

JAMUP

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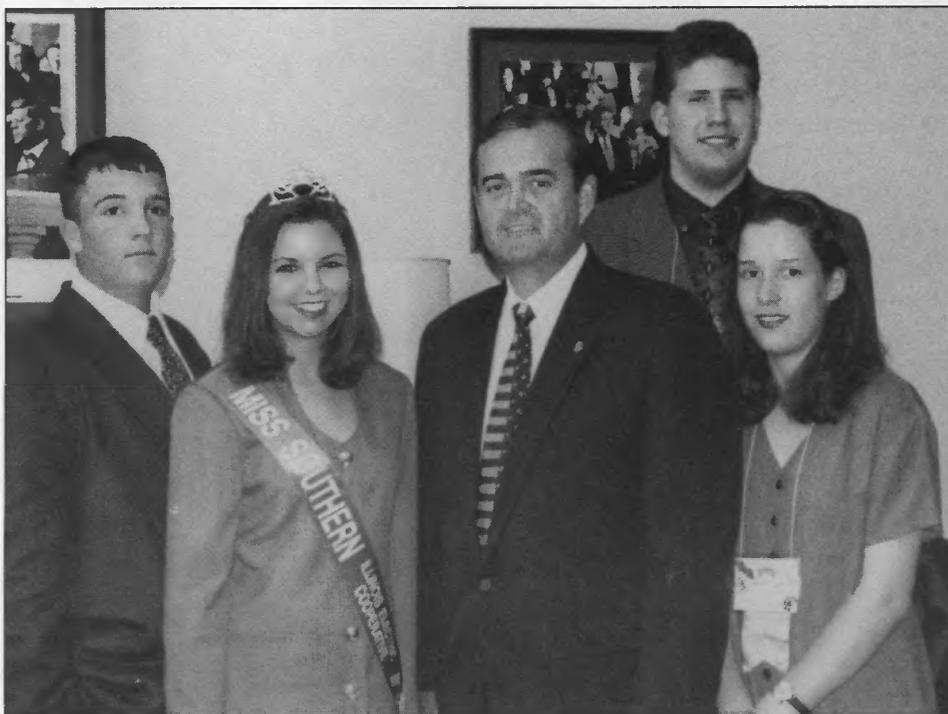
published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Youth to Washington Essay Contest

The Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) Board of Directors is once again offering an essay contest to students attending a high school in the SIEC service area. The grand prize to be that one boy and one girl will win week-long, all-expenses-paid tours of Washington, D.C., June 12-19, 1998. The tour winners and twelve finalists will also win tours of Springfield on April 22, 1998.

The SIEC directors have sponsored the Youth to Washington Essay Contest each year since 1965. More than 1,200 high school juniors and seniors from all over the United States gather in Washington, D.C. to participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. Some of the students win contests to qualify for the trip, while others pay their own way and go as "Willie Wiredhands." The entire group is sponsored by their local electric cooperatives and activities are coordinated by the state and national electric cooperative associations (AIEC and NRECA).

The program grew out of a suggestion made in 1957 by then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, who urged "sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Later he would greet the students as President of the



Last year's students from SIEC took in a full week of experiences around the nation's capital, and one highlight was a meeting with Congressman Jerry Costello on Capitol Hill. From Left are: Brandon Thompson of Metropolis; Sarah Myers of Wolf Lake, Miss Southern; Congressman Costello; and Eric George and Jennifer Carney, both of Dongola.

United States.

In Springfield for "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day," the students will meet legislators and tour the State Capitol complex and historic Springfield sites.

In Washington, students from approximately 38 states will meet and visit members of the Congress, view the White House, tour historical monuments, attend theatrical productions and educational seminars, and get acquainted with fellow students.

Students attending Anna-Jonesboro, Century, Cobden, Dongola, Egyptian, Goreville,

Joppa, Meridian, Metropolis, Shawnee or Vienna high schools, may enter the essay contest. The title for this year's composition is "How Deregulation Will Affect Electric Cooperatives." A representative of SIEC will visit your school during the next few months to explain the contest rules and furnish research materials.

If you are interested in writing an essay and have not received the necessary information, please refer to the forms provided in this JAMUP issue. Make plans to enter the contest. You will be glad that you did.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

618-827-3555 P.O. Box 100
Dongola, IL 62926

Board of Directors

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Manager	Larry Lovell
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Editor	Carol L. Wilhoit
Office Manager	Chris L. Bennett



Area phone outage information

Whom to call — numbers to call —
and schedule of hours

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.,
Monday through Saturday
Call Toll Free (from Southern Illinois)
1-800-762-1400
or Call Dongola Office 618-827-3555

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Make plans now



This group includes the SIEC representatives, a couple of chaperones, and a representative of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. From left are Carmen Thompson, Angie Woodney, Rob Rion, Jennifer Carney, Sarah Myers, Eric George and Brandon Thompson.



If you do not receive information at your school, please note the contest rules and the entry form included in this issue.

For more information, call 1-800-762-1400.

A Washington trip seems incomplete without a photo of the entire group, and this one was shot in front of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, usually off-limits to photos. Tarik Allageny, information officer at the embassy, is just to the right of center in the front row, and Sarah Myers, Miss Southern, is just to the right of him.

for the 1997 Youth Tour



several icebreakers and games during the trip, and SIEC members showed their leadership abilities by heading up some of the activities. Eric George heads up a game.



Gatsby's Tavern was a stop on the tour, and Eric is pictured on the stairs as the group leaves.

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Mailing address _____

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Office closing

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be closed on
Monday, Jan. 19
to observe
Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Deregulation is here

For the past two years Illinois electric cooperatives have pushed for language in the state's electric utility deregulation legislation that will benefit co-op members. Just before midnight, November 14, the Illinois House of Representatives passed legislation which will do just that. Following a lead established by the Senate in late October, the House approved H.B. 362 by an overwhelming majority. Governor Jim Edgar, on December 16, signed the bill into law.

The bill is 261 pages long, very complicated and detailed. In comparison, the five pages dealing with not-for-profit utilities are relatively simple and to the point. It was one of the few portions of the bill that stirred relatively little controversy. The language simply protects the right of self-determination for democratically controlled, not-for-profit utilities, including electric cooperatives and municipal utilities.

"This was the most important legislative issue ever undertaken by Illinois electric cooperatives," said Earl Struck, president and chief executive officer of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, the state trade organization which acted as the cooperatives' voice in shaping the bill. "We're pleased that legislators recognized the importance of not-for-profit electric cooperatives and our position on deregulation legislation," Struck said. "We're very gratified that they accepted our proposal."

Larry Lovell, manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Dongola, said the pro-

posal Struck referred to holds a number of key elements. "It contains the guiding principles we fought to preserve, including cooperative choice in regard to entering the deregulated market, and affirmation of the Electric Supplier Act, which prevents duplication of electric facilities and guards against needless adverse environmental and economic costs."

"But probably most significantly, the bill supports our members' right to act as the guiding force behind their local electric cooperative. It allows cooperatives to 'opt in' to the deregulated utility market if and when they find it prudent to do so." Lovell said, "Simply put, the bill gives our cooperative several options under deregulation. It allows our members, through their locally elected board of directors, to decide what's best for their future."

Lovell pointed out that a lot of promises are being made regarding lower electric rates. "These claims usually talk about huge rate reductions over a very short time. We need to remember that cooperatives were formed because the large investor-owned utilities didn't feel our area was a viable investment. The only difference between now and then is that some businesses, which look attractive to the investor-owned utilities, have settled in our area," Lovell said.

Investor-owned utilities will be required to make several residential rate decreases beginning in August 1998. Industries served by investor-owned utilities will be capable of choosing an alternative to their current

power supplier beginning in 1999. Commercial customers served by those utilities will be phased into the competitive market starting the same year. The phase-in process should be completed for those customers by the end of the following year. Residential customers of investor-owned utilities will be able to purchase power from an alternative wholesale energy supplier in 2002.

Lovell said, "Electric cooperative customers in southern Illinois for years have enjoyed the lowest rates in the state. Our power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative is working hard to cut costs, pay off debt and prepare for competition. On the distribution side of the business, our employees continue to prove they can offer the best quality electric service at the lowest cost."

Lovell went on to say that electric rates on the open market will ultimately depend on how efficiently power producers can ship electricity to their consumers and on basic changes in supply and demand. "In fact, it's possible deregulation could mean an actual rate increase for some customers. There will be winners and losers. That is why we will be very careful in analyzing the best course for our cooperative and the members we serve," he said.

Lovell warned that as the electrical industry changes, consumers and business should not forget the importance of reliability, supply and the quality of electric service. "These issues are just as important as lowering rates."

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Carol L. Wilhoit Retires



Carol Wilhoit, long-time SIEC employee, receives a retirement gift from Guy Casper, president of the board.

Carol L. Wilhoit retired on January 2, 1998, after 22 ½ years of employment with the cooperative. Carol began her career in 1975 as cashier/receptionist. In 1977 she worked with advance pay bills and capital credits as a billing clerk until 1981. Since that time Carol has

been the cooperative's Administrative Assistant.

Carol was born in Gary, Indiana, and raised in Anna, where she graduated from Anna Jonesboro Community High School. She is married to Maurice (Morrie) W. Wilhoit, who, several years ago, retired as school superintendent from the Dongola school district. Between Carol and Morrie they have eight children, 19 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

The Wilhoits have a very busy "retirement" planned. They are looking forward to fishing, golfing, traveling, and a whole lot of baby-sitting those grandchildren.

We would like to wish Carol (and Morrie) the best of everything each and every single day of retirement in the years ahead.

Let's get acquainted...

Leslie Harvel is the cashier/receptionist for the cooperative. When you call the co-op or come through the front door, it's Leslie who greets you. She will direct your phone call or take messages as well as take your electric bill payment, either in person or over the phone, if you use your credit card. Leslie has been with the cooperative since September 1993.



Leslie Mayo Harvel was born in Dexter, Missouri, but her family moved here prior to her starting grade school. She graduated from Anna Jonesboro Community High School and also attended Shawnee Community College. Leslie is a member of Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church in Anna.

She is married to Jeff Harvel. They have one daughter,

Morgan, 7, who attends first grade at the Jonesboro Grade School. In her free time, Leslie enjoys walking and riding bikes with Morgan. Leslie is also on a bowling team where she says her teammates tell her that "they don't have her on their team for her average". Leslie's quick wit and humor are some of her many endearing qualities.

Miss Southern Illinois 1996 recounts adventures on 1997 Youth to Washington Tour

by Sarah J. Myers

When I was crowned Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, 1996, I knew I would be going to Washington, D.C., the following summer, and I was really excited, since I had never been. Everyone I knew that had gone before said it would be the most exciting and fun trip ever. So I had pretty high expectations for the trip. But they did not even begin to compare to the experience I had.

We departed on the week-long excursion on June 13, 1997. All of the students from Illinois traveled together on two buses. Our first stop on Saturday was Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. We toured the battlefield that day, and finally that afternoon we were able to check into our hotel. That evening we had our Youth Consulting Board Election.

On Sunday, we attended church and had lunch at Gadsby's Tavern. Then we toured George Washington's home. The view was incredible and his estate was truly spectacular. We left there and went to the Smithsonian Museum. The evening was topped off with a play at Ford's Theater, "Paper Moon." From our seats, we could see where Abraham Lincoln was shot.

