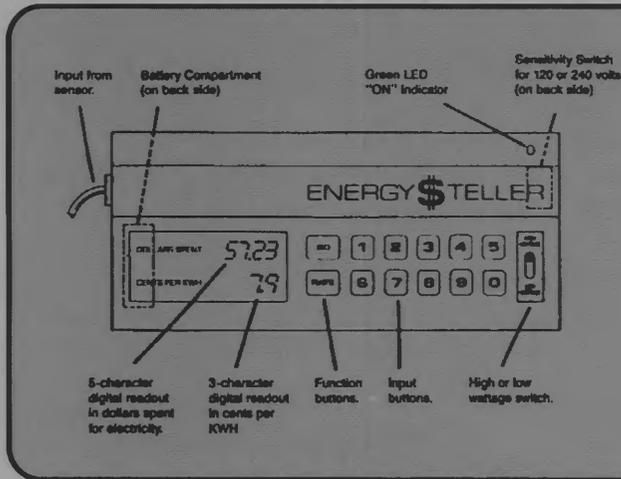
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is offering a special reduced rate for off-peak heating with electricity. Electric thermal storage heating is used during the limited number of on-peak hours when the primary-electric heat is automatically interrupted. During this interruption, the ETS (electric thermal storage) secondary heat source is required to earn the off-peak rate. While other methods of providing secondary heat will work, the least costly and very effective method is the installation of

an ETS heater. It is also the only way to qualify for the all-electric off-peak rate.

Warm room heating

Some extra large homes may need more than one ETS unit; however, we suggest you start with one unit in the "living" area of the house. Other units can be added if you find it is necessary. This "Warm Room Concept" of heating certain areas in your home is the cheapest method of providing the secondary heat needed for Illinois Valley Electric's special off-peak rate.

For Illinois Valley Electric members



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

Energy\$Teller service

- ★ Evaluate your energy-saving efforts with the Energy\$Teller
- ★ Budget electric usage in your home
- ★ Check consumption by appliances in your home
- ★ Learn how much your equipment costs to operate
- ★ No cost to member for Energy\$Teller service

Electric programs for IVEC members

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when “on-peak” periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of

June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches.
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star—Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area busi-

nesses with CDC loans.

- ★ Gatekeeper Program—helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.
- ★ Crime Watch—Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.
- ★ Monthly magazine—Illinois Country Living for informational articles and marketing programs.
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System with programming.
- ★ Personal emergency response systems.

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

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

Twenty dollars for a light bulb!

Why would you pay \$20 for a light bulb? To save \$50 to \$100 on your electric bill.

This is how much you can save when you replace an incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent one. Fluorescents use far less electricity that incandescents do. You can replace a 100-watt incandescent with a 20-watt fluorescent—and still have the same amount and quality of light.

In the last few years, compact screw-in fluorescent bulbs—just the right size for lamps, ceiling fixtures and recessed lighting—have been introduced for use throughout the home. They are much more technologically advanced than the flickering, humming fluorescent tubes you may be familiar with.

One of the best features of these new fluorescents is that they last about 10,000 hours (10 to 13 times longer than an incandescent). This works out to over a year of continuous use. Under normal circumstances, a typical fluorescent bulb will last you several years. During this time, you won't need to buy new bulbs and you'll spend less time changing bulbs in hard-to-reach places.

Since the up-front expense is high, replace bulbs that get the most use first—kitchen, hallways, stairwells, porch—to realize your savings quicker.

Incandescents turn as little as 6 percent of the energy they use into light; the rest goes to heat. If you are concerned about high cooling bills, this is an added incentive to switch.

Tips on buying

- Before you buy any fluorescent bulb for the first time, request a sales person to light it for you. Some brands may appear too yellow or too dim.
- The least expensive bulb may not be your best choice in the long run. Compare life ratings with the cost. If the manufacturer does not offer a warranty, ask your retailer for one.
- A regular light fixture needs a ballast before it will hold the compact fluorescent bulb. A ballast converts the house power to the form needed for the fluorescent. It also regulates the voltage and current. Some bulbs come with a built-in ballast. Consider buying a ballast that allows you to replace just the bulb, since it should last as long as four to five bulbs.
- Electronic ballasts are better than core and coil, or magnetic ballasts. They weigh less, start the light instantly, run silently, operate cooler and are flicker-free.
- Some compact fluorescents are longer than regular bulbs. To ensure a proper fit, measure your light fixture and seek brands that match incandescents in size.
- Some fluorescents are not designed for enclosed fixtures.

Other considerations

- Full light output may be delayed one to two minutes for some bulbs as they warm up. This is an intentional design feature that helps extend the life of the bulb.
- Compact fluorescent bulbs do not work with dimmer switches but many work with timers.
- Outdoor lights may not last as long as those used indoors. Check the label to determine outdoor life and/or cold weather usage.
- Consider using the full-spectrum fluorescents in rooms where you spend a lot of time. This type bulb is considered healthier, since the light it produces contains all the colors of sunlight. Manufacturers say this type of light reduces eyestrain and fatigue.

Since purchasing a number of these bulbs at one time is expensive, you might consider buying one each time an incandescent bulb burns out. This way you can spread the initial cost out over time.

There is another important reason to switch to fluorescents. Over 700 pounds of coal are burned to light an incandescent bulb over its lifetime; a fluorescent only requires 180 pounds over its much longer life. reducing energy usage, has a positive impact on our environment.

See, it really is a bright idea to spend \$20 on a light bulb.

Richard L. Hepburn is the author of "Understanding and Reducing Your Home Electric Bill" (Emerald Ink Publishing, \$19.95). His book provides energy saving tips and information about the latest technology and inventions designed to help you cut your electric bill.



Savings calculation

Compact fluorescent vs. incandescent

	<u>20 Watt Fluorescent</u>	<u>100 Watt Incandescent</u>
Expected Life	10,000 hours	750 hours
Watts used per hour	20	100
Cost per watt hour*	\$0.00009	\$0.00009
Total cost of electricity over 10,000 hours	\$18.00	\$90.00
Cost of one bulb	\$20.00	\$0.50
Number of bulbs	<u>1</u>	<u>13</u>
Total bulb expense	\$20.00	\$6.50
Total expense	\$38.00	\$96.50
Lifetime savings**	<u>\$58.50</u>	

* Your electric bill will show cost per kwh (kilowatt hour). A \$.00009 cost per watt hour equals \$.09 per kwh. Your cost per kwh may be higher or lower.

** Because lower wattage bulbs are cooler, you may realize another 25%-50% in lifetime savings due to lower cooling costs.

Why do IVEC members receive the ICL magazine?

Electric co-ops began publishing newsletters in the 1940s to communicate with their members when they were being attacked by the IOUs, and to help members learn how to make the best of the new things electricity had made possible. Today, while our members don't seem to have much trouble figuring out electrical things, distorted and otherwise inaccurate information is still a problem. And attacks continue in the political arena.

Illinois Country Living magazine is mailed to you monthly at a cost to the co-op of less than a first-class postage stamp. The magazine is almost entirely funded by the advertisers. It is chock-full of articles dealing with horticulture, home projects, recipes, safety, energy efficiency, technology, and personal finance—all good, wholesome family magazine topics. And, from time to time, Illinois' leaders provide commentary on matters important to rural Illinois.

