



# WIEC NEWS

## New fees now in effect

### WIEC News has a new look

Recently, Western Illinois Electrical Co-op.'s Board of Directors and employees decided it was time for a change. We wanted to offer our members a larger monthly publication, still retain the local flavor of our old newsletter yet keep the cost of publication the same. We hope we have found a good marriage of old and new by becoming part of the Illinois Country Living magazine family.

The Illinois Country Living magazine is delivered to approximately 145,000 homes across Illinois. It contains articles that pertain to gardening, cooking and making your home energy efficient as well as features about in-

teresting people and places.

The Illinois Country Living center section is where the favorites of the old WIEC Newsletter is found. We wanted to keep what is best about our WIEC News, the local interviews, news of your Cooperative, of course the map location numbers, and maybe a puzzle or two.

Let us know how you like it. We'd love to hear your comments on the change. As always, we are always looking for ideas for our local stories. Let us know if a member of WIEC has an interesting collection, an unusual hobby or just a great story to tell that would be of interest to our readers.

Effective January 1, Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative implemented the following fee changes:

- The fee for a regular single phase service to be reconnected within a 12 month period remains at \$30
- The fee for a 3-phase service to be reconnected within a 12 month period was increased to \$50
- Collection trip charge has increased From \$15 to \$30
- Reconnect for non-payment during office hours has increased From \$30 to \$50
- After office hours, weekends, and holidays, has increased from \$60 to \$100

### Soyland rebate program will terminate June 30

Soyland Power Cooperative will terminate its marketing and rebate program on June 30, 1998. Up to that date Soyland will continue to offer the following rebates to Western Illinois Electrical Coop. members who install new electric heating systems in a new or existing home.

#### Geothermal heating and cooling systems:

\$125 per ton of installed capacity. A typical home might have a 3-ton unit, resulting in a \$375 rebate.

#### Other electric heating systems:

\$30 per KW (1,000 watts) of installed capacity (minimum of 5 KW). For example, a 20 KW electric furnace with a heat pump would qualify for a \$600 rebate.

#### Western Illinois Electrical Coop. rebates to continue:

WIEC will continue past June 30, 1998, to offer the following rebates and incentives for WIEC members who install electric heat in a new or existing home.

As an incentive to install Geothermal systems, WIEC offers one of the following:

- Free trenching for horizontal loop installation.
- \$300 rebate.
- New electric water heater.

For all electric heat other than geothermal, WIEC offers the following:

- \$300 rebate when a new electric heat system (electric furnace, electric furnace/heat pump, base-

board) is installed in a home or business served by WIEC. The electric heat must have a minimum of 5KW in size. (8623-15)

• WIEC will sell electric water heaters to members for: 50-gallon — \$150; 80-gallon — \$200. Installation is free and the water heater must be installed in a home or business served by WIEC. If a member purchases an electric water heater somewhere else, WIEC will pay: \$75 for 55-gallon and under, \$125 for 56-gallon and up. Original receipt must be provided.

Contact the Member Service Dept. at the cooperative for further details on how to qualify for these rebates.

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**We Get Our Power From You**

## From Our Last Meeting



### Summary of board meeting — December 30, 1997

Directors present: Rampley, Wear, Newton, Vaughn, Menke, Morrison and Gronewold. Also present: Dion, Hurwitz & Hartzell

November 1997 had a deficit of \$21,238.00; total margins for

the year 1997 through November 30 were \$347,263.00. Net TIER for the year to date was 2.17.

Approval was given the Cooperative's newsletter be placed as an insert in the Illinois Country Living for one year as a trial period.

Approval was given to increase hourly wages for meter readers.

Board policy 204 regarding setting meeting time of Board of Directors was amended. The January board meeting will

be moved to Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m.

Approval was given to accept the 1998 budget as presented. Approval was given to a request for early retirement of capital credits by the representatives of the estates of John Laffey, deceased; Dorothea Wear, deceased; and Mildred Mitze, deceased.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)



## A security light offers peace of mind

You've been there. Your (or your neighbor's) dog barks and since the moon isn't shining, you can't quite see what's going on. Or, you come home after dark and have to fumble for the doorknob. These situations do not have to happen. WIEC has a little known secret that will make these situations a distant memory.

This secret is our rental security light program. For as little as \$6.50 a month or only 22 cents a night, a security light can be installed on your meter pole. It will automatically be there to light your way right when you need it most. WIEC pays for the electricity and any maintenance that your light may require.

If you would like the light in a different location, we have a plan for you as well. We also offer a \$2 security light program where the light can be installed on an existing pole. The member pays for the electricity, however WIEC still takes care of any maintenance. **(4523-40)**

If you would like to learn more about our security light program, contact our office. Nothing would make us happier if it wasn't a secret anymore.

## Power cost adjustment results in savings for WIEC members

In November, WIEC members received a power cost adjustment on their bill. The WIEC Board of Directors voted to refund 2 cents per kwh that the members used during the month of November. This resulted in a refund of \$60,309.42. This averages out to around \$19.59 per bill. Each member's actual bill may have had a larger refund or a smaller refund. The amount of the refund depended on how many kwh was used.

WIEC and their Board of Directors in conjunction with Soyland Power Cooperative, have worked hard to reduce expenses and the power costs. We expect greater reductions in the future.

## Neighbor helping neighbor

One of the longstanding characteristics of rural life has been the friendliness of neighbors, coming to help when it's needed. The local newspapers are full of stories where people have helped one another out in times of disaster, whether it's illness, tornado, flood or just trying to ease a friend's burdens. WIEC recently proved that we can be a "good neighbor" to our cooperative community. Three of our linemen volunteered to help two different cooperatives to restore power during recent ice and snowstorms.

On Oct. 26, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative of Princeton was hit hard by an early snowstorm that downed lines and snapped poles. Harold Enzeroth, line foreman, and Mark Schaley, apprentice lineman, went to assist. On Jan. 8, Illinois Rural Electric Co. at Winchester was hit by snowstorm that also left their members without service. Eric Johnson, journeyman lineman, and Mark Schaley left for Winchester to help. As a result of these storms, the Emergency Work Plan was ac-

tivated. The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives initiates the work plan when requested, and contacts the neighboring cooperative to see if crews and bucket trucks can be sent to restore service. This is the same work plan that was activated when the tornado hit the Dallas City area in May 1995 when other area coop-

eratives helped WIEC in restoring service to our members.

WIEC is proud to say that we could be of assistance to our neighboring Cooperatives. This is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when neighbor helps neighbor.



The WIEC employees who helped neighboring co-ops are pictured here. From left are Eric Johnson, Mark Schaley and Harold Enzeroth.

## WIEC has a friendly new face

**Karmen Metternich** has joined the WIEC family as Billing Coordinator. She is a lifelong resident of Hamilton and graduated from



Western Illinois University in 1990 with a degree in Education. Karmen and her husband, Aron, reside in rural

Hamilton and have a 9 month old daughter, Sydney.

Karmen enjoys walking, bike riding, trap shooting and warm weather. She says she is enjoying learning about the cooperative system and being part of the WIEC family.

Welcome Karmen!

## Director nomination and election process

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4, of your cooperative's by-laws, a nominating committee must be appointed between 30 and 120 days prior to the Annual Meeting of Members (June 25, 1998).

Directors shall be elected by and from the membership by ballot and shall serve for a term of three years, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The terms of directors from Districts #4 & #5 will expire this year.