We left very early Monday morning and headed for the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. It was fascinating to see how the cooperative works. Next we went to the Washington National Cathedral, where I saw the most beautiful stained glass ever. We had a break for lunch, and then

headed to the home of our nation's president, the White House. Unfortunately, we were only able to look through the iron gates, but it was still unbelievable. After the White House, we headed for the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia. I



Sarah is pictured here with congressman Jerry Costello on Capitol Hill.

found this to be one of my favorite stops on the trip. I learned a lot about the country and I was chosen to model some of their traditional costumes, worn by women in their country. That evening, we went on a cruise of the Potomac River, with other students from all over the country.

I think Tuesday was my favorite day of all. We visited the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Capitol Building, several monuments and memorials, and dined with our congressmen. We saw the Iwo Jima Parade and Pageant and the Vietnam War Memorial that evening, both of which were very emotional.

Our last full day in Washington, D.C. was on Wednesday. The Youth Day General Assembly was that morning, and that afternoon we visited

other memorials, the Arlington National Cemetery where we saw the changing of the guard, and the Smithsonian, where I got to see the Hope Diamond. That night, we had a dance at the hotel, and we began thinking about tomorrow's departure.

We made a few stops Thursday morning, one of which was the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum. This was one of the most interesting places we visited. The pictures we saw and the stories we read were unbelievable. After the museum, we made one final stop before heading to Illinois, the Newseum. This is an entire museum dedicated to news. I particularly liked it, since my major is Broadcast Journalism.

Friday morning, I woke up, back in Southern Illinois. If it seems like the trip was busy, that's because it was. The trip was truly an unforgettable experience, and I know my words cannot give it justice. I would like to thank Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative for giving me one of the most memorable trips of my life. I saw so many things and met so many great people. I would also like to thank the trip chaperones for taking time out of their schedules to go with us, Carol Wilhoit for keeping the SIEC participants informed of deadlines and important information and a special thank you to Linda Comstock and John Freitag for all of their dedication and time spent organizing the trip. Their hard work has truly made this trip a success.

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President's Day.



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SIEC pays off RUS debt

For the past couple of years, the Board of Directors considered paying off the debt owed to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Many of you remember RUS as the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). REA dates back to when FDR created that agency to enable the rural citizens of this country to enhance their quality of life through the modern advances of electricity. REA became RUS a few years ago and the agency still falls under the auspices of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. After many months of deliberations and several presentations from various lending institutions that specialize in cooperative financing, the Board in September 1997 decided to pay in full the RUS debt. They chose the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) to finance the RUS debt retirement. The actual RUS buyout and CFC loan closing took place on December 17, 1997 at the Department of Agriculture headquarters in Washington, DC.

There were many reasons why the board chose to leave RUS. For one, RUS was encouraging cooperatives to buyout of RUS debt by offering a discount. The primary reason the government offered the discount is because of the backlog of loan applications. **Robert E. Shearer** If we were to apply today for an RUS loan, the waiting period for approval is 18-24 months. The backlog is the result of Congress reducing the allocations for RUS loans. The 18-24 month waiting period does not count the three months or so it takes us to complete the application before we

send it to RUS. To contrast, CFC's borrowing process will take about six weeks, and the required paperwork is similar to that issued to a business borrowing from a local bank.

The RUS loan program has also drawn criticism from many people as unfairly subsidizing cooperatives that can obtain financing without low interest government loans. Perhaps you remember seeing on television the various investigative news documentaries criticizing the low interest rates RUS was offering. As a result, RUS loan rates are now tied to the municipal loan rates. These rates vary, but the 35 year rate has been in excess of 5.25 percent. Cooperatives can no longer qualify for long term 2 percent and 5 percent loans. Along with RUS borrowing came strict and excessive regulations and mandated reporting requirements. Most of these regulations were drafted in the late 1930s and changed slowly over time. While many of these regulations were necessary, many have become cumbersome and time consuming. Because of these regulations, RUS often required cooperatives to borrow more money than what was actually needed. If you did not request the money to be advanced on your approved loan within a certain period of time, you would forfeit your loan and would have to start the loan process again. Having CFC as our chief financial institution will enable the cooperative to borrow only what is needed at the time it is needed.

Borrowing from CFC will give the cooperative many advantages

and greater flexibility in a de-regulated environment. By converting RUS debt of \$8.87 million to CFC loans for \$8.13 million, the cooperative was able to decrease its debt by over \$740,000. SIEC was able to lock in the \$8.13 million borrowed from CFC at an effective annual interest rate of 6.6 percent with an average loan maturity of 19 years. Although paying a slightly higher interest rate, the discount made the transaction very attractive. The buyout will not increase the total principal and interest the cooperative will owe over the next 19 years. This fact was very important to management and the Board.

Buying out of RUS does not sever our ties with them. The cooperative will still qualify for many of their special programs. SouthWater will still qualify for RD loans and grants. After 10 years, the cooperative will again be able to borrow from RUS if we choose to do so.

CFC is a cooperative formed by rural electric cooperatives. SIEC is a member of CFC. We have been borrowing supplemental money from them for several years. CFC will be able to meet SIEC's borrowing needs in a timely, professional manner. For the board and staff, the borrowing process will become less bureaucratic, less time consuming, and less of a burden.

For you the member, you will not notice any difference. As always, it is the employee's and board's goal to provide you with reliable, high quality and low cost service. The paying off of RUS debt will help us attain our goal.

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Spring is tornado season

Springtime means tornado season. Although tornadoes can occur anytime, peak months are March through August.

There are two types of tornado alerts. A tornado watch means atmospheric conditions are right for a tornado to develop. Stay tuned to news broadcasts for further information. A tornado warning means one has been sighted in the area or will occur.

If a warning has been issued, your family should seek shelter immediately. The best shelters are basements or storm shelters. If your home does not have a basement, move to a small room such as a bathroom or closet in the center of the house.

If you are in your vehicle, do not try to outrun a tornado. If you cannot escape the path of the tornado, stop and get

away from the vehicle. Lie flat with your head covered in a low area such as a ditch or a ravine. One of the major causes of tornado deaths and injuries is flying debris, so be sure and keep your head covered.

Do not stay in a mobile home during a tornado. Evacuate the home to find a low area where you can lie down and cover your head. It might be wise to also check rules and regulations concerning "hold-down" equipment for new or used mobile homes.

Your family should have an emergency plan and know exactly what to do if a tornado hits. Each home should have basic emergency supplies, such as a portable radio, batteries and flashlights on hand in the basement or closet. Being safe is being prepared.

Don't let your dishwasher flush \$\$\$ down the drain

Add up how much electricity all those appliances in your home use, and pretty soon you're talking real money on your electric bill. Your dishwasher is no exception.

About 80 percent of the energy used by a dishwasher is for hot water, not for electricity to run the motor. So, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recommends doing the following to make your dishwasher more cost effective.

- Check the owner's manual for the recommended water temperature. Many have internal heating elements that will allow you to lower the temperature if it is set too high.
- Scrape, don't rinse, large pieces of food and bones from dishes. Soak or prewash only

when there is burned-on or dried-on food.

- Fill your dishwasher before each use — but don't overload.
- Do not use the "rinse hold" on your machine for just a few soiled dishes. This setting uses three to seven gallons of hot water.
- Let your dishes air-dry instead of using the heat-drying option.
- Relax and enjoy the convenience of having a dishwasher because dishwashers use less water than hand washing — about six gallons less per load. Dishwashers also do a better job of killing germs because they use hotter water than you would use with hand washing.

Five free quick and easy ways to save energy in your home. . .

You could probably save a lot on your power bill every year, if you fixed all the energy wasters in your home. Every home is different, but imagine the impact a 5 or 10 percent savings could have! Best of all, none of these ideas will cost you anything but a little time, so why not get started right away?

1. Use your thermostat like the cruise control in your car.

When you're driving your car, you know what happens when you speed up and slow down, or drive fast. You waste gas. That's what happens when you frequently change the temperature setting on your thermostat: You waste electricity. Set your thermostat once in the morning and once in the evening, and resist the temptation to monkey with it at other times. Or install an automatic setback unit to do the job for you.

2. Take advantage of the sun.

You don't need a solar heating system to take advantage of the sun's warmth during winter. Just watch the sun's movement across your home to see which windows get plenty of sun-

light, and open their blinds, shades and drapes to let the sun shine in. Close them when the sun's gone, to keep the heat in.

3. Turn off exhaust fans as soon as you're done.

Exhaust fans are handy in a kitchen or bathroom. But as soon as the fan's job is finished, shut it off. Otherwise, you'll pump heated air outside, and your heating system will have to work to catch up.

4. Close the door on wasted energy.

Are you heating a room you don't use? If so, close all registers, doors and windows, and check to make sure none of the items you've stored there need to be kept at normal room temperature.

5. Close your fireplace damper.

Up to eight percent of the warm air from your heat pump or furnace will go right up the chimney every day you leave your fireplace damper open. When there's no fire, close the damper. And even when a fire is burning, it's a good idea to use glass doors to conserve heat.

. . .and five easy ways to make it safer

1. Use safety covers.

Put safety covers on unused wall outlets so kids won't explore them with tiny fingers. Replace broken wall plates.

2. Take care of cords.

Replace frayed or cracked extension cords. Never nail or staple them to the wall or floor. And keep furniture off the cords, even if they're under a rug.

3. Use extension cords wisely.

Extension cords are meant for temporary use. Don't use them as permanent household wiring.

4. Don't misuse plugs.

Use three-prong plugs on three-prong outlets. Never cut the third prong off to make it fit. And don't force plugs into outlets if they don't fit easily.

5. Use GFCIs.

Install ground-fault circuit interrupters in bathrooms and kitchens. They help prevent electrocutions where water and electricity might mix.



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Recipe for electrical appliance safety

Preparation Time: 5 minutes.

Ingredients: Cords, hair dryers, curling irons, plugs, radios, toasters, microwaves, fuses and circuit breakers.

Directions:

- Check all power cords and plugs for breaks or damaged insulation.
- Check plugs to be sure they are in good condition.
- Keep all appliances such as toasters, microwaves, hair dryers, curling irons and radios away from sinks and water. **Electricity and wa-**

ter do not mix.

- If a circuit breaker keeps tripping or fuses keep blowing, first check to see if you have too many appliances on the circuit. Inspect cords and outlets. If the problem persists, have appliances inspected by qualified service personnel or have the wiring checked by a qualified electrician.
 - Mix all ingredients together following the directions and cook up a recipe to save lives.
- Serves Everyone.**

Membership prize

Starting with this month's issue of the JAMUP, we will print the name of a member of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who would be eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.

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published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Linemen help Kentucky Cooperative

We all take electricity for granted until something disastrous happens. That's what happened to many folks in rural eastern Kentucky early in February. All towns, large and small, were hit hard when over 2 feet of snow fell through the mid to eastern portion of the commonwealth. With the heavy wet snow came broken trees and branches, broken poles, and downed power lines. Serving over 45,000 members, Jackson Energy Cooperative in McKee, Kentucky, was in a state of emergency. The damage to their system was extensive and severe. They issued a call for help through Kentucky's Rural Electric Disaster Plan.