While the magazine articles are interesting, useful and informative, that isn't the primary reason you receive it. Presenting news about your own electric utility is. Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative news is located in the center section of the magazine every month. Our pages are produced with the intention of informing the membership about the operations of their cooperative.

Of course, some issues are more newsy than others. But each is written to inform. Most ar-

ticles used in our section of the magazine promote strategies and programs that can save the member money. Safety, the efficient use of energy, peak shaving, system efficiency, all can contribute to lowering our operating costs and to help maintain rate stability. Promoting electrical safety can help save the lives of co-op members and save money for ratepayers by moderating insurance premiums and court claims. Illinois Valley Electric keeps you informed of new, efficient electric technologies such as geothermal heating and cooling systems; of peak-shaving programs aimed at saving you and the co-op money; of the progress of research into the effects of electric and magnetic fields (EMF), deregulation of the electric utility industry; of the introduction of new electric processes that are more efficient than their "other fuel" counterparts and friendlier to the environment as well.

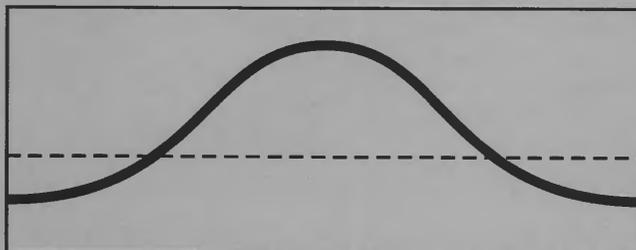
With more than 6,300 accounts, printed communications are the most cost-effective method keeping you informed. If we were a stock-issuing company and failed to communicate the news and progress of the company to you as a stockholder, you would be disappointed at the least. We don't issue shares of stock but you are an owner of the cooperative nonetheless. As an owner you are entitled to be informed and we are obligated to keep you abreast of its operation.

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, the calendar circles the meter reading dates for July. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

July

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



3 p.m. 4 p.m. 5 p.m. 6 p.m. 7 p.m.

Peak Alert Season June 15—September 15

The wholesale rate schedule of our power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, focuses on Soyland's system demand peaks between June 15 and Sept. 15.

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

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Monday through Friday

Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70

Route 6 & 34 West

Princeton, Illinois 61356

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

How your co-op works for you

Crime fighter. Roadside mechanic. Traffic director. Tourism promoter. Oh, and electric co-op line worker.

You'd think our line crews would have enough to do. With storms and lightning strikes. Downed power lines. Equipment repair. And delivering service to new customers. But line crews have never been the kind of people who let their job description describe all of what they do.

They's why they've been known to report crimes in progress. Repair tires for senior citizens. Direct traffic around accidents. Even guide visitors to hotels and local attractions.

You see, our line crews are committed to bringing you the best electric service possible. But they're also committed to area communities. And to doing whatever it takes to make life just a little better. The result is often someone we can all look up to.

Standby power: Insurance against Mother Nature

Buying a standby generator is like buying fire insurance—you may never need it, but it is invaluable when trouble hits.

Although our electrical system is highly dependable and reliable, it is subject to the whims of Mother Nature.

How well are you prepared to handle a prolonged outage? Now is the time to take inventory of your home and farm. Determine how you would pump water, move grain, keep pipes from freezing, and provide heat and ventilation for livestock. How will you heat your home and keep foods from spoiling?

Now is the time to inventory your electrical needs. Assume you will experience long outages that could cause you inconvenience and financial loss. The cooperative does not sell standby generators, but we do have personnel to help you analyze your load and make recommendations. And remember: Standby generators are not normally stocked in any quantity, so don't plan on buying one after an outage occurs.

Remember, too, the installation of standby equipment requires a positive double-throw switch. Op-



erating a standby generator without one is extremely dangerous and could result in financial liability.

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

A reminder to IVEC members that electric water heaters are 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!

Here are some other reasons why you may want to have an electric water heater. They can be placed virtually anywhere, because there is no need for a

(continued on page 16c)

Have you increased your electric load?

When electricity came to the farm some 60 years ago, it was for a few light bulbs and maybe a refrigerator to replace the icebox. Farmers soon came to realize that electricity could be used to move grain, milk cows and heat water. It was like having more hired hands on the farm that were there when you needed them, but you didn't have to provide a house for them to live in. Electricity became almost a necessity.

Now we have microwave ovens, televisions, stereo systems, computers and all of the standard electrically operated kitchen appliances in our homes. Just stop and think about how many things you use that plug into an electric receptacle. And we are adding more and more things all the time.

But what about the wiring in our homes? Do we consider the power supply each time we add a

convenience to the home or shop? Or do we just plug it in and use it?

Many of the homes in our service area are more than 40 years old. Consequently, some of the wiring in those homes may be just as old. And it may not be the proper size to handle the load we are putting on it.

That's where your electric co-op can help. We can visit your farm or home and help you determine what your demand for electricity might be; and, help you decide if your wiring system is adequate to handle it.

So if you are considering a change in your electric usage, call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative at toll free (800) 654-1088. A significant increase might even require a change in transformer size. We want to be able to supply you with all the electricity you need. **Albert C. Wagner**

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, the calendar circles the meter reading dates for August. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in case of outages.

August

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

Notice of holiday closing



The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holiday: Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1. Please call toll-free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies - 24 hour per day monitoring and dispatching service.

Please don't post signs on electric poles

This time of the year many people begin to think about putting up signs for the upcoming elections, for garage sales, or no trespassing, etc. We request that you do not attach signs, fence wires, or anything else to our poles.

When there is a need to climb a pole, linemen use climbing hooks (gaffs) which dig into the pole about a half-inch. If the hook strikes a nail and is deflected, it is possible a fall may occur. Even if there is no problem climbing the pole, the nails and wires can snag a lineworker's insulated glove increasing potential for electric shock injuries while he is trying to restore your power. So, for safety sake, please do not attach anything to our poles or equipment.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 26, 1997 with all directors present except Charles Meisenheimer. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

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

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

How your co-op works for you

(continued from page 16a)

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, and they require less maintenance because there's no flue, no pilot light, no vent, nor a heat exchanger that can corrode.

Electric water heaters have more insulation than

1. The two new directors, Larry Priest of Hennepin and Alvin Hepner of Kewanee were welcomed to their first regular IVEC board meeting.

2. The board discussed the possibility of using another facility for the annual meeting which would provide adequate air conditioning and still be able to serve several people.

3. Micah Smith, a summer intern, was introduced to the board. Micah is a Mendota High School student and is working with the engineering department.

4. The board approved a revised Substance Abuse Policy and a policy on reimbursement for travel for employees.

5. A motion was made and approved to pay the AIEC and NRECA dues for 1997-98.

6. The board approved the new warehouse facility and parking lot plans.

The July board meeting is scheduled for July 22, 1997. The August board meeting will be held on August 26, 1997. The September board meeting is scheduled for the 23rd.

gas models because they can be insulated on all sides, including the top and bottom. They are also 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.

IVEC will offer free electric water heaters to our members who allow us to control them during peak alert periods.

A \$10 monthly credit is available for all controlled electric water heaters from June to September. That's a \$40 savings for the summer months.

Water heater credit?