District No. 4, currently represented by Briscoe N. Menke, is St. Albans, Chili, Bear Creek, and Prairie Townships in Hancock County, and the Cooperative's service area in Adams County, lying south of St. Albans and Chili Townships.

District No. 5, currently represented by Ross E. Wear, is Carthage, Pilot Grove and Fountain Green Townships in Hancock County, and the Cooperative's service area in Hire Township in McDonough County.

The nominating committee must post a list of nominations at the cooperative office at least 20 days before the annual meeting. Any 15 cooperative members may act together and nominate another member by petition. These nominations will be posted with those made by the nominating committee. Nominations made by petition at least 10 days before the annual meeting will be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

## Welcome new members:

### September

Bowen, Clyde Franklin, Dallas City  
 Cantrail, Lee, Plymouth  
 Christensen, Alan L & Judy Johnson, Burlington, IA  
 Copenhagen, Susan L, Sutter  
 Daugherty, Patrick S, Hamilton  
 Endres, Becky, Dallas City  
 Fox, Rodney M, Stronghurst  
 Gayton, Frank V & Ruth L, Niota  
 Gittings, Gary W, Lomax  
 Gonzalez E Janie, Carthage  
 Griffin, Keith, Carthage  
 Harl, Chad J, Niota  
 Johnston, Teresa A & Kevin C Morris, Mendon  
 Kirchner, Margarette M, Nauvoo  
 Klees, Peter, Burlington, IA  
 Lord, Ross & Janice, LaHarpe  
 Mason, Rory E & Jolene K, Colchester  
 Morgan, Ben & Kathy, Hamilton  
 Nichols, Curtis, Colchester  
 Powell, Edwin D & Susan B, Plymouth  
 Schilson, Thomas E & Shelly S, Hamilton  
 Schmiers, Sean O & Kantina L, Stronghurst

Snyder, Eldon, Niota  
 Stone Craft Molds, Terry W. Cable, Carman  
 Thurman, Roger D & Sharon K, Warsaw (4627-6)

### October

Boyer, Eric B & Tonya R, Carthage  
 Camp, Stephen A, Nauvoo  
 Hedges, Robert A, Niota  
 Huls, Brenda K, Carthage  
 Lavery, Jeff, LaHarpe  
 Medina, Debbie, Augusta  
 Nixon, Vernon F & Peggy, Stronghurst  
 Robertson, Opal, Carthage  
 Taylor, Rick, West Point  
 Vanengelenhoven, Lesley, Lomax

### November

Adamson, Beverly J, Tampico, IL  
 Arnold, Steven C & Jodi L, Gladstone  
 Cramer, Donna, Carthage  
 Ewing, Fred, Carthage  
 Flack, Lea A, Plymouth  
 Gibson, Billy J & Rachel A, Nauvoo  
 Haukapp, John A, Augusta  
 Lantz, Sarah, Hamilton

Morrow, Sandra K, Gladstone  
 Parker, David, Colchester  
 Peterson, Roberta, Stronghurst  
 Thurman, Mike, Warsaw  
 Van Winkle, Richard W & Susan A, Lomax  
 Worl, Stephen Scott, Tennessee, IL

### December

Boyer, Tonya M, Burnside  
 Chance, Mike, Carthage  
 Crawford, Larry Edgar, Stronghurst  
 Erke, Loretta, Quincy  
 Grotts, Sibyl, Carthage  
 Justice, Joseph E, Elvaston  
 Morgan, Kris & JoAnna, Hamilton  
 Nayak, Dr. Satish & Sumana, Carthage  
 Neally, Brenda, Carthage  
 Steinkamp, Lawrence F & Naomi S, Carthage  
 Storm, Dennis & Katherine, Carthage  
 Williamson, Ronald E, Carthage  
 Wisslead, Robert, Lake Placid, FL  
 Young, Stephani Huey, Carthage

## Willey leaves after eight years

Western Illinois Electrical Co-op. sadly announces the leaving of Rusty Willey, office manager at WIEC. He was with the co-op for the past eight years and we wish him the best of luck. (9421-56)

Filling the position of office manager is Becky Dickinson. She started WIEC in 1995 as billing coordinator.

### Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

### Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

524 North Madison P.O. Box 338  
 Carthage, IL 62321

#### Office hours

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Monday - Friday

During office hours,  
 or after hours to report outage  
 (217) 357-3125

#### Board of directors

Ross E. Wear — President, Carthage  
 Haven Vaughn — Vice President, Lomax  
 Briscoe Menke — Secretary/  
 Treasurer, Carthage  
 Rob Gronewold — Assistant Secretary/  
 Treasurer, Carthage  
 Jay Morrison — Director, Niota  
 William R. Newton — Director, Burnside  
 Wayne Rampley — Director, Sutter

#### Staff

Paul Dion — Manager  
 Virginia Hurwitz — Adm. Asst.  
 Tommie Long — Mgr. of Operations  
 Becky Dickinson — Office Manager



### Why do electric bills vary so much between families?

This is a question that gets asked often. There could be several causes of varying electric bills between families. You need to consider the size of the family, age of family members (teens and babies tend to mean higher electric usage), hobbies or side jobs that involve the use of electric equipment, out-buildings using electricity or heating systems, heat tapes for water pipes, or the use of livestock waterers. Here are some additional things to think about when comparing your electric bill with someone else's.

One family may open the refrigerator door twice as often as another. Each time the door opens, cold air rushes out, causing the refrigerator to work harder. Temperature settings also make a significant difference. Don't forget to take into consideration the differences in efficiency between refrigerators, and their age and size. Older appliances, even models that are 5-10 years old, are usually less energy efficient than the newer ones. (10532-72)

While one family may keep its freezer full, another may have very little food in the freezer. An empty freezer runs more often than a full one. Again, age can also be a factor.

No two families do the same amount of clothes washing and ironing. One family may wash clothes once a week, while others wash daily. Sometimes it's a matter of how you do your laundry. Do you have a lot of small loads or a few large loads? Do

you usually use hot water? Do you run your dryer in long cycles? Do you use a high setting? Do you keep the lint trap clean, inside the dryer as well as the outside vent?

The amount of hot water used varies from family to family. Cold water clothes washing and full laundry and dishwasher loads require less hot water. One family may take long showers or fill the tub to the top when they bathe. Some people bathe or shower more often than others. It's the amount of hot water used that makes the critical difference. Even if you have a gas water heater, you may have an electric water pump that pumps the water from the well into the house.

The efficiency of heating systems varies a great deal from home to home. The temperature your thermostat is set at will make a dramatic difference in the amount of energy used. Lowering your thermostat one or two degrees can reduce your energy bill up to 5 percent. Again, even if you have a gas furnace, most have electric fans that distribute the heat.

### Tired of writing checks?

Does it seem like you are always writing checks? WIEC has a solution to save you from the hassle. It's our ACH program and it's free.

This program automatically pays your electric bill from your checking or savings account on the date the bill is due. Just think, no more writing checks or licking stamps! Members who are already enrolled

Your board of directors, at its February meeting, appointed the following members to serve on the 1998 nominating committee:

District No. 1 — John Lenahan, Lomax; District No. 2 — Loren Sinele, Niota; District No. 3 — Ned Woolverton, Niota; District No. 4 — Sharon Roberts, Carthage, and Rodney McGaughey, Carthage; District No. 5 — Dave Biery, Carthage, and Don Weatherington, Burnside; District No. 6 — Robert Menn, Plymouth; and District No. 7 — Wayne Spory, Sutter.

Two members are appointed from the districts whose board terms expire each year, with one being appointed from remaining districts. These members will nominate candidates to represent Districts 4 and 5 for a three-year term.