When disaster hits an area, such as that in Kentucky, cooperatives from the surrounding states respond by sending crews and equipment to the stricken area to help restore power to those rural areas. On February 6, SIEC responded to the plea for help by sending six Journeyman Linemen to help where they could. General Manager Larry Lovell along with Line Superintendent Ken Corzine called a meeting of all the crews and asked for volunteers. Most of the linemen volunteered, but only six were sent. SIEC had to make sure that the work at home would not be hampered by a temporary reduction in the work force. Sent were Journeyman Linemen Stanley Treat, Roger Acuff,

LaRue Parr, Dennis Abercrombie, Bob Fisher and Utility Serviceman Tom Keller. After making a phone call or two, a quick run home to pack, and a chance to stock the three trucks, off they went armed with maps and cellular phones (to communicate with each other in the event of separation).

After a seven hour drive, they arrived in Richmond, KY, late Friday evening where they were told to get a good night's sleep because they had their work cut out for them in the morning. Waking up to four more inches of snow, the six men headed to Irvine, KY, where they would spend most of their time restoring and rebuilding electric service. The men worked an average of 17-18 hours each day. One of the linemen, LaRue Parr, said "The lines were across mountainous country, not parallel to the road as they are in most cases back home." Many times they had to park their trucks and carry their tools and supplies in to where they were working. Bulldozers would cut a road through the snow so the trucks could get through. It was so rough, Parr said, that their trucks had to be pulled in to where they were to work. Parr said "One of the first things they did was to get the three phase lines back on so they could restore single phase lines next." Parr recalled one instance where an entire 3,000 foot roll of wire was used for one 1,500

foot single phase span and neutral. In our area, spans usually run about 300 feet. "The poles went from mountaintop to mountaintop" Parr said. Several times the men had to return to an area they worked on the previous day because the wet snow forced trees and limbs to break and tear the wire back down.

Linda Mann
After working nine days in Kentucky, the crews were sent home on the 15th of February. All six men were glad to be back home, but they were also glad that they were able to provide assistance to the members of the Jackson Energy Cooperative. The men also met some of the 250+ other linemen who volunteered to help along with members of the National Guard. No expenses or costs incurred from this trip will be borne by SIEC. Our linemen's salaries and expenses will be reimbursed 100 percent by the Jackson Energy Cooperative.

SIEC employees and directors know what it's like to have a portion of the electric system destroyed by the weather. Many of you can remember that in June of 1993 and again in June of 1995, wind storms came through our area and wiped out a large portion of our system. In both cases, a call was sent out for emergency assistance; crews from other Illinois cooperatives responded to help with the power restoration. ***That's the cooperative way.***

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

618-827-3555 P.O. Box 100
Dongola, IL 62926

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Avoid a shock--call before you 'disturb the earth'!

Experts tell us that the shorter winter days, with their drabness and scarcity of sunlight, give many people S.A.D., or Seasonal Affective Disorder. Regular people call this phenomenon "the winter blahs."

The situation is made worse by another condition health wonks refer to as "cabin fever," which is what happens to people when lousy weather keeps them from getting to the mall. Anyway, as spring approaches and days lengthen, that brings out another condition known as (pardon the scientific jargon) spring fever.

When spring fever hormones collide with the winter blues germs inside the human body, that causes perfectly normal people to do strange things. Some have the burning desire to head for the nearest mall, while others forsake their perfectly good kitchens and go outside to burn their food.

Still others get the uncontrollable urge to dig in the yard or its environs. If you're one of these unfortunates, please dig carefully. You see, many utilities, such as gas, water, telephone and electricity, are buried underground now. There's a very real danger that you may dig into a buried underground power line while burrowing in your yard, or along a roadside. Such an event could spoil your entire day and maybe the rest of your life.

Seriously, we urge you to be very careful when getting ready to dig. Unless you are absolutely sure there are no underground pipes or cables around, call first. Not to be ter-

ribly picky, but the law actually requires you to be sure you aren't going to have what's known as a "dig-in." The law is not intended to keep you from planting a tree or digging a hole for a new basement. Its main purpose is to assign financial responsibility, and it states that the one who digs into a utility line is the one who's going to pay for any damage and repairs that such a dig-in causes. If that won't motivate you to pick up the phone and dial the toll-free number, nothing will.

Fortunately, there are two easy ways to avoid such problems, and, as mentioned, both involve simple phone calls. First you can call SIEC directly and we will send someone out to locate any of our lines. Several of the electric cooperatives in Illinois are members of JULIE, or Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators. We are not a member of JULIE because we have less than 3 percent of our lines underground.

JULIE is a not-for-profit corporation that provides contractors, excavators, homeowners and others "who may be disturbing the earth," as they put it, with a free locating service through a toll-free phone call.

Also known as the "Illinois One Call System," JULIE was formed in 1974 by owners and operators of underground utility facilities to reduce damage to their pipes, cables and wires. Be sure to call us first and we'll be glad to help you.



JACKSON ENERGY



COOPERATIVE

US HWY 421S • PO Box 307, McKee, Kentucky 40447

Telephone (606) 287-7161 • Fax (606) 287-7168

February 17, 1998

Larry Lovell, General Manager
Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 100
Dongola, Illinois 62926

Dear Mr. Lovell:

The Winter storm that hit Jackson Energy on February 3 & 4 was the worst that this area of the State has ever experienced. The damage to our electric system was extensive. We could not have responded as well as we did without your help. Your personnel performed exceptionally well in restoring power to our consumers under adverse conditions of heavy wet snow and thousands of fallen trees in terrain that was not always friendly.

Thanks for your cooperation and help in a time of need. Certainly, if you have similar needs in the future please call on us.

Sincerely,

JACKSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Douglas P. Leary
President and General Manager

/mhg

District Office • PO Box 117, London, Kentucky 40743 • Telephone (606) 864-2363 • Fax (606) 864-2350

Send a student to Washington

Every year, many of the electric cooperatives of Illinois send selected high school students from their service territory on a trip to Washington, D.C. SIEC is one of the many co-ops participating in this program, and our students are chosen on the basis of their efforts in an essay contest.

While winners of the contest, and our queen, go on the trip with all expenses paid by the co-op, it is also possible for others to take advantage of this outstanding travel oppor-

tunity, too. These are students who pay their own way in the trip, and they receive all the benefits others do

These students are known as "Willie Wiredhand" students, after the electric cooperatives' longtime mascot. If you're interested in sending a daughter, son, or perhaps a grandchild, the week-long trip costs only \$700, and includes a visit to the Gettysburg battlefield in Pennsylvania, visits with area legislators, the Smithsonian Museums, the Iwo Jima me-

morial and many other points of interest. Past participants on the trip, many of whom have toured the nation's capital with other organizations, often note that the electric co-ops' trip is by far the best.

If you have a deserving youth who was unable to participate in your co-op's Youth to Washington contest, give serious thought to sending them as a Willie. You'll be glad you did.!

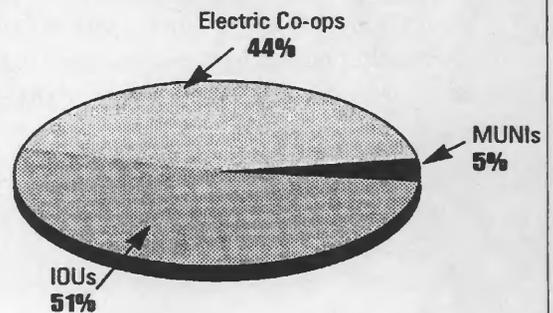
Co-ops own large portion of electricity distribution lines

America's electric cooperatives serve 11 percent of the nation's customers and own power plants that generate 5 percent of the electricity. However, co-ops own a whopping 44 percent of the distribution lines in the United States — more than 2 million miles of lines in 46 states.

The reason is simple. Many electric co-ops serve sparsely populated rural areas where homes, farms and businesses are relatively far apart. So, co-ops must build and maintain many miles of expensive distribution lines to serve consumer-members.

The average electric co-op has 5.76 customers per mile of distribution line while the average investor-owned electric utility (IOU) has 34.85 customers and the average municipally owned utility ("muni") has 47.76 customers per mile of line.

Distribution Miles of Line



Membership prize

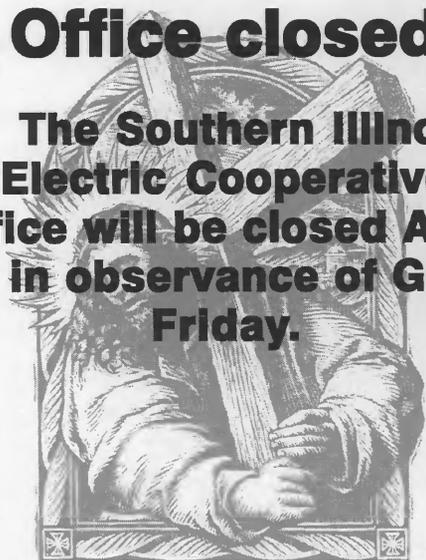
In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the name of a member of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who is eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.



To claim your prize, call us at 1-800-762-1400, ask for Cathy.

Office closed

The Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative office will be closed April 10 in observance of Good Friday.



JAMUP

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

1998 Essay contest winners

Two area youths are among 80 outstanding high school students who will take part in a week-long tour of Washington, D.C. this summer.

Kristy Ulrich and Bryant Hileman, both students at Century Unit School, Ullin, were declared winners of SIEC's 1998 Youth to Washington Essay Contest by a panel of judges on April 1.

Chad Wasuleski, from Dongola High School and Naomi Salley, from Century Unit School were chosen as first runner-ups. Second runner-ups were Justin W. Kelley, from Dongola High School and Laura Holman, from Century Unit School.

Warren Jackson, from Meridian High School; Brandy

Schierbaum, Century Unit School; Clinton Miller, Anna-Jonesboro Community High School; Heidi Badgley, Century Unit School; Craig McClellan, Dongola High School; and Donna Kaufman, Dongola High School, were chosen as honorable mentions.

Kristy and Bryant, along with Amber Renee Moreland, "Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 1997," will join some 1,300 winners from all over the United States when they tour Washington, D.C. to see their government in action. The tour will run from June 12 to June 19, and will include historic sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, the National Cathedral, and the Smithsonian Museums.

On April 22, the winners, runner-ups, and honorable mentions joined more than 300 students who participated in "Youth Day" in Springfield, Ill. There the students took the opportunity to visit with their local representatives in state government as well as visit many historical sites in Springfield. They also were able to tour the Executive Mansion, the State Capitol, the Old State Capitol, and the Illinois Supreme Court. The day long trip and various activities were sponsored by SIEC and other Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives, and is coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.

Membership prize

In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.



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1998 nominating committee to meet June 18

Members to serve on the 1998 nominating committee were appointed by Guy Casper, president of the board of directors, at the 1997 annual meeting of the members held July 29, 1997. The committee will meet at the cooperative headquarters, 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South, Dongola, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, to consider nominees for election to the board of directors at the 1998 meeting of the members.

The following were appointed to the 1997-98 nominating committee to represent their respective counties:

Alexander County delegate, Richard R. Walker, 1 Commanche Drive, McClure, IL 62957; and alternate, Jack Thomas, P.O. Box 68, Miller City, IL 62962.

Johnson County delegate, Patty Allbritten, 6130 Indian Point Road, Belknap, IL 62908; and alternate, Charley Littleton, 4710 West Eden Road, Cypress, IL 62923.

Massac County delegate, Lynn Walquist, 4951 Jonesboro Road, Karnak, IL 62956; and

alternate, Larry Sommer, 4B Westland Drive, Metropolis, IL 62960.