*You can save \$40 a year
on your electric bill.*

**Call (800)-654-1088
for more details.**

**Ask for Member
Services**

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0002357000

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



Call toll-free
800-654-1088

THE AFFORDABLE CHOICE

Dual Heating Systems

What is a Dual Energy Heating System?

It is a system that combines two energy sources - electricity as a primary source, and an alternate fuel, such as gas or oil, as a secondary source. If you now have a gas or oil system, you can benefit by adding an electric system for your primary source.

What is an All-Electric heating system?

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

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

What is the electric heat rate?

A very attractive electric rate is available when heating with Dual Energy or All-Electric systems. This off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents/kwh.

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

Cash rebates for installation

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

- IVEC will rebate \$75 per kw up to a \$3,000 maximum for the All-Electric residence. The primary and backup heating must be electric.

Example:

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

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

- Total rebate \$2,550



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

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

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

Whom do I contact for more information?

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

Call Member Services — toll free 800-654-1088
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Water heater credit— save \$40.00

**Did you know that your electric water heater
can save you \$40.00 a year on your electric bill?
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's Switch
Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Program does just that—
save you \$40.00 a year.**

Who qualifies?

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

How does it work?

Illinois Valley Electric will install a load management switch on your electric water heater. This switch is a radio-activated switch that can control your water heater during peak demand periods. During those peak periods which occur from June 15 to September 15, a radio signal will be sent to your water heater to interrupt the power to it for a two to four hour period. Normally, you can expect 2 to 6 control periods during the year. You will still have a full tank of hot water when the switch is activated. Therefore, you will not experience any inconvenience.

Cost?

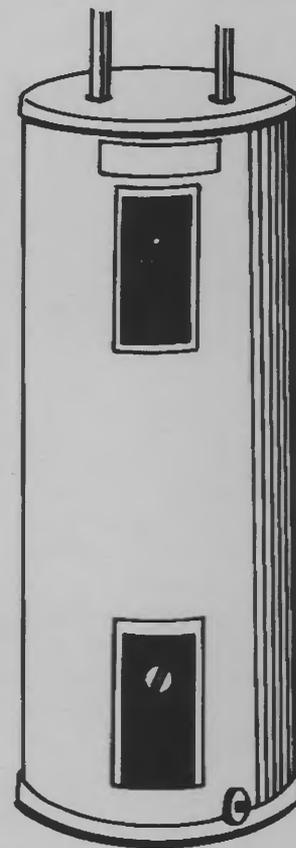
The member incurs no cost for the installation of the load management switch.

Benefit?

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

How do I participate?

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



Switch Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Installation Request.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

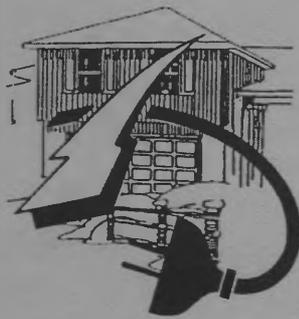
Location No. _____

(on your electric billing statement)

- Please also send me information on saving another \$40.00 if a load management switch is installed on my central air conditioner.
- Please contact me about how to qualify for a free 60- or 80-gallon electric water heater.

High efficiency 60- and 80-gallon stone-lined water heater with 10 year warranty against leaks

Featuring this month



Dual Energy—Off-Peak—Low Rate. . . Save with the affordable choice

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

It is a system which combines two energy sources—electricity as a primary source and an alternate energy system such as electricity, gas or oil, as a secondary source during interruptible periods.

- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents kilowatt-hour.
 - ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for installation—Primary Electric
 - ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation—All Electric
- Dual Energy System—(secondary source must be electric)

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

Available options

Electric programs for IVEC members

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no

cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .

- Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
- Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- Economical/affordable
- \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation

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

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

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

- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star—Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area

businesses with CDC loans.

- ★ Gatekeeper Program—helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.

- ★ Crime Watch—Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.

- ★ Monthly magazine—Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.

- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System with programming.

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

Call the Member Services Department—toll-free (800) 654-1088.

Go Electric-System:GT[®]

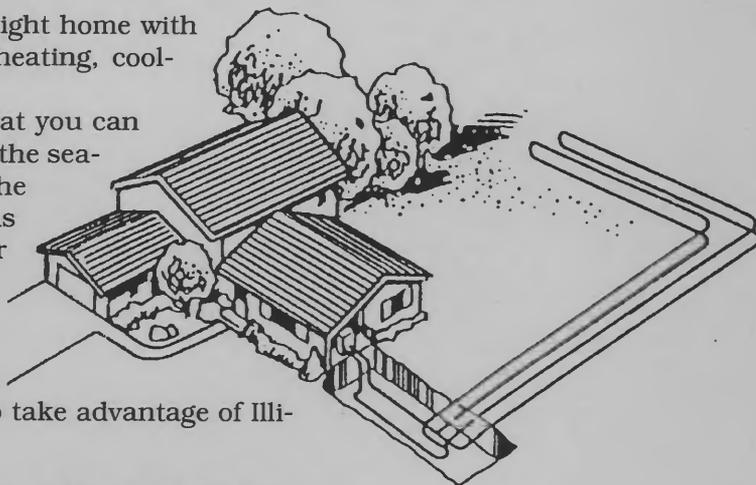
(Geothermal heating, cooling and water heating)

Plan ahead for lower energy bills

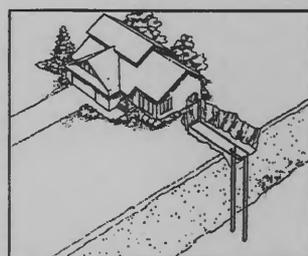
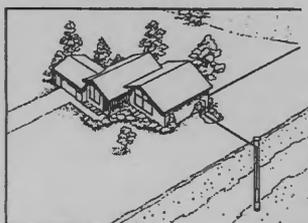
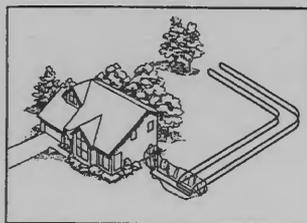
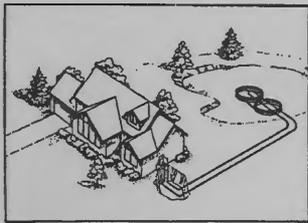
To avoid high energy bills, build an airtight home with proper insulation and install an efficient heating, cooling and water heating system.

The best heating and cooling system that you can purchase is **GEOTHERMAL**. Depending on the season, it uses the constant warmth within the soil to move heat in or out of your home as well as providing a significant portion of your domestic hot water needs. One piece of equipment does it all and it can save up to **60%** or even more on your monthly heating costs.

With a geothermal system, you can also take advantage of Illinois Valley Electric's off-peak heat rate.



Optional Installations



****cash rebates****

- Illinois Valley Electric will rebate \$75 per kw installed up to a maximum \$3,000 for the all-electric geothermal system.

****off-peak rate****

- Check IVEC's off-peak rate of 4.0 cents/kwh for more savings combining geothermal heating with ETS secondary heating for on-peak interruptions.

Choose clean, safe, efficient and pollution free electric heat!