Directors whose current terms expire and who are eligible for re-election are: District 4 — Briscoe N. Menke, Carthage; and District 5 — Ross E. Wear, Carthage.

These names are provided for you in advance of their meeting so that if you wish to make any recommendations to this committee, you will know who they are. It is expected the committee will have its organizational meeting on April 7.

find it easy and convenient.

Members receive their bill around the 10th of the month, just like before, however it will be marked "Do Not Pay — Paid by ACH Transfer." We will notify the bank to withdraw the amount of the current bill on the date it is due. It's that simple. Call or stop by our office and stop writing those checks.

### Inside

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- Board notes, call before you dig, new members ..... page 6

# Sno' place like camp for the Klondike Days

This year's Klondike Derby at Camp Eastman was an unusual one. Normally the camp, which is located on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River between Hamilton and Nauvoo, is blanketed in snow in late February.

And it's in that snow that Boy Scouts and Webelos do their winter-skills activities, swishing knee-deep through acres of the powdery white stuff in the cold, and coping with the problems cold and

snow bring with them.

This year's event, held Feb. 21, involved more sloshing than swishing, and it was knee-deep muck that they had to contend with, rather than snow. The balmy temperature — in the mid-40s — wasn't conducive to much in the way of cold-weather activities, either. **(9510-19)**

Even so, some 32 sled-teams of kids from Illinois, Iowa and Missouri gathered for a good time and to hone their

wilderness camping skills.

"We usually have a white Klondike Derby," says Dave Higgins, who coordinates the event, "but it was a brown derby this year. Even so, it went fairly smoothly. We had teams registering just before 9 a.m., and we were handing out awards just after 4 p.m. The warm weather actually helped our attendance."

The event involves several teams — usually made up of about half a dozen boys — who make a sled for the event at their local meetings, transport it to the derby, load it with the necessary provisions, and pull it through several stations. At each station,



The snow these boys are supposed to pull their sleds through is noticeably absent in this photo. Even so, they went through their paces — perhaps egged on by shouts of "slush", instead of "mush!"

they demonstrate a skill, while judges look on. Webelos, boys in the transition process between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, are allowed to use a store-bought sled, such as those used in colder, snowier years, to slide down hills.

"We change some of the events from year to year to keep the derby from getting stale," Higgins says, "and the ice rescue, which has been on the schedule in the past, is gone now."

Basically, each sled must have a couple of 6' poles, one or two blankets, 6' of quarter-inch rope per boy, a gallon of water, a Boy Scout Handbook and a trip plan. The boys start out, and must lay and start a fire at one of the stations. Once the fire's blazing merrily, they have to boil a certain amount of water. They have 15 minutes to do that. **(6831-42)**

Then they move on to other stations, where they tie knots, perform first aid, cut a log with a two-boy crosscut saw and prepare what is jokingly referred to as "road kill cuisine." Higgins explains that the gross-sounding designation came about as a result of mess hall conversations, where young people have a tendency to attach irreverent names to various menu items.



There were several different sled designs used, as can be seen from the two in this photo.

"Our mess hall was just called the mess hall for a while," he adds, "but a few years ago kids started calling it 'The Road Kill Cafe,' and the name kind of stuck. Before long, several menu items received names derived from some variation on the same theme, and the cooking skills station took on that name, too.

"We had some 250 boys at this year's derby," Higgins says, "and

about 100 adults. Some came from as far south as Quincy, Illinois, and others came from as far away as Letts, Iowa, which is about 50 miles north of Burlington. Our attendance was actually up quite a bit this year, and there were only two troops who didn't show."

Those who came brought healthy appetites with them, he notes.

"We started out with some 700 hot dogs, and about 50 gallons of homemade chili. We had hot chocolate for the kids and coffee for the adults. Even though it wasn't as cold as it normally is, we went through the food and hot drinks like it was below zero. We all had a good time."

While the day-long event lacked one ingredient that's usually considered essential — snow — the kids more than made up for that by providing a lot of enthusiasm.

"All in all, it was a successful event," Higgins says, "although if we have any say in the matter, we'll have snow next year."

*(Photos courtesy of Gary Smith, Scoutmaster of Carthage Troop 72.)*



Each troop is encouraged to exercise ingenuity and creativity in designing its sled, and this troop has obviously done that.

## Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

524 North Madison  
P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321

Office hours  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

During office hours,  
or after hours  
to report outage  
(217) 357-3125

### Board of directors

Ross E. Wear — President,  
*Carthage*

Haven Vaughn —  
Vice President, *Lomax*

Briscoe Menke — Secretary/  
Treasurer, *Carthage*

Rob Gronewold —  
Assistant Secretary/  
Treasurer, *Carthage*

Jay Morrison — Director,  
*Niota*

William R. Newton —  
Director, *Burnside*

Wayne Rampley — Director,  
*Sutter*

### Staff

Paul Dion — *Manager*

Virginia Hurwitz —  
*Adm. Asst.*

Tommie Long —  
*Mgr. of Operations*

Becky Dickinson —  
*Office Manager*

## From Our Last Meeting



### Summary of Board Report — Jan. 29

Directors present: Rampley,  
Wear, Newton, Vaughn, Menke,  
Morrison and Gronewold. Also  
present: Dion, Hurwitz and Hartzell.

December 1997 had a deficit of  
\$82,101.00; total margins for the  
year ended Dec. 31, 1997 were  
\$265,233.00. Net TIER for the year  
was 1.82. (476-25)

A resolution was adopted  
nominating Haven Vaughn and Paul  
Dion as candidates for election to  
the Board of Directors of Soyland  
Power Cooperative, and Ross Wear  
as alternate, to be voted on at the  
next annual meeting of Soyland.

A resolution was adopted

designating Wayne E. Rampley as  
the voting representative and  
Haven Vaughn as the alternate to  
the NRECA Annual Meeting to be  
held March 8-11 in Nashville.

A resolution was adopted  
designating Haven Vaughn as the  
voting representative and Wayne  
Rampley as the alternate to the  
CFC annual meeting to be held  
March 10 in Nashville.

A resolution was adopted  
designating Robert Gronewold as  
the voting representative and Bill  
Newton as the alternate to the  
National Cooperative Services  
Corp. (NCSC) annual meeting to  
be held in Nashville on March 11.

Approval was given to a request  
for early retirement of capital credits  
by the representative of the estate  
of Mildred McCrory, deceased.

(Approved minutes are  
available from the WIEC office.  
Regular board meetings are held  
on the fourth Thursday of each  
month at the WIEC office).

## Welcome new members

### January

Bundy, Tawnya, LaHarpe  
Carroll Farms, c/o Dan, Cathage  
Dan Carroll Co., Carthage  
Doyle, Brent M. & Crystal R.,  
West Point  
Fink, Stephen, Carthage  
Frericks, Matt, Carthage  
Hymes, Robert & Rebecca,  
Nauvoo  
Keime, Don, Plymouth  
Laffey, Charlotte, Carthage  
McClintock, Michael, Carthage  
Masterson, Jeff, Sutter  
Shaffer, Dean, Carthage  
Short, Angela, Niota  
Stinson, J. W. & Laura, Niota  
Vogel, Lois L., Hamilton

### February

Akers, Vicki J., Plymouth  
Barnhart, Marilyn, Carthage  
Byrn, Patricia L., Hamilton  
Derr, Todd & Terry L., Carthage  
Duggan, Timothy J., Dallas City  
Hopp, Robert J., Nauvoo  
Huddleston, Billy O. & Sherrie A.,  
Westchester, Ohio  
Jones, Darrell and Junille J.,  
Stronghurst  
Pulse, Sherie L. & Michael J.,  
Stronghurst  
Scheetz Family Farm LLC,  
James Scheetz, Niota  
Scheetz, Joseph, Niota  
Schrader, Brett W., Warsaw  
Slinkard, W. T., Niota

### Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four  
member's map location numbers  
in the newsletter. If you find your  
map location number call the  
WIEC office by the 25th of the  
following month, tell us where it  
is and we will give you a \$10.00  
bill credit. Keep on reading the  
WIEC News.