Pulaski County delegate, George Holhubner, P.O. Box 321, Olmsted, IL 62970; and alternate, Robert Heisner, 473 Big Stone Road, Grand Chain, IL 62941.

Union County delegate, Paul Don Rich, 780 Lingle Creek, Jonesboro, IL 62952; and alternate, P. L. Parr, 2445 Mt. Pleasant Road, Buncombe, IL 62912.

The bylaws of the cooperative provide the nominations to the board of directors by: (1) nominating committee, (2) petition received not less than 25 days prior to the actual meeting, signed by 15 or more active members, or (3) an active member from the floor at the annual meeting. The three year terms of the directors are expired alternately so that each year elections are held for a portion of the board. At the 1998 annual meeting elections will be held for a director from each of these three counties: Pulaski, Union and Alexander.

Office closed

The Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative office will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.



Geothermal fits right in with Arbor Day, Earth Day

Arbor Day and Earth Day remind us of the importance of energy conservation and reducing pollution. Planting trees and conserving existing resources are both excellent ways to preserve the earth.

Anyone who has access to electricity also has access to a way to save energy and money — big time. A geothermal system is probably the most earth-friendly solution to the problem of heating and cooling your home. It can also take care of about half your water heating needs.

If you stop to consider that heating, air conditioning and water heating together make up the second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in North America, you'll realize that a better way to heat and cool would help in reducing such gases. While the jury's still out on greenhouse gases and their effect on climate change, the simple fact that geothermal is so energy efficient is enough to recommend it. Think of the great savings as your major reason to go geothermal, and environmental benefits as the frosting on the cake. **Rachel Klein**

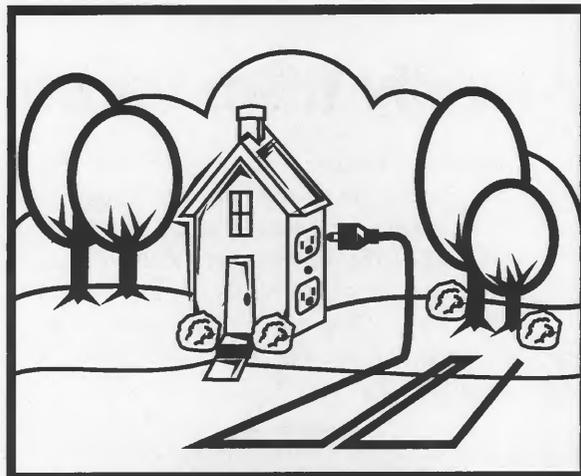
Anyone who has access to electricity also has access to a way to save energy and money — big time. A geothermal system is probably the most earth-friendly solution to the problem of heating and cooling your home. It can also take care of about half your water heating needs.

Strangely enough, geothermal is a form of solar heating and cooling, without all the big unsightly collectors and exotic, temperamental hardware.

Instead, sunlight on the

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

The heart of the system is essentially a heat pump with a difference: but what a difference! The average air-to-air heat pump is essentially a reversible system that removes heat



from your home in the summer and expels it to the outside air. It does the opposite in the winter.

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

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

Instead of having to deal with 90-degree air in the summer, or -10 degree air in the winter, the unit is dealing with a 55-degree medium, which it

handles very efficiently.

Many closed-loop systems are trenched horizontally in the yard around the home, and this is where a lot of the expense of a geothermal system goes. A pond or well will work, too. It is like burying a giant radiator in the ground.

If you don't have room for a horizontal loop, you can have a well — or wells — drilled. If you need to have your yard trenched, it's usually no big problem. The trenches are about 6 inches wide, and a simple reseeding will take care of the disturbed lawn. The pipes have no adverse affect on plants above them.

A big plus is that the heart of the unit is installed inside the house, in a garage, storage closet or crawl space, where it's protected from the elements. That prolongs the life of the unit. It is very quiet because there is no outside condenser fan.

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

But don't let that deter you. A geothermal unit will save you so much money on your heating, cooling and water-heating costs it will pay for itself much sooner than any other kind of system.

And, since geothermal heat pumps don't burn fossil fuels, they don't give off harmful gases. That's good for you, and it's good for the environment, too.

Talk to the people at your local electric co-op. They'll be glad to tell you about the benefits of a geothermal heat pump.

Step into the lineman's shoes!

If you made your living as a lineman, it goes without saying you'd want your work environment as safe as possible.

You can help make the lineman's job safe by putting a little common sense into action. For example:

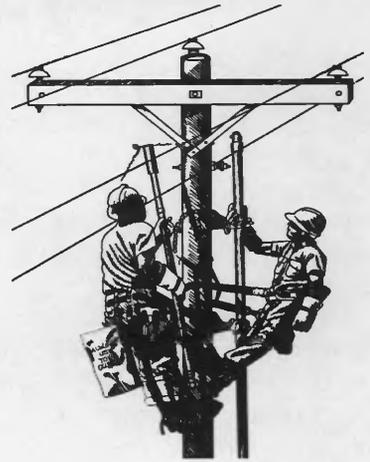
- Don't hang birdhouses or basketball goals on electrical poles. The lineman will have great difficulty climbing around them, even though you think they're perfectly placed.

- Don't landscape around

poles with flower boxes, birdhouses or anything else that might cause harm if a lineman were to fall.

- Don't hang signs on poles because the nails or staples could cause the lineman to slip if he has to climb.

Use a little common sense around utility poles; show your appreciation for those who work so hard to provide you reliable electric service. All it takes is stepping into the other guy's shoes for a few moments!



Protect your family from carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a common by-product of appliances that burn propane or natural gas. It is created by fuel-burning appliances including furnaces, clothes dryers, water heaters, fireplaces, ranges and even wood stoves, charcoal grills and kerosene space heaters.

When carbon monoxide is breathed in, it eventually replaces the oxygen in the blood, causing your body to literally suffocate from the inside out, resulting in brain damage or death.

Michael R. Randol
As more homes are designed to be super energy efficient and airtight, carbon monoxide-polluted air is more easily trapped inside. Everyone in your home is susceptible to carbon monoxide poisoning.

There are several ways you can protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Read and follow manufacturers' operating and maintenance instructions on all appliances and equipment. Have a qualified technician check the system periodically and make any necessary adjustments to ensure proper combustion.

- Remodeling or repair work around the home may affect

how a furnace or appliance performs. Before you do any insulation, caulking or sealing — or before adding an exhaust fan, wood stove or fireplace — call a qualified propane service technician to correct anything that could create carbon mon-



oxide problems.

- Install carbon monoxide detectors in the house. Battery-powered and plug-in carbon monoxide detectors are now available from many home improvement stores. They monitor the amount of carbon monoxide in the air and sound an alarm when carbon monoxide is present. They should be installed near bedrooms and also near the home's heating source.

Because it's odorless and

colorless, carbon monoxide is difficult to detect, and the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are difficult to recognize. Often they resemble the flu or a bad cold. Symptoms of low-level poisoning can include headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells and confusion.

Here are some warning signs to look for.

- Are you experiencing chronic symptoms such as headaches, fatigue, nausea?

- Are other members of your family also feeling ill?

- Do you feel better when you are away from home for a period of time?

If so, you may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. To be sure, see your physician and request a carboxyhemoglobin test.

If you think your home may contain carbon monoxide, get out of the house immediately. Have an emergency plan so all family members can be accounted for. Don't go back into the house. Most fatalities occur when people reenter a home in search of loved ones. Call the fire department from a neighbor's home.

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

How deregulation will affect electric cooperatives

This is one of two winning essays in the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Youth to Washington essay contest. This essay was written by Kristy Ulrich, Century High School.

Electric cooperatives were once seen as the only efficient, affordable method of supplying electricity to rural America. Since their appearance in 1936, cooperatives have continued to prosper and spread electricity to thousands of our nation's rural residents. As times changed, so did the cooperatives. Now, as the deregulation of electricity looms in the forefront, the old

cooperative must adapt to a new way. With deregulation close at hand, cooperatives will need to turn over a new leaf. To survive in the new world that deregulation will create, cooperatives must learn to stay afloat by competing with prices, goods, and services. Also, they must closely observe how other electric suppliers plan to deal with the changes to come, but above all else, cooperatives will need to learn from the people they serve what new demands will be placed upon them, for in the end, it is the people who will ultimately decide which cooperative stays afloat and which one sinks.

As deregulation enters Illi-



Kristy Ulrich, one of two 1998 SIEC's essay contest and Washington Youth Tour winners, accepts her award from Director Guy Casper.

nois, the existing cooperatives will need to prepare to meet it head on. To win the forthcoming battle, cooperatives must develop many skills they have never used before, and one of the most important is competition. All electric companies will have to face competition against each other in terms of prices, goods, and services. Electricity consumers will be searching for the best quality at the lowest possible prices. Large companies will be demanding these services also, and electric suppliers will vigorously compete to attract those companies' business. To keep their ship sailing in the competitive world, cooperatives will need

to solicit these large companies, but they will not be overlooking the average homeowner, also. If cooperatives can gain these competitive skills, they will have a fighting chance at keeping their old customers, and perhaps, with aggressive marketing strategies, gaining some new ones. Without the skills of competition, however, cooperatives will most certainly be

blown out of the water and out of the market created by deregulation.

At the present time, deregulation laws have been enacted in nine other states. Since these states, including Maine and California, have cooperatives which have already faced the trials of competition, it would be wise for cooperatives in Illinois to observe how others have fared under deregulation. They should seek to discover the methods cooperatives elsewhere have used to maintain existing customers while also gaining new ones. Understanding how other cooperatives kept pace with these new

continued on page 16b...

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Deregulation continued from 16a...

changes would be a great asset to those cooperatives which do not know what to expect. Since deregulation is quickly approaching, cooperatives should study the battle plan of others who have already survived the conflict. **Jacquelyn Clark**

To assure their survival, there is something more than competition and knowledge from others that cooperatives need to have under their belts. That "something" is the people to whom they provide electricity. These consumers will be demanding electricity to suit their needs, and cooperatives should strive diligently to meet those needs. In order to please the customer, many new challenges will be placed before cooperatives. Advertising may play a large role in the customers' decisions as to what electric supplier they will support. To attract customers, television and radio commercials, newspaper advertisements, and highway billboards may make the difference between a cooperative sinking or swimming. As an example, one Ohio-based energy retailer paid to

have the Cincinnati Reds baseball stadium renamed Cinergy Field. They were playing to the people who would ensure their success, and it would be very lucrative for Illinois cooperatives to adopt the same game plan.

With the use of these methods and many others, cooperatives will have the fighting chance they need to keep afloat in the sea of change. Undoubtedly, deregulation will change the world of electricity, which, in turn, will change cooperatives. Competition among prices, goods, and services will become an everyday challenge confronting cooperatives. Observing how other electrical suppliers already faced with deregulation have dealt with the changes it imposed may give cooperatives a leading edge on the market. The most important method to survival will be to determine the demands of the people and then strive to fulfill those demands. Successfully meeting all of these challenges and others yet to come could possibly mean the difference between a cooperative sailing on to clear water or sinking, like the infamous Titanic, to the bottom of the ocean.



Office closing

**The office of
Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative
will be closed
Friday, July 3,
in observe of
Independence Day.**

Electricity and water — a lethal combination

We all know that electricity and water don't mix, and that when we try to mix them, the consequences can be tragic.