**For more information, contact
Member Services
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
(800) 654-1088**

****For more details****

- ☆ Call Illinois Valley Electric at toll free (800) 654-1088 or the following WaterFurnace dealers:
- ☆ Philhower Electric Plumbing & Heating, Main street, Tiskilwa, IL 61368, (815) 646-4481
- ☆ Turczyn Heating and Air Conditioning, 1328 Pulaski Street, Peru, IL 61354, (815) 223-0715
- ☆ Ottawa Heating & Air-Conditioning, 632 First Ave., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 433-1811
- ☆ Johnson Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, P.O. Box 53, 107 E. Mill St., Kewanee, IL 61443, (309) 852-2610

If you worry about a parent living alone . . .

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

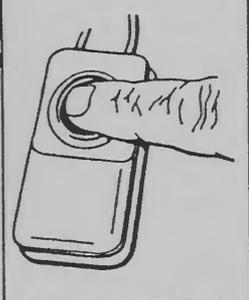
Your parent will get the extraordinary life-saving service. You get the peace of mind.

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

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



FIRST CALL
Personal Emergency Response



Portable Pendant

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

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

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



MainStreet Messenger Telephone

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

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

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

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

Electricity . . .

The right energy choice today provides high efficiency and dollar savings tomorrow!!

When people who are building a new home visit Illinois Valley Electric for service, it always amazes us that many really haven't considered all the benefits electricity offers today's consumers.

We're surprised at how few even have considered installing an electric heat pump or geothermal system in their new home. Most often, if natural gas is available, it is the first choice. Otherwise, propane gets their vote.

However, these same people will tell us that — naturally — their new home will have central air conditioning.

This is when we ask consumers to please take some time to weigh their heating and cooling decisions very carefully. If you plan to install central air conditioning, you're only one small step away, in terms of equipment and money, from a very efficient, whole-house heating and air conditioning system: an electric heat pump.

Geothermal, or ground-source heat pumps, use different equipment and installation methods, and are more expensive, but they are an even more enticing option once you look at the long-term benefits versus the cost.

Air-to-air heat pumps heat your home very efficiently, and give you the added bonus of central air conditioning in the summer. Geothermal heating and cooling systems can deliver efficiencies as high as 300 percent to 400 percent. For every unit of energy they use, these systems return three to four units of energy to your home. They heat, cool, and can provide most of your hot water needs.

Usually, the first words we hear in response to our suggestions about heat pumps are "cold air" or "only good in the South." There are even some heating and cooling contractors who still have these outdated notions about heat pumps.

When heat pumps first hit the mainstream in the early- to mid-1970s, there were some problems. But there have been some very important changes, especially in the last five years or so. If you look back at the car, television, or even the kitchen appliances you owned 20 years ago, then look at today's models, you easily can believe us when we say heat pump technology has advanced dramatically.

It's not our place to speak badly of any particular type of energy, because gas, oil and propane will do the job; they will heat your home. But at what cost?

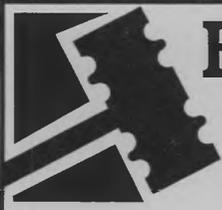
We believe it is our place to help you get the absolute best bargain for your energy dollar. We can help you do that by asking you to take a serious look at the operating and installation costs of electric heat pumps and geothermal systems versus fossil-fuel systems. We believe you will find the numbers very pleasing, and in some cases, eye-opening. When you compare the numbers with even the best fossil-fuel units, you'll see why we're so excited about the benefits of electricity.

Our goal is to see to it you are as happy in your new home (or with a new system in your present home) as possible. We can achieve our goal by helping you think about your home's energy needs, including adequate insulation, high-quality windows and the best heating and cooling system choice possible. If you make the wrong energy choice — one you're stuck with for years to come — we don't think you'll be pleased.

The time to make good energy decisions is before the builder hands you the keys. Please contact us before you build; we'll refer you to a reputable and certified contractor for a comfortable home at the most reasonable cost.

Frank Yohn





Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 10:40 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 1997 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

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

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

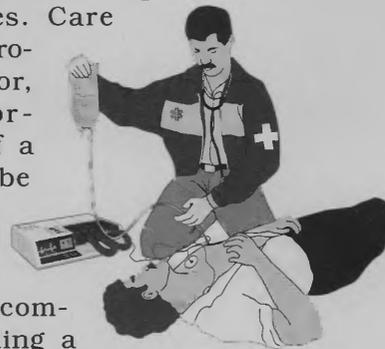
The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to continue membership in the IEC Continuing Education Fund for 1997-98.
2. A motion was made and approved to have the AIEC do an Unbundled Cost of Service Study for the cooperative.
3. A motion was made and approved to use concrete rather than asphalt for the headquarters parking lot.
4. The September board meeting has been changed from September 23 to September 18 due to the NRECA Region V Meeting scheduled for September 23-25.
5. It was reported the new warehouse facility building has been ordered and construction will begin soon.

The August board meeting is scheduled for August 26, 1997. The September board meeting will be held on September 18, 1997. The October board meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 28th.

The danger of generators

Many members now have standby generators at their homes or farms to supply power to essential equipment during prolonged outages. Care must be given to protect the generator, and, more importantly, the life of a lineman who may be repairing damaged lines near it.



Protection for both is easily accomplished by installing a double-pole, double-throw switch, which will ensure that the generator is supplying electricity to the farmstead or home and not pushing it back into our distribution system.

Here's why operating a generator without a double-throw switch can be a very dangerous practice. We distribute electricity through underground or overhead wires at 7,200 volts. This is voltage that can severely burn or instantly kill. The transformer, whether it is hanging on a pole or mounted at ground level, changes the high voltage to 240 volts — a charge that can be used in the home or on the farmstead.

When an operating generator, even a small one, is carelessly connected directly to the circuits of a fuse box or breaker panel, the 120 volts or 240 volts discharged by the generator are instantly pushed back out of the house, through the meter, into and through the transformer and down the dead line. The transformer then does its job by changing the 120 or 240 volts to 7,200 volts.

A lineman hurrying to restore service will have to touch, hold, and handle the supposedly dead line to make a repair. Under these circumstances, when he does, injury or death will be his fate.

A manually operated, double-pole, double-throw switch that is properly installed between the meter and the main fuse or breaker panel will ensure that power from the generator only can go into the chosen circuits of the home or farmstead and never back into our lines to endanger lives.

Another plus is the assurance that when we restore the power to your meter, the current won't go directly through your fuses or breakers into the generator and burn it and your investment to a crisp. Your insurer may cover the damage; ours will have a good chuckle if a claim is filed.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0002469500

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

Call toll-free
800-654-1088



Going away this winter?

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

Payment of your electric bill can be handled in various ways. You can make an advance payment of your anticipated usage. If you know

the address of your winter residence, we can mail your bill to you. Arrangements also can be made with a friend or relative to pay your bill.

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

Woodburning vs electric heat

Many members burn wood in fireplaces or wood stoves to offset the cost of heating electrically. We thought you might like to know how this compares to heating electrically.

The table below gives the BTU per cord of various kinds of wood. A cord is defined as a stack of wood 4 feet wide, 8 feet long and 4 feet deep, equaling 128 cubic feet or 4.74 cubic yards.

Most authorities claim that a conventional fireplace burns at only 10 percent efficiency. However, for this article, we'll double that to 20 percent efficiency.