## We aren't JULIE . . .

Just a reminder, WIEC does *not*  
participate in the JULIE program.  
JULIE is the Joint Utility Locating  
Information for Excavators. These  
are the people to call for locating  
underground phone lines or gas  
lines. Their phone number is (800)  
892-0123.

For locating underground electric  
lines, please call WIEC at (217) 357-

3125. We do not participate in  
JULIE, because we feel that we can  
give our members better and faster  
service by having our members call  
us directly. For non-emergency  
locates, we ask for 24-hour notice.

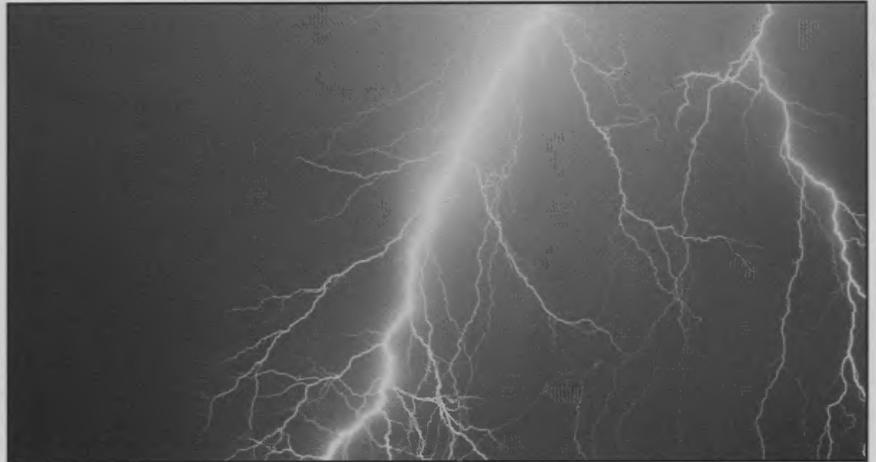
Before the shovel or spade  
comes out, remember: call WIEC to  
locate underground electric lines  
and call JULIE for everything else.



## Safety tips for cleaning up after violent storms

One sure sign of spring is the strong storms that come through our part of the country. The weather bureau makes sure we know the important difference between tornado watches and warnings. We have heard first hand accounts of storms sounding like a freight train coming through the house and that eerie shade of green the sky becomes before the storm strikes. Seldom do we hear about what to do after the storm has come and gone.

WIEC has one very important safety tip concerning lines that may have come down due to violent weather. *Don't touch.* Call WIEC immediately and let us take care of any problem. We will be happy to come out and look over the situation, even if it is on your side of the meter. Electric lines may appear to be dead and pose no harm, however looks can be deceiving. They can still be very hazardous and deadly. Power may be out at your house, but the wires on the ground by the driveway may still have current running through them. Wires don't have to spark to be "hot" or dangerous. Again, *don't touch.* It's better to be safe, then sorry.



STIHL Inc., a manufacturer of outdoor power equipment, offers other tips on the use of chain saws in clean-up efforts:

- If your saw hasn't been used in some time, have it serviced before use. **7814-31-1**
- Before you begin, note whether there are any downed power lines. If so, call in professional utility workers and have them verify that the power has been cut off.
- Avoid operating a chainsaw when you are tired.
- Fatigue may result in loss of control of the saw.
- Wear protective apparel, in-

cluding sturdy footwear, snug-fitting clothing, protective gloves and eye, ear and head protection.

- Keep your work area free of by-standers and animals.
- Have a clear work area, secure footing and a planned retreat path before cutting.
- Use extra caution when cutting small brush and saplings, as slender material may catch the saw chain.
- Be alert for spring-back when cutting a limb that is under tension, to avoid being struck when the tension in the wood fibers is released.

## Mark June 25th on your Calendar

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will have our annual meeting on June 25th, 1998 at the Hancock County Extension Center. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the meet-

ing will start at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The Hancock County Health Department will be there to check high blood pressure free of charge and

cholesterol tested for a small fee. Come and hear about the financial condition of your cooperative and receive a \$5 bill credit to boot. Make plans to attend.

## Inside

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- **Look for this Symbol** ..... 16d

**We Get Our Power From You**

## Former ball player enjoys rural western Illinois lifestyle



Jim Qualls, right, shows photos and other baseball memorabilia to Paul Dion, manager of WIEC. In addition to several year's worth of photos, Jimmy has several of the Japanese/English business cards he used when he was with the Kintetsu Buffaloes, an Osaka team.

It has been said that everyone should be entitled to 15 minutes of fame in their lifetime, and many people spend their entire lives trying to get their fair share and more. For many, a lifetime in the limelight isn't enough.

Jim Qualls, former major-league baseball player, is different. Qualls, who once rubbed elbows with such baseball greats as Leo Durocher and Ernie Banks, now lives in Sutter, where he farms and serves as road commissioner for the Walker Township, in Hancock County. **5811-15-1**

Born and raised in Exeter, California, where his dad worked for area farmers, Jim played baseball in high school there, and did well enough to be signed by the Chicago Cubs in 1964. "I was only in the major leagues with the Cubs for a year," he says, "and I was in the organization for five. Mr. Durocher didn't think I fit in his ball club. He liked veteran ball players with a lot of lip."

Even though Mr. Durocher may have thought that Qualls didn't fit into his plans, Jim had an accomplishment that few can copy. He

broke up a perfect game being pitched by Tom Seaver. Jim hit a double off of Seaver in the 9th inning to spoil the attempt.

As time went by, Jim went to other teams, and bounced around between several Midwestern AA and big-league teams. "I started to go to Montreal," he says, "but the deal fell through, and I went to Buffalo, New York, and played in the old War Memorial Stadium there. We played half our games in Buffalo and half in Montreal, and they wanted us to pay our own expenses for the Montreal games.

"That got to be a little costly," he continues, "what with apartments and family expenses and so on, so I asked for more money. They wouldn't pay, so I decided to go somewhere else."

Japan was the "somewhere else" he decided to go to, and he played for the Kintetsu Buffaloes in Osaka's Nissi Stadium. He notes that his stint with them was an interesting experience. "They didn't pay much," he says, "but they didn't care about expenses. You could put just about anything on your expense account, and it

wouldn't faze them."

After leaving professional baseball, Jim played a little fast-pitch in the Quincy area. "I played twice a week for a while," he chuckles, "and then I got to where I'd play once a week. As I got older, it took me that long to heal up. I finally got into slow-pitch, then gave it up all together."

For some time, Jim enjoyed the relative obscurity of living and farming in rural Western Illinois and serving as a road commissioner, but his past is catching up with him now.

"Every once in a while someone will see my name on the Internet," he says, "and they'll ask me to send me something to autograph. One guy even sent money, and I signed the stuff and sent it on its way. He wrote again and asked if he could send more stuff, and promised to send money again. I told him just to send the stuff, and skip the money. I've got a lot of fond memories of my baseball years, and I enjoy my farming and being a road commissioner. I don't need a lot of money."