For the most part, we tend to think of problem areas as being in the bathroom, where plugged-in space heaters or portable radios may fall into a tub, or where we might get a hair dryer mixed in with water in the sink. In the kitchen, we think of appliances such as mixers, blenders or toasters falling into the sink, which would make for a very dangerous situation.

Needless to say, you should do your best to avoid such situations, and to further decrease the risk, you should have ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) installed in your kitchen and bathroom outlets.

But as summer approaches (at least we hope summer's coming), there are outside dangers that you need to be aware of, too.

For example, if you use electrical equipment around a swimming pool to clean and maintain, or if you have portable entertainment gadgets near your pool, remember to keep them away from the water. If you have to go near the water with electricity, be sure to have a GFCI protecting the circuit.

John M. Stokes

If you don't have GFCIs built into your outdoor electric receptacles, you can buy extension cords that have them. Be sure to do that before venturing near the water.

In just the last few years, the National Electrical Safety Code has been changed to require circuit protection in kitchens, bathrooms and in outdoor receptacles, and it's a good idea to have them, whether they're required or not. They're life savers!

And while you're involved in swimming pool activities, also

remember that when you go to clean with those big long aluminum poles, they may get you into trouble with overhead wires, which may or may not be insulated. Some, which look insulated are in fact, just weather-protected. And there's a world of difference.

If you're one of those fortunates who have a sailboat and enjoy area lakes, be sure to keep away from overhead electric lines, especially if your boat has a metal mast. Such masts are excellent conductors of electricity, and in a match between sailboats and power lines, the boat and its occupants almost always suffer more damage than the lines do.

So this is just a reminder to do everything you can to keep electricity and water from mixing. The electricity genie is a great helper, as long as you keep him in the bottle.

Mark your calendars — The SIEC annual meeting is Thursday, August 6, 1998.

Music provided by: "Country Sonrise."
There will be a Live Line Demonstration.
Membership attendance prizes along
with prizes, prizes and more prizes.

Miss SIEC Queen contest. Annual meeting will be held at Shawnee Community College, Ullin, IL.



Membership prize

In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at (800)762-1400, ask for Cathy.



Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Beauty pageant rules and entry form

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is seeking entrants for the beauty pageant held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the members, **August 6, 1998** at Shawnee College, Ullin, IL.

1. Entrant **MUST LIVE IN A HOME SERVED BY SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**. Contestants must complete and submit the attached affidavit in order to compete in contest.
2. Entrant **MUST BE 16-22 YEARS OF AGE AND NEVER MARRIED**.
3. Previous first place winners are not eligible.
4. Candidates will appear in gowns and one-piece swimsuits (no extreme cuts). **George Robert Byers**

FIRST PRIZE: \$150 cash, trophy, sash, and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

SECOND PRIZE: \$100 cash and a gift. (In the event the First Prize winner cannot go to Washington, the Second Prize winner is given the opportunity).

THIRD PRIZE: \$75 cash and a gift.

CONSOLATION PRIZE: \$50 cash to each non-winner.

MISS CONGENIALITY: Trophy to winner chosen by contestants.

Contestants will be judged as follows:

Interview-40%	Swimsuit-30%	Evening Gown-30%
general knowledge-10%	beauty-10%	beauty-10%
achievements-10%	poise-10%	charm-10%
vocabulary-10%	posture-10%	grace-10%
voice-10%		



Amber Renee Moreland

Beauty Pageant Entry

Residency Affidavit

I agree to abide by the contest rules as set forth and herewith give my permission for the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative to use my picture and name for any contest publicity.

I further certify that I am a resident in a home served by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. (Failure to comply with these rules will void the decision of the judges.)

Print Name _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____

Street/Route _____

City/State/Zip _____ Cust. No. _____

Parents _____ Line Location _____

Sign _____ Phone _____

JAMUP

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

June 1, 1998

Dear SIEC members:

Last year I made you aware of potential power supply problems for the summer cooling season and it appears that our region is not in much better shape this summer. A number of generating stations are still out of service and under certain conditions we could experience a shortage of generating and transmission line capacity.

There are two potential conditions that could cause us problems:

- Because generating reserves are lower than normal, a sudden loss of a few operating units in the Mid-America Interconnected Network (MAIN) could cause automatic load shedding because the remaining operating units cannot make up the shortfall. Should such an emergency occur, our power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), along with other utilities in MAIN, will have to drop its proportionate share of the load. Automatic load shedding will occur with little or no advance warning.

- SIPC could lose its largest generating unit (Unit 4) and cannot bring in enough power from another generator because the transmission system is fully loaded. Load dropping due to loss of Unit 4 and transmission line overloading may allow for advance notice. Should this occur, we have a plan to rotate outages by area and will try to limit the time anyone is off to approximately two hours. We will place messages on television and local radio stations asking everyone to cut back on their electrical usage.

There is not much that you can do to prepare for an outage other than making sure that your standby generator, if you have one, is in good working order and has sufficient fuel. If you have a medical condition that depends on an electrical device, you should have a backup plan to run a standby generator or go to somewhere else if an outage occurs.

Should a power shortage occur this summer, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and SIPC will do our best to lessen the impact it has on you. Your patience and cooperation will be appreciated. If you have any questions, please call either myself, Mike Logeman, Ken Corzine, Carl George, Ron Medlin or Chris Bennett at (800) 762-1400.

Larry Lovell
General Manager

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

618-827-3555 P.O. Box 100
Dongola, IL 62926

Board of Directors

President	Guy Casper	Johnson County
Vice Pres.	Bob J. Ury	Union County
Sec.-treas.	G. Robert Inman	Pulaski County
	Dale Taake	Pulaski County
	Barbara Pitts	Union County
	Raymond C. Snell	Alexander County
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	David L. Martin	Massac County
	Larry Fisher	Massac County

Manager	Larry Lovell
Attorney	Ronald E. Osman
Editor	Cathleen Belcher
Office Manager	Chris L. Bennett



Area phone outage information

Whom to call — numbers to call —
and schedule of hours

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.,

Monday through Saturday

Call Toll Free (from Southern Illinois)

1-800-762-1400

or Call Dongola Office 618-827-3555

**Calls After Hours Should
Only Concern Outages or Emergencies**

**After 4:00 p.m. through 8:00 a.m.
and Sundays and Holidays**

1-800-762-1400	Dongola office
618-827-3555	Dongola office

You're invited to Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's 1998 Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 6, 1998
Shawnee Community College, Ullin, IL
Registration begins at 5 p.m.
Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.

***Each member registering will receive
one \$10 credit on electric bill.***
Early bird prizes.
Attendance prizes.
Election of Directors.

Miss SIEC Beauty Pageant

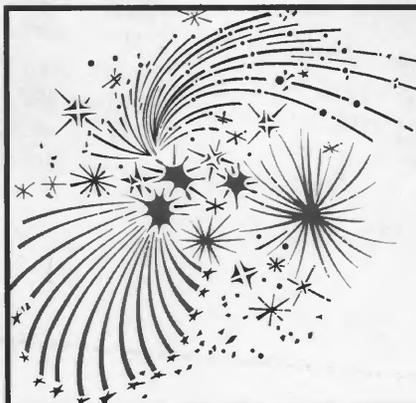
**Entertainment provided by
"Country Sunrise" from 6 to 7 p.m.**

Grand Prize: Color TV

**Food and beverages will be available through
Shawnee College Cafeteria.**

**The meeting is open to all members
and their families.**

**Please bring your annual meeting booklet with you
to register for attendance prizes.**
You must be present to win.



Office closing

**We will be closed
Friday, July 3,
in observance of
Independence Day.**

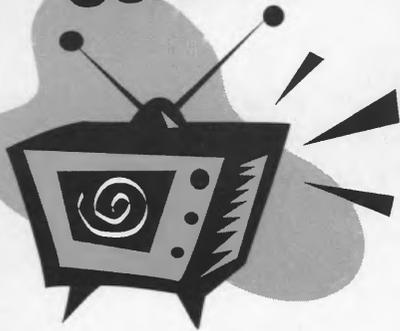


Amber Renee Moreland



The musical group "Country Sunrise" entertained at last year's meeting. The group captivated the audience with their enthusiastic performance, and will entertain at this year's meeting, too.

Grand Prize Color TV



Live Line Demonstration

Membership prize

In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.

Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Beauty pageant rules and entry form

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is seeking entrants for the beauty pageant held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the members, **August 6, 1998** at Shawnee College, Ullin, IL.

1. Entrant **MUST LIVE IN A HOME SERVED BY SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.**
Contestants must complete and submit the attached affidavit in order to compete in contest.
2. Entrant **MUST BE 16-22 YEARS OF AGE AND NEVER MARRIED.** **Rodney Platt**
3. Previous first place winners are not eligible.
4. Candidates will appear in gowns and one-piece swimsuits (no extreme cuts).

FIRST PRIZE: \$150 cash, trophy, sash, and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.
SECOND PRIZE: \$100 cash and a gift. (In the event the First Prize winner cannot go to Washington, the Second Prize winner is given the opportunity). **Robert W. Dye**
THIRD PRIZE: \$75 cash and a gift.
CONSOLATION PRIZE: \$50 cash to each non-winner.
MISS CONGENIALITY: Trophy to winner chosen by contestants. **Thomas D. Kaufman, Jr.**

Contestants will be judged as follows:

Interview-40%	Swimsuit-30%	Evening Gown-30%
general knowledge-10%	beauty-10%	beauty-10%
achievements-10%	poise-10%	charm-10%
vocabulary-10%	posture-10%	grace-10%
voice-10%		

Beauty Pageant Entry

Residency Affidavit

I agree to abide by the contest rules as set forth and herewith give my permission for the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative to use my picture and name for any contest publicity.

I further certify that I am a resident in a home served by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. (Failure to comply with these rules will void the decision of the judges.)

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JAMUP

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

How deregulation will affect electric cooperatives

This is one of two winning essays in the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Youth to Washington essay contest. This essay was written by Bryant Hileman, Century High School.

"Darkness" is a powerful word, although its meaning is indelibly etched quite differently in each man's mind. To some, perhaps it is a loss of hope, but to others, it may signal the end of survival. However, with each definition, the conclusion is always the same. A dark world is a meager existence at best, but without darkness, there can be hope, survival, and meaning to life. Years ago, electric cooperatives gave rural Americans that eternal ray of hope when they committed themselves to provide electrical service to the remote areas of our country when urban companies chose to pass by them on their way to the larger, more metropolitan areas of our nation. Several effects will be noticed as deregulation overtakes the electricity market. First, reduced rates will be a direct result. Secondly, electric suppliers and consumers will exert an extra effort to communicate openly with one another on a one-to-one basis. Finally, for a period of time after deregulation takes effect, disorder and confusion will reign as an apparent victor until everyone becomes accustomed to the changes imposed by deregulation. Now, however, we must attempt to understand every action because of its probable reaction, and this involves an insight into

society, a deep view into the conscience of man, and how such changes can and will affect him.

First, let's face an obvious truth. Free market means a larger opportunity for competition. When a monopoly occurs, people use a product from one company because they have no choice, and they pay what that individual company sets as a standard in the world. In some cases, people pay far too much for services because a company establishes an exorbitant standard, but with competition, pressures build and rates lower to meet the needs and demands of the people. If company A wants your business, as well as B and C, they must compete for it, which means they will lower their rates and offer promotions to attract consumers to use their product.