For Hickory

$30,600,000 \times 20 \text{ percent} \div 3413 = 1,793 \text{ kwh}$
 $1793 \text{ kwh} @ 3.3 \text{ cents per kwh} = \59.17

For Ash

$22,600,000 \times 20 \text{ percent} \div 3413 = 1,324 \text{ kwh}$
 $1,324 \text{ kwh} @ 3.3 \text{ cents per kwh} = \43.69

This means that you would have to be able to buy hickory wood at \$59.17 per cord and ash wood at \$43.69 per cord to burn in a 20 percent efficient fireplace to equal electricity at our dual heat rate of 4¢ per kwh.

However, most wood around here sells for \$35 to \$50 per pickup load, which is about one-third of a cord.

If wood is free, then you may be able to save money, but if you have to pay more than \$20 per pickup load of hickory or \$15 for ash, you aren't saving money.

How much heat value is there in each type of air-dried wood per cord?

Type	Average Weight per cord	BTU Heat Value in Air-Dried Cord	Order of Most Heat Per Cord
Hickory	3,595 lbs.	30,600,000	First
Maple (Hard)	3,075 lbs.	29,000,000	Second
Beech	3,240 lbs.	27,800,000	Third
Oak (White)	3,750 lbs.	27,700,000	Fourth
Oak (Red)	3,240 lbs.	26,300,000	Fifth
Birch (Yellow)	3,000 lbs.	26,200,000	Sixth
Elm	2,750 lbs.	24,500,000	Seventh
Maple (Soft)	2,500 lbs.	24,000,000	Eighth
Cherry	2,550 lbs.	23,500,000	Ninth
Ash	2,950 lbs.	22,600,000	Tenth

*20 percent moisture content

Meter reading dates

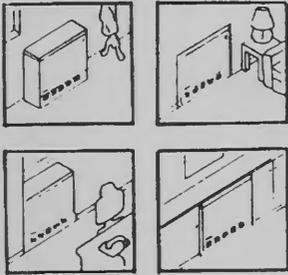
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, the meter reading dates for September are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of outage.



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

For Illinois Valley Electric members

E.T.S. OFF-PEAK Electric Thermal Storage



Example of...
Warm room concept
installations

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

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

- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents kilowatt-hour.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000.00 for installation of all Electric Heating using E.T.S. as a secondary service during interruptible periods.

All-Electric or Dual Energy Off-Peak Heating Systems offer efficiency and savings

Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems...
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
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Non-electric services

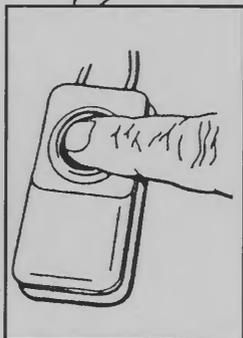
- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star—Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.
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FIRST CALL
Personal Emergency Response



Portable Pendant

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Electric Cooperative
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or
Perry Memorial Hospital
Princeton
815-875-2811
or
St. Margaret's Hospital
Spring Valley
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MainStreet Messenger Telephone



Winter outages

Illinois Valley Electric is prepared for the worst. Are you?



Ice on power lines is so heavy it's like hanging a small car between each set of poles. Lines sag to the ground and poles can snap like tooth picks. Winter storms can cause long power outages at the worst possible time. Be sure you have the supplies you need like flashlights, blankets, food and water to ride out a winter power outage.

Above all else remember to stay clear of any downed power lines. A power

line on the ground can still be energized.

The electric cooperatives of Illinois have an emergency plan and can send crews from across the state during large outages. But even with extra help winter outages can take a long time to repair. IVEC appreciates your patience when hundreds of customers are trying to call at the same time. Cooperation is the key to meeting nature's challenge.

Special offer for Illinois Valley Members only

Free Electric Water Heaters

60-80 gallon

Call for details!

(800) 654-1088

Ask for Member Services

Who's responsible for electric facilities?

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

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

Overhead electric service

The Cooperative is responsible for:

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

The member is responsible for:

- The meter socket.

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

Underground electric service

The Cooperative is responsible for:

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

The member is responsible for:

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

October is co-op month

Toad Lane? Yep, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is descended from a buyers' co-op that was located in a tiny store on that modest thoroughfare in Rochdale, England. It was formed in 1844, and known as the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society. Rochdale co-op members bought food staples in quantity and sold them to each other at low prices. The result was the first successful cooperative of the industrial era.

The Rochdale pioneers' idea was simply that a group of people could pool their resources to satisfy a common need that they couldn't satisfy any other way. But while co-ops got their start in England, they are a very important part of the American economy today. According to the National Cooperative Business Association, more than 100 million Americans belong to one or more of 47,000 co-ops.

There are three types of co-ops: producer-owned, consumer-owned and worker-owned. Electric co-ops are consumer-owned, and, like most co-ops, were organized when nobody else would provide a service people needed. In addition to electric co-ops, consumer co-ops may buy and sell food or heating fuel or even operate childcare facilities.

Co-ops are guided by the six following co-op principles.

- Voluntary and open membership — Co-ops are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- Democratic member control — Co-ops are

democratic organizations controlled by their members, who participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

- Member economic participation — Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-op. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-op. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

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

- Education, training and information — Co-ops provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-op.

- Cooperation among co-ops — Co-ops serve their members most effectively by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

- Concern for community — While focusing on members' needs, co-ops work for community development through policies accepted by their members.

Moonlight is nice—



but you can depend on a rental security light

You don't have to depend on the uncertain light of the silvery moon when you install a rental security light at your home, farm or business. For a few dollars a month, your property can be bathed in bright light. Studies have shown that outdoor lighting reduces the chance of burglary and vandalism.

A moonlit night is great, but for peace of mind, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative and have one of the following security lights installed. Security lights are installed on an existing meter or transformer pole owned by the cooperative.

Free installation, maintenance and service.

100-Watt HPS

\$11.75 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$13.25 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

400-Watt HPS

\$16.00 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$17.50 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

**Call your cooperative toll-free at (800) 654-1088 for more details.
Ask about the rental security light program.**

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

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

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

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

Retail wheeling update

Since the enactment of the energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct), the focus of many in the electric industry has moved to retail wheeling (the transmitting and sale of electricity to a retail consumer in a utility's service area by an entity other than the utility).

The EPAct specifically prohibited the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) from ordering retail wheeling. Nonetheless, many organizations are carrying on an aggressive campaign to secure retail wheeling rights. Many in the trade press have chimed in, asserting that it is just a matter of time before *restructuring* in the electric utility industry follows airlines, telephones, natural gas, banking, and others. Advocates have played fast and loose with EPAct, stating that it encourages greater competition and specifically promotes retail wheeling. (As noted above, EPAct prohibited the FERC from issuing any order that could be construed as retail wheeling).

Retail wheeling raises several troubling issues. Proponents argue that large industrial customers must be able to shop for energy like they do for raw materials and that lower power costs could keep troubled businesses afloat, as well as help their international competitiveness.