## Baseball Firsts

### Perfect pitch

Denton C. "Cy" Young pitched baseball's first perfect game on May 6, 1915. Young, playing for the Boston Americans, did not allow a single member of the Philadelphia Athletics to reach first base in a game the Americans won 3-0. He finished his career with 511 wins, including three no-hitters. The Cy Young pitching award is named in his honor.

### The first of many

George Herman "Babe Ruth, playing for the Bos-

ton Red Sox, hit his first home-run on May 6, 1915 in a game against the New York Yankees in New York. Four years later he hit 29 homers, a record for one season at the time. **9622-5**

### Lighting the way

More than 20,000 fans were on hand to witness the first baseball game played under lights on the evening of May 24, 1935. The Cincinnati Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies 3-1 at Crosley Field, in Cincinnati.

## 1998 Soyland Power Cooperative cash rebates ends June 30, 1998!

**\$125 per ton for a Geothermal heating and cooling system.**

**\$30 per kw for any other electric heating system.**

Don't pass up an opportunity to install a geothermal or other electric heating system before June 30, 1998 to earn valuable rebates for all Western Illinois Electrical Coop. members. However, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will continue to offer rebates beyond that date, as follows: As an incentive to install Geothermal systems, WIEC offers one of the following:

1. Free trenching for horizontal loop installation.
2. \$300 rebate.
3. New electric water heater.

For all electric heat other than geothermal, WIEC offers the following:

\$300 rebate when a new electric heat system (elec-

tric furnace, electric furnace/heat pump, baseboard) is installed in a home or business served by WIEC. The electric heat must have a minimum of 5 kw in size.

WIEC will sell electric water heaters to members for: 50 gallon — \$150; 80 gallon — \$200. Installation is free and the water heater must be installed in a home or business served by WIEC. If a member purchases an electric water heater somewhere else, WIEC will pay: \$75 for 55 gallon and under, \$125 for 56 gallon and up. Original receipt must be provided.

Contact the Member Service Dept. at the cooperative for further details on how to qualify for these rebates.

## Brain Tickler

We've had calls here at the office wanting to know when we were going to put puzzles back into the WIEC News. Well here are two logic puzzles. Good Luck! **5516-46**

### 1. Color Grid

Consider a grid of size 4 X 4 (i.e. sixteen squares), Where all squares should get a color. The colored grid should meet the following conditions:

4 squares should be colored blue  
3 squares should be colored red  
3 squares should be colored white

3 squares should be colored green  
3 squares should be colored yellow, and no color appears more than once in any horizontal, vertical or diagonal line

### 2. Birthday Cake

Cut a 2 layer round Birthday cake into 8 pieces. However, you are allowed to make only 3 cuts.

Answers are on page 16d

## Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

524 North Madison  
P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321

Office hours  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

During office hours,  
or after hours  
to report outage  
(217) 357-3125

### Board of directors

Ross E. Wear — President,  
Carthage

Haven Vaughn —  
Vice President, Lomax

Briscoe Menke — Secretary/  
Treasurer, Carthage

Rob Gronewold —  
Assistant Secretary/  
Treasurer, Carthage

Jay Morrison — Director,  
Niota

William R. Newton —  
Director, Burnside

Wayne Rampley — Director,  
Sutter

### Staff

Paul Dion — Manager

Virginia Hurwitz —  
Adm. Asst.

Tommie Long —  
Mgr. of Operations

Becky Dickinson —  
Office Manager

## Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

## From Our Last Meeting



### Summary of Board Meeting - February 26, 1998

Directors present: Rampley, Wear, Newton, Vaughn, Menke, Morrison and Gronewold. Also present: Dion, Hurwitz & Hartzell  
January, 1998, had a deficit of \$28,763.00; net TIER for the month was -.06.

Membership in the National Food & Energy Council was renewed.

The board reviewed the geographical area for director districts and it was determined that they remain the same as now exists.

A resolution was adopted concerning a write-off of uncollectible accounts, which accumulated dur-

ing the year 1996, amounting to \$8,541.54.

Appointments were made to the 1998 director nominating committee as follows: John Lenahan, Loren Sinele, Ned Wolverton, Sharon Roberts, Rodney McGaughey, Dave Biery, Don Weatherington, Robert Menn and Wayne Spory.

A resolution was adopted designating Paul Dion as the voting representative and Ross E. Wear as the alternate to the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group (ICWCG) to be held April 8, 1998, in Springfield.

Approval was given to a request for early retirement of capital credits by the representatives of the estate of Joseph C. Neill, deceased.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

## Look for these symbols!

Spring marks the return of daffodils, lightning bugs, baseball and con artists. There have been reports around Illinois where the con artists have already started their tricks. They will come up to the door and say they are from "the electric company" or the "co-op" and say they need to check out the electric service or some other job. After a few minutes, then they request a large sum of money for the "work" that was done. Please don't be fooled by their scam.

If someone should come to your door and say they are from WIEC, look for the logo at left, or the old Willie Wirehand symbol (above) on the vehicle. If something doesn't seem right or you're still not sure, call our office. We'll be able to tell you if it is our servicemen that are in your area. Above all, we would **never** demand payment on the spot for unscheduled work.



## Welcome new members:

### March

Morgan, Jerry L, Nauvoo  
Wagler, Daryn B, Niota

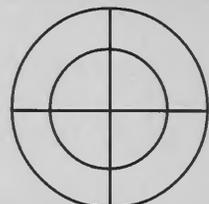
### Answers to Brain Ticklers

#### 1. Color Grid

Green	White	Blue	Yellow
Blue	Yellow	Red	Green
Red	Green	White	Blue
White	Blue	Yellow	Red

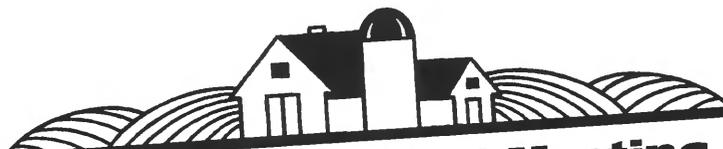
#### 2. Birthday Cake

The cuts are shown at below





Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.



## WIEC 1998 Annual Meeting

Dear Member;

We, the Board of Directors, along with the employees of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. would like to personally invite you to the 1998 annual meeting. It will be June 25, at the Hancock County Extension Center in Carthage. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

We hope that you will make time to come to the annual meeting. It's a great way to meet your neighbors, catch up with friends and find out about how your cooperative is doing.

Please fill out and bring the registration card from the Annual Meeting Notice from the June issue of the Illinois Country Living with you the night of the annual meeting. It will speed registration and will be used for drawing of the prizes.

See you there.  
Your Board of Directors

**We Get Our Power From You**

## From the board president and manager

We hope you plan to attend this year's Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hancock County Cooperative Extension Center in Carthage. Two directors will be elected this year, and reports from officers and management will be given. Each member present will receive a \$5 bill credit and will be eligible for door prizes.

The year 1997 was very successful for WIEC. In May, we instituted a 7 percent rate decrease and also gave a \$.02/kwh refund on all bills mailed in December. We still maintained adequate financial margin for the year. The rate decrease and refund were possible due to a reduction in our wholesale power cost from Soyland Power Cooperative.