Secondly, in a competitive market, companies often view the consumer as even more valuable. In the case of electricity, which, we feel, is for life, people want lower rates. In order to "stay alive", it's conceivable that companies will take a closer look at their consumers. They will ascertain whether or not each consumer is happy, and what could be done to correct any problems if they should occur, developing



Bryant Hileman, one of two 1998 SIEC's essay contest and Washington Youth Tour winners, accepts his award from Director Guy Casper.

a stronger relationship between the consumer and the company.

As with any free market structure, drawbacks can and will occur. Accounting for human nature, one of the biggest concerns that can be predicted is that of disorder. Consumers will be swamped with phone calls, letters, and television commercials by companies selling their products. Longer, more complicated billing is also a certainty. With this in mind, it easily illustrates how simplicity can be corrupted, making it harder for consumers and companies to work together, and at the same time, creating "disorder" in the marketplace.

Therefore, we must face an obvious truth. Darkness is a deep, black void, and it represents the hopelessness in our hearts and our world. A world of light, however, symbolizes

Continued on page 16c...

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

618-827-3555 P.O. Box 100
Dongola, IL 62926

Board of Directors

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618-827-3555 Dongola office

Youth Tour



The week of June 12-19 was a memorable one for four area youths. The students spent a week exploring Washington, D.C., meeting with Illinois congressional leaders and learning about government during the annual "Youth to Washington" tour, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois. Bryant Hileman of Karnak, Warren Jackson of Villa Ridge, Amber Moreland of Cobden and Kristy Ulrich of Grand Chain represented Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola. They met with Congressman Glenn Poshard on Capitol Hill and were among 62 rural youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, students also explored Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia and a number of other historical sites. Pictured are (l-r): Jackson, Ulrich, Congressman Poshard, Moreland and Hileman. *Miles Adkins*



In addition to meeting with Congressman Glenn Poshard, SIEC's Youth Tour representatives also had an opportunity to visit with Congressman Jerry Costello. From left are Warren Jackson of Villa Ridge; Kristy Ulrich of Grand Chain; Costello; Amber Moreland, Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative; and Bryant Hileman of Karnak.

Essay contest winner
continued from page 16a...

progress, hope, and the strength of the human will. To grasp these concepts means to understand the cause and effect of a free market opportunity. There is little doubt that, in turns of the deregulation of electricity, a free market translates into lower rates for the consumer. In turn, this will benefit you, the consumer. In addition, a stronger, more solid relationship will be built between the customer and the power supplier of their choice. With more competition, customers will become more valuable and will be treated with more concern and care. Last, but not least, and perhaps the most important issue of all, is that of disorder. A larger market does not mean more confusion, since more forms, advertisements, and solicitations will result once the structure walls are torn down and electrical deregulation steps into our world of progress and prosperity. We live in a world of ever-changing technology, and often progress does produce confusion. Perhaps we may have to take a wait-and-see approach to fully understand the effects of a new free market. However, electricity will be at the forefront of this market, but this time, it will perhaps be cheaper, opening the door of opportunity not only for our nation's electric cooperatives, but for their members as well.

Kenneth L. Monahan

What causes my lights to blink?

"What causes my lights to blink?" is a frequently asked question in the electric utility business. Usually blinking lights are a result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. This could occur when lightning strikes, when an automobile hits a pole or when a squirrel or tree branch comes into contact with an energized power line.

Actually, when the lights blink, it is an indication that your electric cooperative's equipment is operating properly. Blinking lights are the result of the operation of equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from going off for extended periods of time. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's distribution system includes devices that are called oil circuit reclosers (OCRs). OCRs operate whenever there is a short circuit on the line. If the short circuit is cleared after the first operation of the OCR, the recloser allows power to continue flowing through the lines with only a brief interruption of service. If the short circuit is not cleared after three operations of the OCR, the OCR will open and stop the power from running through the lines. At that point a line crew will be dispatched after the outage is re-

ported. Once the linemen have found the problem and corrected it, a lineman will close the OCR back in and restore service.

A single operation of the OCR will cause a brief interruption in power and the result is what some people refer to as the "blinking light syndrome". Even if you were not at home when the momentary outage occurred, you can tell that it happened because your digital clock will need to be reset. If you are working on the computer when a blink occurs, you will probably lose what you were working on unless you have your computer connected to an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). Everyone agrees that blinks can be very frustrating and irritating.

However, just remember that if the cooperative did not use OCRs, every short circuit would cause your power to go off and stay off until a line crew could be sent out to restore service. If your power starts blinking on and off frequently and there does not appear to be a reason such as a storm, you should report it by calling Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at 827-3555 or (800) 762-1400. There could be a problem that we need to take care of for you.

July 3, 1998

To the linemen of R.E.A. Coop,

We would like to thank you so much for helping us during the recent storm. We appreciate the men working under the adverse conditions, and the long hours to make sure electricity was restored.

Very grateful,
Alice and Collin Boyd

Office closing

We will be closed
Monday, Sept. 7,
in observance of Labor Day.



Membership prize

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To claim your prize, call us at (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.



**YOU'RE THERE FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS.
IS YOUR ENERGY PROVIDER THERE FOR YOU?**



You've succeeded because you listen to your customers. We listen to ours because, quite frankly, we're cooperatives, owned by the customers we serve.

Like business, energy is changing. And we want to make sure that the change is good for you. That's why we've come together to create



a nationwide partnership of cooperative energy providers. Together, we're known as Touchstone EnergySM

As Touchstone EnergySM Partners, we're able to offer enhanced services, take advantage of improved resources and participate in a nationwide commitment to providing the best energy services possible.



Of course, what's good for your customers is what's good for ours, which is why Touchstone EnergySM Partners will always remain locally owned, locally based co-ops, providing low-cost electricity, first-rate service and a commitment to large and small businesses all across America. After all, isn't the customer always right?

**Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative
(618) 827-3555**

<http://www.touchstoneenergy.com>

JAMUP

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

100 years of service

Recognized at the annual meeting for attaining 25 years of service to the cooperative are (left to right): Larry Lovell, general manager; Loraine McGee, accountant; Lamar L. Houston, Jr., utility serviceman; and Merle Dare Aden, construction foreman. Each received an engraved watch commemorating their 25 years of employment.



“Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 1998”

Mary Gail Inman, 19-year-old daughter of Robert and Cheryl Inman of Grand Chain, is the new Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. Mary Gail received her crown at the annual meeting of cooperative members held at Shawnee Community College, in Ullin, August 6. Her other prizes included a sash, trophy, check for \$150, and an all-expenses paid week long trip to Washington, D.C. in June 1999. **Victor Hancock**

Mary is a 1997 graduate of Century High School and is currently a sophomore at Shawnee Community College. Upon graduation from Shawnee College she plans to enroll in the Dental Hygiene program at

Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. In high school she was active in Beta Club, SADD, pep and marching bands, and Science Club. Mary was Salutatorian for her high school graduating class where she also received the Illinois Principals Association Award, Senior Beta Club Award and numerous other scholastic awards. She was also a cheerleader and played softball throughout her high school career.

Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 1997, Amber Renee Moreland crowned Mary Gail at the end of the annual meeting. Amber is currently attending SIU at Carbondale where she is a sophomore ma-

joring in biology. Her graduate school plans include obtaining a degree in optometry.



Mary Gail Inman (far right) of Grand Chain was chosen Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 1998. Pictured with Mary Gail are: Mariah Dale (left) of Dongola, 2nd runner up; and Sarah Sullivan of Anna, 1st runner up and Miss Congeniality.

Office closing

The office will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11
in observance of Veteran's Day.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

618-827-3555 P.O. Box 100
Dongola, IL 62926

Board of Directors

President	G. Robert Inman	Pulaski County
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Kyle Finley of Live Line Demo, Inc. gave a presentation on farm and home electric safety.



Pictured here are the 1997 Miss SIEC, Amber Renee Moreland of Cobden, and pageant emcee John Freitag, from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield, Illinois.



Contestants in eveningwear are (left to right): Eunice Waddy, Villa Ridge; Mindy Glasco, Jonesboro; Briana Lingle, Cobden; Jodie Johnson, Metropolis; Lacy Jae Cauble, Dongola; Letitia Palmer, Jonesboro; Sarah Sullivan, Anna; Patricia Dawn Childers, Metropolis; Nicholette Jordan, Ullin; Tonika Schultz, Tamms; Mariah Dale, Dongola; Mary Gail Inman, Grand Chain; and Toni Gaila Goins, Karnak.



SIEC clerk Stephanie Theis (left) and billing clerk Cindy Aden registered members for door prizes. Members who attended the annual meeting also received a \$10 credit toward their electric bill and a travel mug. **Tommy Wiseman**



From left are G. Robert Inman, of Grand Chain, the newly elected Board President; Larry Fisher, of Karnak, who was elected Vice-President; and Barbara Pitts, of Buncombe, who was elected Secretary-Treasurer of SIEC. *Gary Pitta*



The gospel music group "Country Sunrise" provided entertainment for the evening.



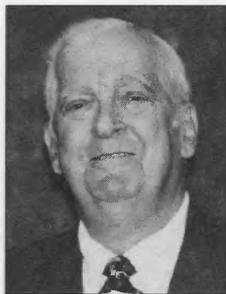
Judges for the evening's pageant were (left to right): Stacey Smudrick of Centralia, the "1997 Miss Southern Illinois"; Dr. Arthur Aikman of Carbondale; Mary Gail Inman, Miss SIEC 1998; Ralph Graham of Marion; and Dorothy Chamness, also of Marion.



Richard D. Moss, Tamms, was re-elected Director from Alexander County.



Dale E. Taake, Ullin, was re-elected Director from Pulaski County.



Bob J. Ury, Jonesboro, was re-elected Director from Union County.



The Nominating Committee met June 18 at the cooperative headquarters in Dongola. Committee members that attended are (from left): Lynn Walquist, Karnak; Patty Allbritten, Belknap; George Holhubner, Olmsted; Jack Thomas, Miller City; Larry Sommer, Metropolis; Robert Heisner, Grand Chain; Paul Rich, Jonesboro; Richard Walker, McClure; and P. L. Parr, Buncombe.

Membership prize

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To claim your prize, call us at (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.