A number of issues being raised in response by many utilities and state regulators include:

Stranded investment: Utilities have built generation, transmission, substations, and distribution lines in anticipation of future needs that could be under used if retail wheeling is implemented;

Discriminatory pricing: Under some retail wheeling plans, only the largest loads could choose their electricity supplier, while remaining customers would pay for stranded investment costs through higher rates;

Planning uncertainties: Forecasting would become almost impossible for conventional utilities, and state-mandated integrated resource

plans, demand-side management initiatives, and other traditional means of ensuring needed generation would become virtually meaningless;

Environmental considerations: Retail wheeling would probably result in the unbundling of generation, transmission and distribution sales, making demand-side initiatives and integrated resource planning almost impossible. Additionally, the "lowest cost" could drive market demand, encouraging sales from older, dirtier plants. **Michael Zerby**

NARUC

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners adopted a resolution in July 1996 that enumerates the principles it says should guide electric utility industry restructuring. NARUC's general principle calls for consumers to "have access to adequate, safe, reliable and efficient energy services at fair reasonable prices at the lowest long-term cost to society." The resolution also calls on lawmakers, as well as its own members, to:

- Assign states the responsibility for determining "the extent of and pace for expanding choice for customers under their regulatory oversight;"
- Maintain universal service at reasonable rates, as well as the safety, reliability, quality and sustainability of electric service;
- Protect customers from anti-competitive behavior and other malfeasances;
- Ensure that all customer classes benefit from restructuring;
- Preserve or improve the quality of the environment;
- Stranded investment that result from existing regulatory and legal requirements should be addressed in a fair and reasonable manner by the states.

At the annual meeting in November 1996, NARUC added language to its restructuring resolution supporting rural consumers.



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 10:40 a.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 1997 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

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

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

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made to approve the 401(K) resolution for employees.

2. A motion was made and approved to purchase NT Microsoft Network Software for the cooperative offices.

3. An update was given on the headquarters office remodeling which should be completed by September 15. An update was given on the new warehouse project. IVEC headquarters will be connected to the city sewer system as of August 29. A report was also given on the parking lot improvements.

4. A motion was made and approved to pay annual dues to the United Telecommunications Council for 1997-98.

The September board meeting will be held on September 18, 1997. The October board meeting is scheduled for October 28, 1997. The November board meeting is scheduled for the 25th.

Students encouraged to apply for 1998 IEC Memorial Scholarships

For the third consecutive year, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative will award two academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to two area high school students. The scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. One of the two scholarships will be awarded to the child of an electric cooperative member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee. Deadline for application is Jan. 1, 1998.

President T. L. Christensen said that the purpose of the scholarship program is to assist

the children of electric cooperative members while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts. Illinois Valley Electric wants to make a difference in the community. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth.

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay which demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. If your student is interested, call us at toll free (800) 654-1088 for more information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship program.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0005034500

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

Call toll-free 800-654-1088



Plug into electrical safety

The National Electrical Safety Foundation (NESF) is reminding people that electricity deserves your respect — if you are careless, you can get a shock or start a fire. You can avoid electrical accidents by keeping these Plug into Electrical Safety Tips in mind.

- Be alert when using electrical products. Every product comes with instructions for proper use. Follow manufacturer's instructions and read care and maintenance manuals and warnings carefully before you use the product.
- Keep extension and electrical cords out of the reach of children and pets.
- Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances or bulbs.
- Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs or furniture. They can overheat and may cause a fire.
- Use extension cords only on a temporary basis and not as permanent household wiring.
- Don't use appliances with broken plugs or frayed, cut or damaged cords. They can cause a shock or fire.
- Water and electricity don't mix. Don't leave appliances plugged in where they might come into contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into the water, NEVER reach in to pull it out — even if it's turned off. Unplug it first.



Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for October are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

October

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

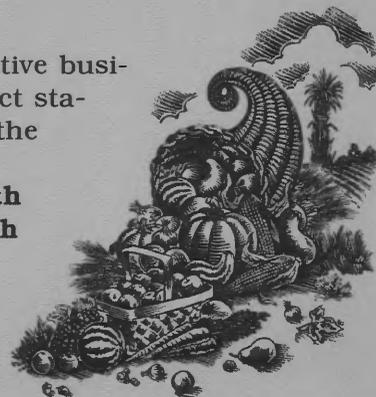
*** Notice ***



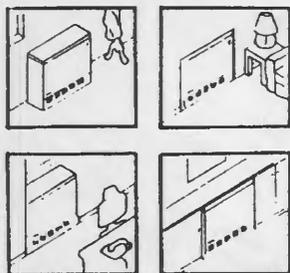
The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11th
Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27th
and Friday, November 28th

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



E.T.S.



Example of...
Warm room concept
installations

Featuring this month OFF-PEAK Electric Thermal Storage



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

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

- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents kilowatt-hour.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for primary electric heat with a non-electric secondary service.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000.00 for installation of all Electric Heating using E.T.S. as a secondary service during interruptible periods.

All-Electric or Dual Energy Off-Peak Heating Systems

Available options for IVEC members

Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when "on-peak" periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches.
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star—Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program—helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.
- ★ Crime Watch—fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.
- ★ Monthly magazine—Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System with programming.

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

Call the Member Services Department—toll-free (800) 654-1088.

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris) Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

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Princeton, Illinois 61356

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



This pole, with its multiple cross arms and varied hardware, took a lot of conductor with it when it fell. Scenes like this indicate that cleanup costs are going to be high.

Early storm batters co-op's territory

An early winter storm rolled in from the Great Plains on the evening of Sunday, Oct. 26, bringing winds, heavy snow, ice and major damage to IVEC's entire service territory.

In a matter of hours, some 3,000-plus IVEC members were without power. In less time than it takes to say, "El Nino," half our members were shivering in the darkness.

And in less time than it takes to complain about bad breaks, IVEC called the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and asked them to activate their Emergency Work Plan, or EWP. Before the storm had blasted its way out of our service territory, trucks were rolling, bringing help. The EWP is set up so the AIEC can ask the nearest unaffected co-ops to send help—and the right kind of help—to the damaged co-op with a minimum of delay.

Crews came from seven other co-ops, bringing with them much-needed bucket trucks and pole trailers.

They pitched in and started helping, working around the clock. The city of Princeton municipal system also provided line personnel and equipment.

We dispatched our own crews as quickly as possible, and managed to keep busy while outside help was coming. We coordinated with our emergency response service to provide enough personnel to staff all incoming telephone lines. They were ringing constantly, as they always do when there is a large, sudden loss of power.

Rest assured that we did not take our phones off the hook. It would be self-defeating to do that, since we need to know where the trouble spots are.

Before long, our operations office began to fill

Continued on page 16b...



This pole represents an added expense in that it fell with a transformer, which may have been damaged.

Early storm batters co-op's territory continued from page 16a...

up with people, who kept an eye on the big wall-mounted system map. Then the outage report slips started to accumulate. Each one represents a call, and each one is tacked to the map at the place where there's a trouble report.

It wasn't long before we started running out of clear places on the map. They got more and more numerous as the storm moved from west to east. The room took on the hectic look of a besieged command post.

Dispatchers looked at slips, radioed trucks, and reported the location of the phoned-in problems. In many cases, the crews were already aware of the problems, because the problems were readily visible in the form of broken poles, cross arms and downed lines.

But it was slow, difficult work. And it's going to be expensive. We might as well spell that out up front. In a co-op, there are no profits to be cut back on, and there's not much of a reserve, either. The money has to be borrowed and paid back.



While this pole didn't fall, it came close, and the sagging wires indicate that the one next to it did. Note the ice on the lines.