The Illinois legislature passed a deregulation bill near the end of 1997. The "Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997" was signed by Governor Edgar in December. The legislature recognized that cooperatives and municipal utilities are different than investor-owned utilities and treated them differently in the legislation. Co-ops have local control and local decision making authority on deregulation issues just as they do on other issues. The decision regarding when and under what conditions a cooperative will participate in the deregulated market will be made by the WIEC Board of Directors. We feel that

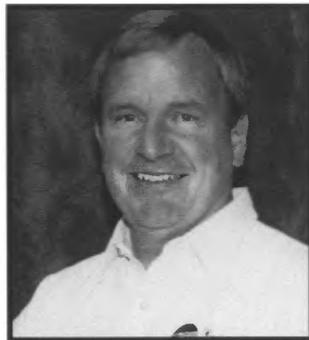
locally-elected directors are better suited to make decisions about the future for the co-op than legislators

and regulators in Springfield and/or Washington. Your Board of Directors will be studying deregulation and the potential effects of changes in the deregulated utility environment.

Deregulation does not change service areas. Electricity would still be delivered through WIEC power lines. The only thing open to competition is the energy charge which means a consumer has the right to choose who they buy their generated power from — not who brings the electricity to the home, farm, or business.

Under the law, customer choice is phased in over the next several years. Large nonresidential loads are phased into the competitive market in October 1999. Residential customers would be able to purchase power from an alternative retail energy supplier in May 2002. Again, this depends on the WIEC Board of Director's decision that participating in the open market is the best option for the cooperative membership as a whole.

Please join us this year at the Annual Meeting to learn more about the future of your cooperative.



**Paul Dion**  
Manager



**Ross E. Wear**  
President

### Official Meeting notice

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will be held at the Hancock County Cooperative Extension Center in Carthage, Illinois at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25, 1998 to take action on the following matters:

1. To receive reports of officers and manager.
2. To elect 2 directors to the board of directors of the cooperative.
3. To consider such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

### Annual Meeting Agenda

**6 p.m. — Registration**

**7:30 p.m. — Call to order**

- Presentation of Colors
- Determination of quorum and reading of notice of meeting
- Approve minutes of 1997 annual meeting
- Treasurer's report
- Awards presentations
- Director election
- Prize drawings
- President's message
- Manager's message
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Report of Election Tellers
- Grand Prize drawing

## Nominating Committee

Nine members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. were appointed to the 1998 nominating committee. The committee met at the WIEC office to make nominations for directors. Two directors will be elected at the Cooperative's annual meeting on June 25, 1998.

Serving on the nominating committee were: Dave Biery, Carthage; John Lenahan, Lomax; Rod McGaughey, Carthage; Robert Menn, Plymouth; Sharon Roberts, Carthage; Loren Sinele, Niota; Wayne Spory, Sutter; Don Weatherington, Burnside; and Ned Woolverton, Niota.

The nominating committee report will be presented at the annual meeting.

The following were nominated for director positions:

**District 4** — Briscoe Menke and Rodney Rothert

**District 5** — Ross E. Wear

Any nominations made by petition will be included on the official



**Seated:** Sharon Roberts, Rod McGaughey

**Standing:** (left to right) Ned Woolverton, John Lenahan, Don Weatherington, Robert Menn, Wayne Spory and David Biery. Not available for photo: Loren Sinele

ballot if they are brought to the WIEC office at least 10 days before the meeting. Nominations may

also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

## Director Candidates

Two directors will be elected at the 1998 WIEC annual meeting — one each from District 4 and from District 5. Every membership may vote for the directors, regardless of which district the member resides.

### District 4

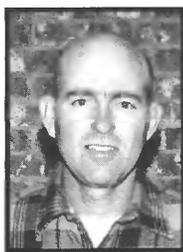
**Briscoe Menke — Carthage, IL**



- Family: Wife, Jeanne and two sons
- Member of Elvaston Presbyterian Church
- Farm Program Director, USDA, Hancock County

- Senior Loan Officer, Marine Trust Co.
- Director — Western Illinois Electrical Coop.
- Director — Association of Illinois Electrical Cooperatives

**Rodney Rothert — Basco, IL**



- Family: Wife, Susan and three sons work with their dad on the family farm. Rodney also has three grandsons.
- Carthage High School Graduate

- Southern Illinois University Graduate with a BS in Ag Business
- Member of Sutter Salem Bible Church and Board Member
- Member and past Board Member of Hancock County Pork Producers

### District 5

**Ross Wear — Cathage, IL**



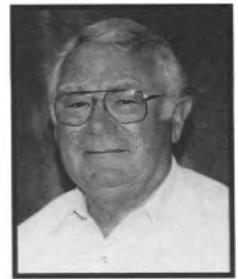
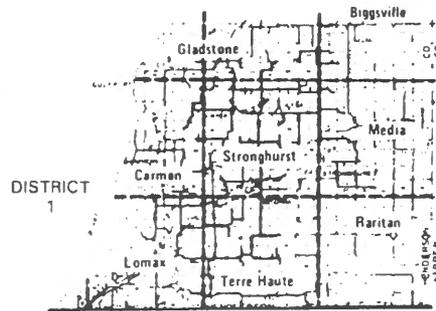
- Employment/Occupation: Grain and livestock farmer
- Family: Wife, Phoebe and three children
- Born and raised in Carthage area

- Member of Carthage Presbyterian Church
- Director — Western Illinois Electrical Coop.
- Also serves as Alternate Director for Soyland Power Cooperative

# Your neighbors as your board of directors



Haven Vaughn  
Vice President  
District 1



Briscoe Menke  
Secretary/Treasurer  
District 4



Bill Newton  
District 2



DISTRICT 2



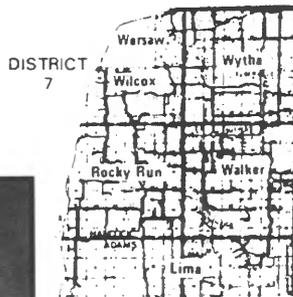
DISTRICT 3



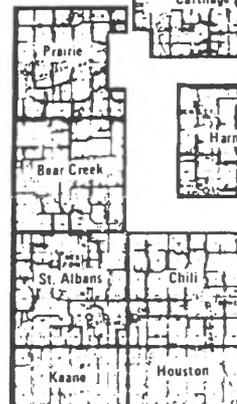
DISTRICT 5



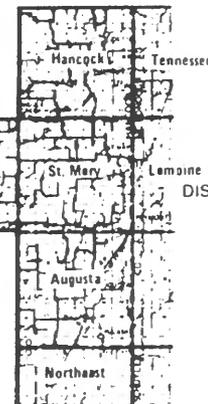
Ross E. Wear  
President  
District 5



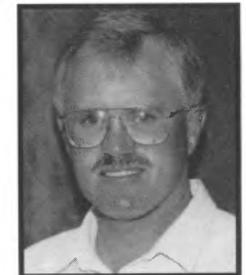
DISTRICT 7



DISTRICT 4



DISTRICT 6



Robert Gronewold  
Assistant Secretary/  
Treasurer  
District 6



Jay Morrison  
District 3



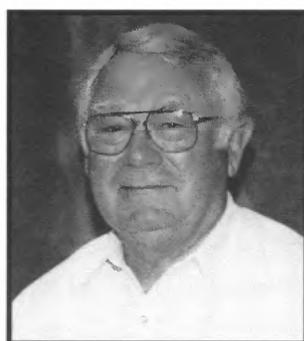
Wayne Rampley  
District 7

## These WIEC employees offer the members over 260 years of experience

Employee	Length of Service	Employee	Length of Service
Greg Bolton, mechanic/groundsman	9 years	Virginia Hurwitz, administrative assistant	24 years
Scott Carle, apprentice lineman	2 months	Eric Johnson, journeyman lineman	11 years
Dick Chockley, area serviceman	28 years	Mark Kissinger, apprentice lineman	7 years
Donna Cramer, data entry clerk	23 years	Terry Long, crew foreman	21 years
Becky Dickinson, office manager	3 years	Tommie Long, operations manager	20 years
Paul Dion, manager	23 years	Karmen Metternich, billing coordinator	7 months
Tanna Ellefritz, cashier receptionist	2 months	Garry Miller, area serviceman	36 years
Harold Enzeroth, line foreman	32 years	Jerry Payne, electrician	24 years

# Treasurer's Report

Another year has passed so quickly and it's time to announce another annual meeting of the owners of this cooperative. The mild winter has created somewhat of a financial problem with your cooperative. Reduced usage of power seems to be the goal of most of us consumers, however the cost of operating the cooperative remains constant. We do expect electrical usage to return to normal in the near future and WIEC



**Briscoe Menke**  
Treasurer

will provide, as usual, the great service you have been and will continue to receive.