1998 annual meeting prizes

Listing of prizewinners and donors

Prize and winner

Box of Spices
Norma Faye Mighell, Goreville

Zebco Fishing Rod & Reel
Big Creek Baptist Church, Anna

1 Year Subs-The Gazette Democrat
Dorothy H. Clutts, Cobden

3 - \$10 Gift Cert-Backback Steak House
Harold Leon McNelly, Thebes

Southwestern Bell Cordless Telephone
Phil Beans, Joppa

Hamilton Beach Bowl Rest Mixer
Raymond McCrite, Tamms

Duffle Bag
J. M. Wilson, Karnak

Black & Decker Palm Grip Sander
John E. Tripp, Anna

Sunspot 1000 Watt Halogen Worklight
Imogene Closser, Dongola

\$50 Savings Bond
Walter Herbert Bierbaum, Olmsted

Proctor Silex Wide Slot Toaster
Kerry Thomas Hill, McClure

Basket of Goodies
Eva H. Walker, Tamms

2 Folding Lawn Chairs
Dennis Boyd, Anna

Popular Mechanics 50 ft. Outdoor Ext. Cord
Gustava Lawrence, Tamms

1 Year Subs. Dongola Tri-County Record
Dudley Ellis Kesler, Dongola

Pizza from "Our Place" in Karnak
K. Darryl Anderson, Karnak

Rubbermaid Pro Series Tackle Box
Dongola Summer Athletics, Dongola

Rival 3.5 Qt. Crock Pot
Kenneth R. Anderson, Karnak

Sunbeam Automatic Shut-Off Iron
Dorris L. Barnhart, Jonesboro

Proctor Silex 12 Cup Coffee Maker
Steve Korte, Metropolis

Sentry Fire Safe Tax & Document Chest
James Allen Schwartz, Olmsted

\$10 Gas Certificate
Phyllis Helm, Grand Chain

Eagle 5 Gallon Galvanized Gas Can
Jason Fisher, Karnak

Stihl Saw Chain Gift Certificate
Travis Bros., Belknap

Road Power Booster Cable
Jack Dunning, Metropolis

Back Pack Sprayer
Dwayne Brim, Mill Creek

Regent Motion Activated Flood Light
Taake Farms, Ullin

Presto Gran Pappy Fryer
Lawrence Burzynski, Metropolis

Mugs, Fannypack, T-shirt & Notebook
Collin G. Boyd, Anna

Popular Mechanics 20" Tool Box
Hazel Cline, Jonesboro

Mr. Coffee 2 Qt. Iced Tea Pot
Charles W. Harvel, Tamms

Taylor Upscale
Bob G. Hudson, Karnak

Hamilton Beach Carve'N Set Electric Knife
Michael Harvell, Sr., Tamms

Sentry Pak Highway Emergency Kit
Raymond M. Miller, Ullin

Black & Decker 7.2V 2 Speed Cordless Drill
Bernard Kotter, Karnak

Brother CW600 Check Writer
Kenneth W. Capps, Karnak

Pillsbury Ultimate Hands Free Mixing Bowl
Phillip Hayden Noel, Karnak

First Alert Multi Purpose Fire Extg.
Ken Baker, Makanda

Donor

Brownstown Electric Supply
Brownstown, Indiana

Daffron & Associates
Bowling Green, Missouri

Gazette Democrat
Anna, IL

TAS - Telephone Answering Service
Paducah, KY

Ledbetter Toth & Assoc.
Springfield, MO

Earl Edmonds
Anna, IL

Roy Walker Communications
Makanda, IL

Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, CPA's
Carbondale, IL

SIEC
Dongola

Anna National Bank
Anna, IL

Electric Laboratories & Sales
Mattoon, IL

Central Bank of Cobden
Cobden, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Dongola Tri-County Record
Dongola

Wilson's Food Mart
Karnak, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, CPA's
Carbondale, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Credit Bureau Systems
Paducah, KY

SIEC
Dongola

Corzine's Service Station
Dongola

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

John McCarver's Repair Service
Anna, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Terra International
Mt. Vernon, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Silkworm, Inc.
Murphysboro, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Middleton Heating & Cooling
Cobden, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

SIEC
Dongola

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

T & I Office Equipment, Inc.
Anna, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Prize and winner

Night Hawk Carbon Dioxide Detector
R. D. Abercrombie, Tamms

Pollenex Smoke Grabber Ashtray
Lester W. Temke, Karnak

\$50 Savings Bond
Walter Grace, Olive Branch

Hamilton Beach 10 Speed Blender
Carlene J. Steele, Dongola

1 Year Subs. The Gazette Democrat
George F. Temke, Olmsted

Woods Surge Protector
Danny Graham, Jonesboro

Duffle Bag
Paul V. Wilson, Olive Branch

Titleist Golf Balls
Chris K. & Susan Cundiff, Dongola

Westbend 12" Electric Skillet
James E. Manley, Metropolis

Magnavox AM/FM Electronic Clock Radio
Eichhorst Brothers, Ullin

Rockhill 12 - 1Qt. Premium Motor Oil
Richard L. Stewart, Ullin

First Alert Smoke Alarm
Freddie Waddy, Villa Ridge

Magic Chef Mini Food Processor
Robert Joe Brewer, Metropolis

Black & Decker 3.6V Cordless Screwdriver
Paul Reed, Karnak

Lakewood 12" Oscillating Desk Fan
Dorothy H. Clutts, Cobden

Magic Chef Sandwich Toaster
Billy G. Stout, Buncombe

\$15 Gift Certificate
Betty Jane McDermott, Mill Creek

Popular Mechanics 33 pc 3/8" Socket Set
Deanna M. St. Germain, Anna

Bell & Howell 35mm Auto Focus Camera
Everett P. Schnaare, Olmsted

Shop Vac 1 Gal. Wet/Dry Vac
Leo Childers, Dongola

2 Ray-O-Vac Floating Lanterns
Lester Korte, Belknap

Hobbs Portable Halogen Worklamp
Kenneth B. Dexter, Ullin

Country Corner BirdHouse
Charles T. Davis, Vienna

Cortelco Telephone
Village of Tamms, Tamms

Lennox Sound AM/FM Walkman Stereo/
Cassette Player
Marvin E. Caraker, Cobden

(2) 1 Steak Entrée Gift Certificates
Ellis Kesler, Dongola

\$15 Gift Certificate
Paul E. Dillow, Dongola

Lasko 12" Oscillating Table Fan
J.M. Wilson, Karnak

RCA AM/FM Cassette Recorder
Ines Rider, Dongola

Coleman 48 Qt. Cooler
Marvin Howell, Dongola

Maglite Flashlight
Leonard Stratemeyer

West Bend 12" Electric Skillet
Mildred Emrick, Jonesboro

Donor

Williams A/C & Heating
Murphysboro, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Anna National Bank
Anna, IL

Datalogic
Marion, IL

Jerry Reppert
Anna, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Drummond American
Vernon Hills, IL

North Pacific Lumber
St. Louis, MO

United Utility Supply
Louisville, KY

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

IKT Service, Inc.
Anna, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Datalogic
Marion, IL

Fletcher-Reinhardt
St. Louis, MO

GS Hevi-Duty Electric
Atlanta, GA

Fruit Belt Service Company
Vienna, IL

Milsoft Integrated Systems
Abilene, TX

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Guy Gray Supply Co.
Paducah, KY

Drake Scruggs
Springfield, IL

Delta Mobile Testing, Inc.
LaGrange, KY

Graybar Electric Supply, Inc.
St. Louis, MO

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Tony's Steak House
Marion, IL

Fruit Belt Service Company
Vienna, IL

SIEC
Dongola

WKRO
Cairo, IL

Graybar Electric Supply Co.
St. Louis, MO

SIEC
Dongola

Oil Field Electric & Tree Trimming
West Frankfort, IL

Grand Prize winner!

Robert Peeler, McClure

25" Color Zenith Television with Remote
Control and Stand
Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

JAMUP

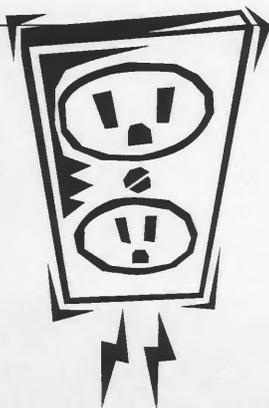
43

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

“I sure told her off!”

This story will stir up memories for some members, who lived through the days of feeding coal into a furnace and wood into the kitchen stove. Others may not remember the smoke, smell and ashes involved in these early home “comforts,” but you can still appreciate how important electricity has become in our lives today.



The story's author is unknown, and is told by a character named Hep:

“I’ve always considered myself somewhat of an orator and a pretty good arguer, but my wife sure told me off the other day.

“I picked up the electric bill, took one look at it and beat it into the kitchen to give her what-for. I stomped into the room, slammed the bill down on the table, squinted my eyes, deepened my voice and bellowed, ‘What’s the meaning of this electric bill?’

“She was busy baking bread, roasting a chicken and getting some pies ready for the oven. I got a little peeved when she just ignored me and kept on working.

“Answer me, Betty,’ I bellowed.

“Hep,’ she said, ‘Clam up. I’m getting tired of this habit of your barging into my kitchen with that electric bill every month.’

“I’ll tell you what we’re going to do,’ she said. ‘You’re going down to the electric cooperative office and tell them to unhook the power. Then you’re coming back here and take the old wood stove out of the basement and bring it up here into the kitchen. And then you’re going out and put the old hand pump in the well and pump me about 80 gallons of water to wash dishes and do some clothes

washing. After that, you’re going to heat the water on that wood stove and wring out those clothes with the old hand wringer. Then you’re going to get the old kerosene lamps down out of the attic. And you’re going to get that old coal stove out of the shed and set it up in the living room, and fill the coal box. After all that, Hep, you’d better make arrangements to eat in town from now on ‘cause I’m never going to cook on that old wood stove again!’

“Right about now she took a breath and I retreated with great speed out the kitchen door.

“You know, until she put it the way she did, I just thought of our electric bill as something that had to be paid every month. Today you’re listening to a converted man, a man who really knows when he’s well off and who isn’t about to start doing all those chores over again — those things that had to be done by hand before we got electricity.

“Well, when I left the yard that day, I went to the cooperative office and paid the electric bill. And you know, for the first time ever, I smiled at the clerk who takes my money every month.”

We hope you enjoyed this story. While no one complained about the daily chores that Betty described, none of us wants to go back to those days. It’s a lot easier to smile in appreciation of what we have today.

George J. Martin

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

618-827-3555 P.O. Box 100
Dongola, IL 62926

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618-827-3555 Dongola office

Students encouraged to apply for 1999 IEC Memorial Scholarship

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative general manager, Larry Lovell, has announced that for the fourth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to two high school seniors. The scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperatives (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 applications is Jan. 1, 1999.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural elec-

tric leaders through memorial gifts," Lovell said. "Southern Illinois Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. 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 that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact Southern Illinois Electric at (618) 827-3555, or ask your high school guidance counselor. **Janice Giltner**



Abandoned property

Abandoned property as of December 31, 1993 belongs to the following members. Refund checks issued to each of these members at their last known address were returned.

Lucinda Pratt, Route 1 Box 158, Tamms, IL 62988

Jack Evans, Route 1 Box 406, Makanda, IL 62958

Kenneth D. Meliza, P. O. Box 161, Makanda, IL 62958

Kevin D. Strauser, 20 East Cape Terrace, McClure, IL 62957

Hugh Renfrow, Route 1 Box 368, LaCenter, KY 42056

Stephanie L. Snodgrass, P.

O. Box 127, Brookport, IL 62910

Edward F. Bennett, Route 2 Box 127, Metropolis, IL 62960

Robert Thompkins, 102 Richland Terrace, Mounds, IL 62964

John D. Spencer, P. O. Box 105, Belknap, IL 62908

If your name is listed above, please call the cooperative office with your current address and we will reissue a refund check to you. When you call, please ask for Loraine, at (800) 762-1400, Ext. 217.

Linda Keller and Pam Lentz in new positions at SIEC



Pam Lentz

Linda Keller has taken the position as assistant engineer with the retirement of Janet Eddleman. Linda first came to the cooperative in November 1976 as clerk. Over the years she has been cashier and most recently work order clerk. She assumed the duties of assistant engineer in September. We all wish Linda good luck in her new position.

With Linda moving into the assistant engineer position, that left her work order clerk position open. Pam Lentz, SIEC's billing coordinator, has



Linda Keller

filled that vacancy. Pam started at the coop in February 1977 where she was clerk. Pam later moved on to become the payroll clerk and then in 1990 the billing coordinator. Pam started her new position in October. We would also like to wish Pam the very best of luck in her job.