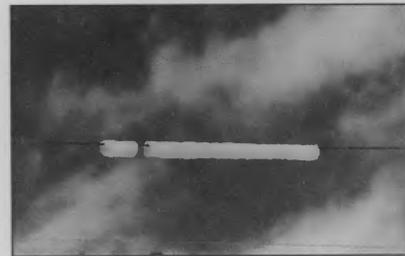
At any rate, trucks and crews braved darkness and slick roads. They converged on all parts of our service area, to begin the dreary job of replacing broken poles and restringing downed lines. Early indications are that we had at least 75 poles broken, and some 225 broken cross arms. Conductors were down in at least 125 places, and it seemed like more.

We had quite a bit of material in reserve, just in case of such a storm, the material was needed immediately for repairs.

But we had to order a lot, too. In all, we ordered several truckloads of materials and supplies because of heavy storm damage. By the morning of Tuesday, October 28, we had power restored to some 1,200 members, and our crews were working as hard as they could to restore service to the rest. The "borrowed" crews were still hard at it, too.

And we had a little special help. We asked Willis Hand, Ralph Martin and Stan Ballard for their help. These long-time employees had retired in the last couple of years, and still knew the system well. We asked them to patrol service areas and radio damage reports to our dispatchers, so they could better coordinate repairs. The plan worked well, and we want to express our thanks to these men for their help.

As mentioned earlier, seven co-ops sent help. They were Jo-Carroll Electric, Elizabeth,



Even though much of the ice had melted off the conductor by the time this photo was taken, it still gives an indication of how much weight the line had to carry. Fortunately, this one didn't break.



Another pole, also with a lot of hardware attached, on the ground. While most of the hardware will be reusable, labor costs will be high, and the pole is a total loss.



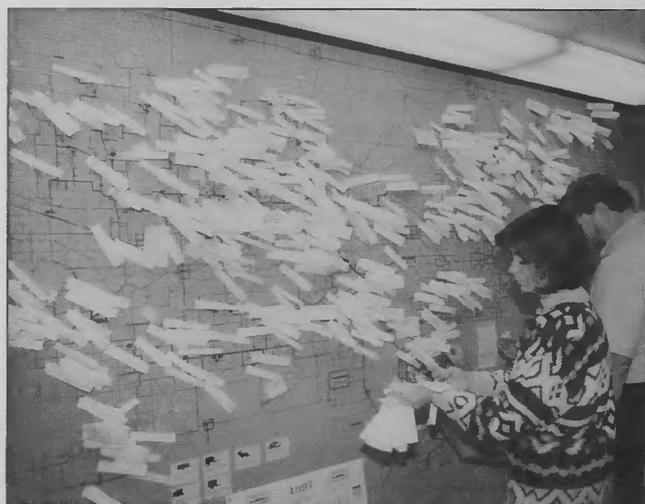
A limb in wires. This was a very common problem, and was brought about by the fact that the heavy snow from the early storm piled up on leafy trees and broke them. A similar storm on bare trees would have done far less damage.



Working in mockingly sunny weather, a line crew prepares a pole to replace a downed one.

Spoon River Electric, Canton, Western Illinois Electrical, Carthage, Menard Electric, Petersburg, McDonough Power, Macomb, Corn Belt Electric, Bloomington, and Eastern Illini Electric, Paxton.

While it's incredibly early for a winter storm, that's exactly what this was, and repairs were hampered by the scope of the damage. But we were fortunate that the weather warmed up during the daytime, and we didn't have adverse weather conditions to contend with. We were also fortunate that several other nearby co-ops were unaffected and were able to send help. But we'd have felt a lot more fortunate if the storm hadn't ever happened. We want to take this opportunity to thank our members for their patience and understanding during this difficult situation.



Carrie Harrington, coordinator of office services, and Barry Burkman, special services representative, stepped out of their accustomed roles to keep the system map up to date. Each slip of paper on the map represents a trouble call. As you can see, there were many of them.

Board Room **REPORT**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18, 1997 with all directors present but Ralph Freebairn. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

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

Directors reported on various meetings and

related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. It was reported that IVEC's new warehouse construction is well under way; the sewer system is hooked to the city now and the old septic tank has been filled; the headquarter's offices are nearing completion and the east building warehouse roof has been repaired. The parking lot project is being reviewed by an engineering firm to help solve the standing water problems when it rains.

The October board meeting will be held on Oct. 28, 1997. The November board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 25, 1997. The December meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 23rd.

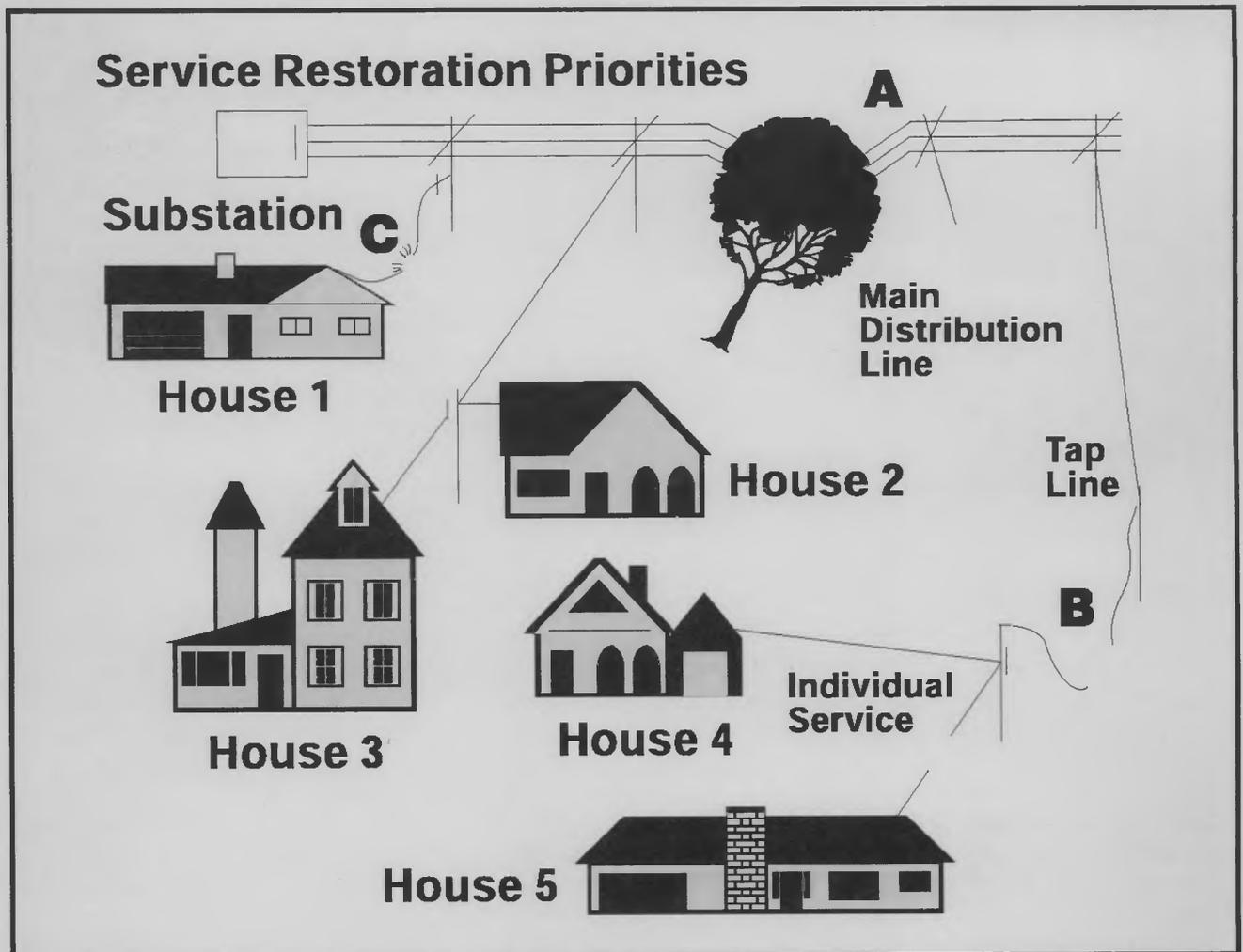
Priorities in restoring electric service