For those of us that can remember the days without electricity in our rural areas, we have so much to be thankful for and should give thanks to those that made an effort to provide that service to the rural areas when other electrical

providers would not. It's difficult to imagine now how the rural areas survived without electricity and the

conveniences that it now provides. The formation of the electrical cooperatives and the service that it provides also allows us the benefit of owning the cooperative and having some say as to the operation of the utility.

The financial reports that follow are based on the 1997 year-end audit of the accounts of WIEC and have been audited. The obligations to lenders, the Rural Utilities Service and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation have been reduced during the past year and are current. WIEC is in a strong financial condition and we expect that it will remain strong in the future.

## 1997 Balance Sheet

<b>Assets:</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>Liabilities:</b>	<b>1997</b>
Cash .....	\$ 366,346	Borrowed from RUS .....	\$ 4,827,347
Investments .....	\$ 876,401	Borrowed from CFC .....	\$ 1,254,492
Patronage Capital .....	\$ 709,155	Accounts Payable .....	\$ 395,913
Accounts Receivable .....	\$ 456,047	Memberships & Deposits .....	\$ 50,590
Material & Supplies .....	\$ 226,938	Other Liabilities .....	\$ 179,784
Prepaid Insurance & Deferred Expenses ..	\$ 38,735	<b>Equities:</b>	
Property Owned .....	\$12,021,160	Member's capital credit .....	\$ 3,940,493
less Accumulated Depreciation .....	(\$3,630,953)	Margins .....	\$ 415,210
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b><u>\$11,063,829</u></b>	<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equities .....</b>	<b><u>\$11,063,829</u></b>

## 1997 Operating Statement

	<b>1997</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>	
Electricity Sales .....	\$4,307,405
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Cost of Purchased Power .....	\$2,470,866
Distribution Expense .....	\$349,493
Consumer Accounting & General .....	\$538,314
Depreciation of System .....	\$358,389
Taxes .....	\$74,680
Interest .....	\$323,987
Total Expenses .....	\$4,115,729
<b>Margins:</b>	
Operating margins .....	\$191,676
Non-Operating margin .....	\$63,872
Other Coops Capital Credits .....	\$9,684
Total Margins .....	\$265,232

## Taxes Paid 1997

Property Tax .....	\$ 6,455
Invested Capital Tax .....	\$ 30,000
Payroll Taxes .....	\$ 4,374
Utility Tax .....	\$109,870
Sales & Use Tax .....	\$ 4,951
Commerce Commission .....	\$ 3,084

## Minutes of 1997 annual meeting

The 58th Annual Meeting of Members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. was held at the Hancock County Cooperative Extension in Carthage, Illinois, on Thursday, June 26, 1997, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Ross E. Wear, president, who presided. The chairman introduced the Boy Scout Troop 72, who presented the Colors. Boy Scout Matt Fisher then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The chairman then introduced the board of directors and the district which they represent. He then introduced Briscoe Menke, secretary, who read the Notice of Meeting, together with the proof of mailing thereof to all members of the cooperative and reported the following members present in person or by proxy, and stated that the following constituted a quorum. (Names have been omitted here; 227 members present in person, 41 represented by proxy.)

The chairman thereupon declared a quorum present and directed the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing to be attached to the Minutes of this meeting.

President Wear then introduced Tom Hartzell, the cooperative attorney, who presented the Rules of Assembly resolution, and recommended its adoption for the conduct of this meeting.

RESOLVED, that the following rules of order shall be adopted for the conduct of this annual meeting of members:

1. The program printed in the Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be the agenda for the meeting.
2. The corporate attorney is hereby appointed parliamentarian for the meeting.
3. Roberts Rules of Order shall serve as the official guide on parliamentary procedure for this meeting.
4. In order to allow complete discussion on motions, each person recognized by the chair may speak to a motion up to 3 minutes. Each person shall be allowed to speak twice on a given motion, but the

second time only after all others wishing to speak to the motion have been heard.

5. In the event of a tie vote in balloting for directors at this Annual Meeting, the tie shall be broken by lot between the tied candidates.

It was therefore moved, seconded and carried, that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

The secretary presented the minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Members held June 27, 1996, as mailed with the Annual Meeting Notice. It was therefore moved, seconded and carried, that the minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Members be approved.

The treasurer's report was presented by Briscoe N. Menke, treasurer, and on motion duly made, seconded and carried, the report was approved as presented.

The president recognized the following service awards to employees: Eric Johnson, 10 years; Terry Long, 20 years; Harold Enzeroth, 30 years; and Garry Miller, 35 years.

The president introduced Manager Paul Dion, who introduced visitors and guests. (Names have been omitted here.)

Chairman Ross Wear stated that the next order of business was the election of directors and turned the meeting over to Attorney Hartzell, who proceeded with the election of directors. He announced the appointment by the president of the following tellers of election: Dennis Pettit, Dale Lawson, Ron Howell and Randy Sharpe.

Attorney Hartzell called upon Wayne Spory, chairman of the committee on nominations, to report. Mr. Spory pointed out that the committee on nominations, consisting of Thomas Edmonds, Peggy Ingles, William Wilkens, Loren Sinele, Michael Butler, Ned Woolverton, Rod McGaughey, Tim Crose, Robert Menn and Wayne Spory, had met in accordance with the bylaws on April 21, 1997. He reported that the committee prepared a list of nominees for directors of the Cooperative to be voted

upon at this Annual Meeting and posted the list of nominees according to the bylaws. He presented the list of nominees: District No. 1: Haven D. Vaughn District No. 2: William R. "Bill" Newton

District No. 3: Jay D. Morrison

Attorney Hartzell explained the various methods of placing names in nomination for directors provided in the bylaws. He reported that the committee on nominations duly convened in compliance with the bylaws and the committee prepared and posted a list of nominees for directors at the principal office of the cooperative 20 days before the annual meeting and that the committee had made the nominations as reported.

Attorney Hartzell pointed out that the Bylaws permit nominations to be made by petition, but no nominations by petition have been made.

Attorney Hartzell then called for additional nominations from the floor and the nominations were not closed until at least one minute during which no additional nominations were made. It was moved that nominations be closed and the above named persons were elected by acclamation and will serve for a term of 3 years or until their successor shall be duly elected and qualified.

Chairman Ross Wear drew 13 door prizes and the same were awarded to the members whose names were drawn.