Janet Eddleman retires from Cooperative

Janet Eddleman, assistant engineer, retired on Sept. 24, 1998 with 36 years of service to the cooperative. Her previous positions at the cooperative consisted of front desk clerk, payroll clerk, assistant bookkeeper, and work order clerk.

Janet and her husband, Leroy, live just outside Dongola. They have two sons, a daughter-in-law, and a grandson that keeps them busy. Janet loves to work in her flower gardens

and yard. Just mowing their yard has become a full time job, she says.

During Janet's long years at the cooperative her knowledge and professionalism has always shown through in whatever job was assigned to her. We will all miss her quick wit and humorous outlooks. Everyone at SIEC would like to wish Janet the best of luck and the healthiest of futures in the years to come.



Janet Eddleman

Membership prize

In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.

Time to buy a new water heater?

Although most water heaters last 10 to 15 years, it's best to start shopping for a new one if yours is more than seven years old, according to the Department of Energy. Doing some research before the old one fails will help you select the best heater for your needs—and help you cut your energy costs.

There are a number of factors to consider:

Types of heaters.

There are now a variety of water heaters—conventional storage, demand, heat pump, tankless coil, indirect and solar. It is also possible to purchase water heaters that can be connected to your home's space-heating system. The conventional storage water heater remains the most popular type for homes in the United States. It releases hot water from the top of the tank when a hot water tap is turned on. To replace that hot water, cold water enters the bottom of the tank, ensuring that the tank is always full.

Energy factor rating.

The Federal Trade Commission requires that many appliances, including water heaters, have labels or fact sheets on energy consumption. For a water heater, the Energy Factor (EF) is the overall efficiency of the heater, with the higher the rating the more efficient the unit. Here are energy rating ranges for water heaters that use electricity, gas or oil to heat the water (these are conventional storage water heaters that can also use propane):

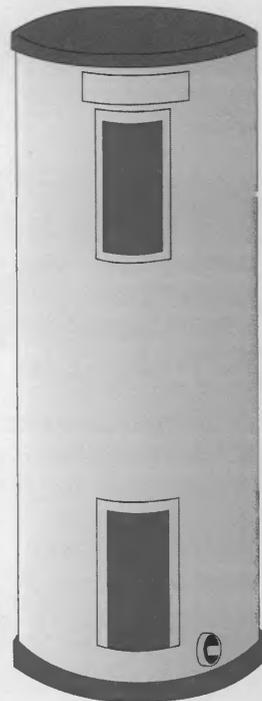
Gerald L. Brown

Type	Minimum Range	Maximum Range
Electric	87 to 91	94 to 98
Gas	51 to 56	60 to 86
Oil	48 to 53	60 to 63

The EF is based on recovery efficiency (how efficiently the heat from the energy source is transferred to the water), standby losses (the percentage of heat lost per hour from the stored water compared to the heat content of the water), and cycling losses.

Other factors, including FHR.

When shopping for a new unit, make sure that the one you purchase has at least 1 1/2 inches of insulation around the tank. In addition, consider the First Hour Rating (FHR) of the system. FHR measures the maximum hot water the heater will deliver in the first hour of use — this figure must appear on the unit's EnergyGuide label, and for good reason. Although some consumers base their purchase on the size of the storage tank, the FHR is actually the more important figure. So, before you shop, estimate your household's peak hour demand and look for a unit with an FHR in that range.



Comparing total costs.

Another important factor in the purchase of a water heater is the total life-cycle cost that encompasses purchase price, lifetime maintenance and operation expenses for the entire time you own and operate the unit. For example, units with longer warranties usually have higher price tags. However, the water heater with the lowest purchase price is often the most expensive to operate.

Office closing

SIEC will be closed on
Thanksgiving, Thursday,
Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27, 1998.



JAMUP

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois



"Wishing you a holiday filled with the joy of togetherness, the warmth of caring, and happy memories that linger long after the season is gone."

G. Robert Inman, President
Larry Lovell,
*Executive Vice-President and
General Manager*
Charles Larry Fisher,
Vice-President
Barbara Pitts,
Secretary-Treasurer

Guy Casper, Director
David L. Martin, Director
Richard D. Moss, Director
Raymond C. Snell, Director
Dale E. Taake, Director
Bob J. Ury, Director
Ronald E. Osman, Attorney

Employees and staff:

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Roger D. Acuff
Cindy L. Aden
Merle Dare Aden
Cathleen Belcher
Chris L. Bennett
Pamela K. Bierstedt
Christopher S. Boyd
Sam A. Brown
Barry E. Clark
Enloe A. Clemons
Kenneth L. Corzine
Joseph Perry Dailey
Teddy L. Earnhart
Bobbie D. Fisher
Carl D. George
Terry L. Grissom
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Boyd Blayne Holshouser

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Stephanie D. Theis
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Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

618-827-3555

P.O. Box 100

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1-800-762-1400 Dongola office

618-827-3555 Dongola office

Your electric co-op does not endorse insurance companies

Illinois Country Living readers recognize that this magazine occasionally carries advertising material from insurance companies. Several of these companies are longtime advertisers in the magazine.

The magazine staff makes every effort to determine the legitimacy of these companies, but none of them have the endorsement of your member-cooperative or the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), the organization that publishes this magazine.

We would like to inform Illinois Country Living readers about one insurance company that has confused some of our readers in the past. For many years, Reserve National Insurance has used direct mail, telephone and in person direct marketing to rural Illinoisans, many of them electric cooperative members. In past marketing efforts they imply that they have an affiliation with the electric cooperatives. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the AIEC have re-

quested that the company stop making these statements.

Their envelope return address says: A National Association of Rural Co-Operative Members, Oklahoma City, OK. The envelope also says: "ATTENTION - RURAL CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERS NOW QUALIFY FOR A GROUP HOSPITALIZATION PLAN THAT PAYS OUTPATIENT EXPENSES. IMMEDIATE REPLY REQUESTED." Inside there is a questionnaire form with the heading: "RURAL CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE." Only in the fine print at the bottom do they state: "This plan is independent of, and not affiliated, associated, or endorsed by any national electric association or any local Farmers, Electric, Telephone or other rural co-operative." **Eddie Beck**

We want to make it perfectly clear that Southern Illinois Electric cooperative does not endorse Reserve National Insurance, nor is there any connection with the company and its insurance products.

Membership prize

In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at **(800) 762-1400**, ask for Cathy.

Geothermal strikes again — just as summer fades

Mother Nature is a perplexing creature. She hits us with hot weather, cold weather, dry weather and rainy weather, and sometimes it seems that we're getting them all at once.

But she prepares her brood for weather by providing them with ways to get out of the worst she throws at them. For many of our furry little friends, Ma Nature gives them the wisdom to dig a burrow, or to move into someone else's. Hundreds, if not thousands, of species winter underground, and many also escape the summer's worst heat by finding a subterranean snug place, where the temperature's about the same the year around.

We can do that too, and we don't have to go down there where it's dank and dark and musty. We can have a geothermal heating-and-cooling system installed in our homes.

As we've said here many times, a geothermal system is an all-in-one heating, cooling and water-heating system, and it will provide you with definite benefits through all the seasons.

A geothermal heating-and-cooling system can cool your home more efficiently than a regular air conditioner or heat pump, and it can provide you with heat for less money than natural gas. That's right: Geothermal gives you cheaper heat than natural gas. Electric co-ops don't discuss that fact very much because in many places, it's really a moot point. Most co-op members don't have natural gas, and the prospects of them getting it any time soon are slim, except in those areas where electric co-ops are branching out into the natural gas business!

If you heat with propane, remember that geothermal can heat and cool for less than you can perform those chores with propane.

And when you're about to replace that old propane furnace that's limped through the last couple of winters, remember the horrendous price spikes of just a few years ago, when your supplier was forced — because of a shortage — to triple his prices, just as cool weather set in.

That situation has improved for some, since some electric co-ops have gotten into the propane business to help insulate their members from such practices. **Vernon L. Norwood**

Electricity rates in Illinois have been steady for some 15 years now, and while they've been higher than your co-op friends like, they are coming down. That's another thing to consider when you set out to replace that old furnace.

To refresh your memory, a geothermal system is really just a heat pump, but it's like a heat pump on steroids. A heat pump is sort of a reversible air conditioner, bringing cool air into your home in the summer, and bringing in warm air in the winter. You control what it does with your wall-mounted thermostat.

But if a heat pump has a weakness, it's that it begins to lose its "oomph" in the winter-time about the same time most of us do. When the mercury drops to about 10 degrees F., your heat pump's efficiency drops, leaving you hunting supplemental heat.

A geothermal unit is different. It uses a liquid-filled buried loop that circulates underground much like those

burrowing little critters we were discussing earlier. It works with a medium that's about 55 degrees F., the year around.

So while an air conditioner or heat pump has to work hard to cool 90-degree air in the summer, your geothermal unit is breezing along with its 55-degree medium, blowing cool air into your home. That's a lot easier than working with the normal outside air temperature. And when it's cooling, it's also transferring heat into a water-heater connection, to help you save about half the cost of that convenience.

And while the average heat pump struggles to heat zero-degree air in the winter, your geothermal unit is breezing along with its 55-degree medium, taking warmth out of the ground and blowing it into your home. It's a system that can't be beat.

If there's a disadvantage to geothermal, it's that the initial cost can be steep. Those buried loops are often sunk into trenches or wells, and digging those can get expensive. Often, the grid can be sunk into a good-sized pond, since you're really just looking for a hefty heat sink.

But whatever the case, geothermal warrants very careful consideration, because its savings are so great. And it's available wherever there's an electric line. **Harold David Hargan**

Be sure to look into geothermal, especially if you're thinking of building a new home or replacing an old furnace. The difference is well worth the trouble, and your friends at your local co-op will be happy to help you make the right decision.

October 14, 1998

SouthWater, Inc.
P. O. Box 160
Dongola, IL 62926

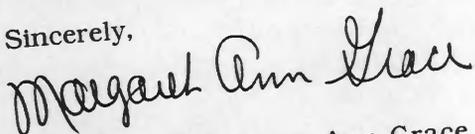
Dear Sirs:

Thank you does not seem enough to say at this time. October 9, 1998 was a red letter for the Grace family in Villa Ridge. That was the day we were hooked up to SouthWater. We have lived in Villa Ridge for 54 years with a cistern. For the first time we are able to get a drink from the faucet and able to do laundry at home again. No more having to have water hauled or buying drinking water. It is the most pleasant experience! We also feel safer from fire, etc. as we now have this water.

So thanks to whoever came up with the idea to furnish the rural areas with water down to the men digging the trenches to lay the pipe. What a blessing all of you are to us. When you had the big kick off campaign in Villa Ridge it was like a dream, something that might happen in the distant future. Last Friday, Oct. 9th we realized that it wasn't a dream, it was a reality. We will continue to praise SouthWater to everyone.

Again, thank you for making the gift of good, fresh water available to us in Villa Ridge and the surrounding area.

Sincerely,



Mildred and Margaret Ann Grace
262 Olmsted Road
Villa Ridge, IL 62996

Office closing

*SIEC will be closed on Friday Dec. 25, 1998,
and Friday, Jan. 1, 1999, in observance of Christmas
and New Years Day. Enjoy your holidays!*

High school seniors!

Let us mail to you an application for an IEC Memorial Scholarship. Completed applications need to be in our office by Jan. 1. Call today! (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.