Because of the major storm this past October, several IVEC members asked the question, "Why am I out of service and my neighbor is not?" Or they ask, "Why did it take so long to get my power restored when other members were on for hours?"

We then are asked how we would choose which house gets electric service restored during a major wind or ice storm. The chart shown depicts a simplified version of how we would go about restoring service to each house. Specifically, we would start at the source of the power, namely the substation. Then, similar to spokes of a wheel, we would work out on the main distribution line, repairing and restoring service to the main feeder lines. It would do no good to repair a small wire attached to your house if the main line was dead, plus the time spent at this house would mean that many other people are off even longer.

In our diagram, the men would first work to restore the main distribution line. Since there is nothing wrong with the lines leading to House 2 and House 3, the repair to the main line would automatically bring them on. Next, we would clear up any problems with the tap lines leading off the main line. In our example, the tap line would restore service to House 4. Only after all the high-voltage lines are repaired would we repair problems at individual homes. In our example, individual house 1 and 5 would then be restored.

Occasionally, we have people call and say our men drove by but did not stop the repair a problem at their particular house. We hope this explanation will help you understand our priorities. Although at times it may not seem like it, there is a predetermined plan to restore service to the largest number of people in the quickest time possible.



Safety with electrical outlets

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

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

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

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

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

fatal.

Again, GFCIs are not intended to enable you to do dangerous things. They're intended to provide a big margin of safety when you accidentally do something hazardous. Incidentally, building codes today require the instal-

lation of GFCI-protected circuits in kitchens, bathrooms and in outdoor receptacles. The ones we're discussing are useful in homes built without them. There are several different kinds, and you'd be wise to check out the possibility of using one outdoors or anyplace where water and electricity are likely to mix, such as kitchens and bathrooms. You can buy a portable GFCI, which plugs into an outlet, and into which you then plug lights or appliances. They're simple to use and inexpensive. Once they "trip" and save



your bacon, you need to correct the problem, then press the little "reset" button they have, and you're ready to be protected again.

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

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

Carbon monoxide: the silent killer

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that has no color, no odor and no taste. It forms when fuels are burned without a good supply of air for complete combustion. It can come from auto exhaust, a wood-burning fireplace, or any gas- or oil-burning heater or appliance.

At low levels, carbon monoxide may have few noticeable effects. At high concentrations, it can be lethal.

Carbon monoxide's warning signs are easy to spot. **Roger L. Anderson**

Be alert to soot buildup on or near a fireplace or furnace chimney, yellow instead of blue gas flames, or a pilot light that keeps going out.

Other warning signs include sick pets, dying house plants, or excessive moisture buildup on walls or windows where moisture was never noticed before.

Be wary of persistent nausea, headaches, vomiting, or drowsiness. These symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often mistaken for flu or other illness.

Be suspicious if everyone in your household shares the same symptoms, especially if they clear up when you leave the house.

If you discover someone overcome by carbon

monoxide, get him or her to fresh air quickly. If that's not possible, open nearby doors and windows. Then call for medical help.

Have conscious victims lie down. Keep them warm and calm. If they're not breathing, give artificial respiration. Tell emergency personnel that you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

There are a few simple steps that you can take to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.

Have your heating system professionally checked each year.

Check flue pipes for rust or deteriorated areas that could let combustion fumes escape into your home. Replace corroded pipes immediately.

When you use an unvented gas or kerosene heater, open a window an inch or more to ensure plenty of oxygen. Make sure the heater has a sensor that will shut off the heater if the oxygen level drops too low.

Check the chimney. Make sure it isn't clogged by nests or other debris.

Make sure exhaust ducts on gas water heaters and clothes dryers are not blocked.

You also can use detectors that alert you to dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for November are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.



You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0000682000

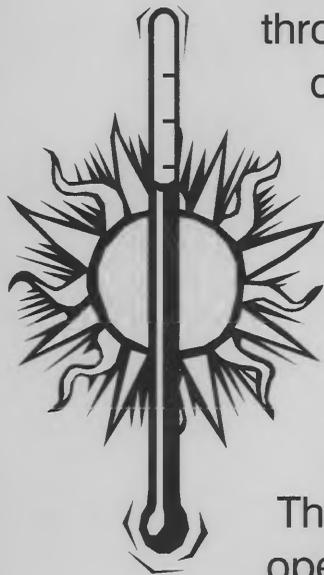
If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.



Call toll-free
800-654-1088

IVEC Members . . . We've got to give you credit!!!

It's part of our air conditioning and electric water heater programs. Let us control your electric water heater and air conditioner from June through September and you will receive a \$20 credit each of those months. That's \$80 savings next summer.



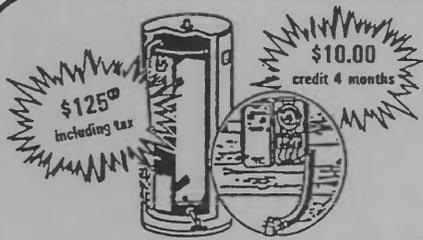
By briefly shutting off your electric water heater and air conditioner when electric use is at a peak alert, we can lower the cost of power we purchase. That's a savings to your electric cooperative. . .and to you. We install a small radio-control switch on these appliances and send a radio signal to interrupt service. You probably won't even notice. However, if you're unhappy with the program, the switch will be removed at no cost to you.



An \$80 bill credit next summer. That's a switch! Find out the details from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. Call toll free (800) 654-1088 and ask for the member services department.

*** Available Services and Programs*** Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



60 to 80 gal. water heater

Featuring this month

- **High-Efficiency electric water heaters** at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only.
- **Earn \$10 credit** on your electric bill with control device on water heater for months of June, July, August, and September. (\$40 savings!!)
- **\$125.00 Rebate** if control device is installed on your water heater after 30 days.

Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when “on-peak” periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches.
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

- ★ Rural TV satellite program subscription packages by Astro Star—Economy Pack \$9.50 mo., Standard Basic \$13.25 mo., Star Pack \$15.95 mo., HBO/Cinemax \$12.95 mo., and other program selections.
- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program—helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.
- ★ Crime Watch—Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.
- ★ Monthly magazine—Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.
- ★ DIRECTV™ —18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System with programming.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative—call toll-free (800) 654-1088.