The president's report was presented by Mr. Wear. He informed the members that the accomplishments of Soyland Power Cooperative in 1996 will have a big effect on the future of WIEC. Soyland reached an agreement in September to buy out the federal debt with the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). This action has allowed Soyland to lower wholesale power costs to WIEC, which in turn has allowed WIEC to decrease rates to its members.

The chairman then called upon Manager Dion to present the

manager's report. Manager Dion presented a slide of employee accomplishments in 1996 and showed a picture of each employee and their years of service. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the employees for their dedication. He explained that deregulation of the electric utility industry is being considered and

debated at the state and federal levels of government. He stated that he is in favor of utility reform but is not convinced that it will be a savings for the majority of WIEC consumers, because of our low density of members per mile of line.

The chairman called for unfinished business and any new busi-

ness. There being none, President Wear again awarded many nice prizes to members, with the final prize of a 26" RCA TV being won by Dennis E. Smith, Hamilton.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

## Know if you can vote!

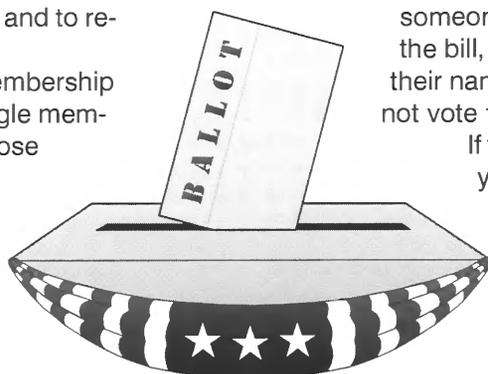
Before a person can receive service from WIEC, they must fill out a membership application. This membership entitles them to vote at the annual meeting of *their* Cooperative and to receive capital credits.

If only one person signs the membership application, it is considered a single membership. Then only the person whose name is on the membership may vote. Their spouse may not vote for that membership. Sometimes a membership was taken out before the member was married. In that case the new spouse can not vote for the membership. A membership is consid-

ered joint when both husband and wife sign the application. Then either spouse may vote.

If you pay for electric usage at a location, but someone else's name is on the top line of the bill, that means the membership is in their name. The person paying the bill cannot vote for that location.

If there are any questions concerning your voting rights, please contact our office. We can tell you whether the membership is joint or single. A single membership can be made joint by simply filling out a form.



### Proxy

The undersigned member of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. hereby constitutes and appoints:

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of person appointed)

who is also a member of said cooperative, as my proxy to vote at the meeting of the members to be held at Carthage, IL on June 25, 1998.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1998

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature of person giving proxy)

**NOTE:** one member may vote up to three proxies.

# 10 Top Reasons to Come to WIEC's Annual Meeting

10. Find out about the financial condition of your cooperative. It's not just your power supplier, it's also your business
9. Vote for your choice for Board of Directors. Exercise your right to vote
8. Get your blood pressure checked for free
7. Get your cholesterol checked for a small fee
6. Refreshments. Ice Cream, chips and a can of pop
5. Surge protection information available. Do you need surge protection for your computer, home entertainment system, or farm equipment?
4. Light bulb sale. The only time you can buy our long lasting light bulbs at the bargain price of \$1 per package of 4
3. \$5 Bill Credit. Isn't \$5 off your next bill worth a trip to Carthage?
2. Other Great Door Prizes
  - Electric B-B-Q grill
  - \$50 savings bond — Coin Set
  - 4 \$50 restaurant gift certificates
  - \$25 gift certificate from Wal-Mart
  - Waffle Baker — Polaroid Instant Cameras
  - 6 mo. Subscription to Hancock County Journal Pilot
  - Work Lights — Extension Cords — Free Oil Change & Service
  - Other cash prizes
1. The Grand Prize
  - \$500 Cash Grand Prize
  - (Need we say more?)

**Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will close  
at noon on Friday, June 26.**

**Please complete this card and  
bring it with you to the  
Annual Meeting. It will  
speed registration and will  
be used for the drawing of prizes.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

*(This number appears in the green box on the left side of your electric bill or call our office and we can give it to you.)*



Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

## Lightning damage protection for your home

Today's electric appliances and electronic devices are more sensitive than ever to voltage surges from lightning, utility line operations, and even other electrical devices in the home.

To reduce your risk of damage to your electric equipment due to voltage surges, Western Illinois Electrical Coop is introducing a convenient rental program for the "Storm Trapper" surge suppressor. The Storm Trapper is a meter base surge suppressor that stops lightning and other surges from coming through your utility lines into your home. It is warranted to protect your "white goods"

such as refrigerator, washer, dryer, freezer, microwave, and other appliances from surges or your equipment will be replaced.

At \$5.00 per month for the Storm Trapper lease, this plan offers a convenient way to protect your major equipment from expensive and unnecessary damage. WIEC will also have Point-of-Use Suppressors for sale to protect sensitive electronics like computers, TVs, VCRs, and stereos. You

can choose from a plug-in strip with either telephone connection jacks or coax wire connections for an outdoor antenna or cable TV feed to your TV/VCR. These devices also have a quality warranty program.

Because lightning will follow any



wire path into your home, including television and telephone cables, those wires must have surge protection also. The plug-in strips give you the protection needed and should be used in conjunction with the meter base surge protector. The electronics are more sensitive to momentary voltage surges than motors and appliances. **(8531-41)**

Surge suppressors work by sensing the voltage on your power

lines. When voltages are within a reasonable range that should not harm wiring or equipment in your home, the surge suppressor has no effect on your system. When a sudden surge is detected, the suppressor bleeds off the extra energy safely through your grounding system.

This happens in a fraction of a second. The suppressors safely remove many voltage surges that you may not have realized come into your home. Some problems in desktop computers are caused by undetected surges resulting in loss of data, errors in computations, or even component failures.

Your own electrical equipment can cause problems, for example when fluorescent ballasts are in use or when motors are being turned off and on.

Under the rental program, a WIEC employee will install the Storm Trapper surge suppressor between your meter and meter socket. We will also advise you on the proper plug in strips for any electronics you have in the house. Please contact our office for details.

### Inside

- Life doesn't have to be a roller coaster ..... page 16b
- New employees at WIEC ..... page 16c
- From our last meeting ..... page 16d

**We Get Our Power From You**

## Life doesn't have to be a roller coaster

Roller coasters are the most popular rides at the amusement parks. There is something exhilarating about the extreme highs and lows, never knowing what to expect or what's coming around the bend. Unfortunately life can sometimes be like that. Fluctuating electric usage, due to summer heat or winter cold, can make us feel like we are back on that roller coaster. **(6818-35)**

WIEC has a plan that can help even out the highs and lows of your electric usage. It's called the Budget Payment plan. We can average your payments for the upcoming 12 months, based on your last 12 months usage. Your electric bills can be the same amount for 11 months, providing your usage remains consistent to the previous year's. The 12th payment is catch-up month, where the amount due is the actual balance remaining or there is no payment if there is a credit balance.

Our budget plan period begins soon. If you are interested in receiving more information, please call our office before July 17th and we will be happy to mail it to you.



## Oh say can you — get the answers to these questions on the history of the Declaration of Independence?

- Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**
  - George Washington
  - Thomas Jefferson
  - John Hancock
- Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?**
  - New York City
  - Boston
  - Philadelphia
- Why did the colonies want their independence from Britain?**
  - To avoid taxation without representation
  - Freedom from British troops in America
  - Unfair import/export laws
- How many colonies signed the Declaration of Independence?**
  - 7
  - 13
  - 50
- Who was the British monarch in 1776?**
  - Queen Elizabeth
  - King George III
  - King Louis
- Where is the Declaration of Independence?**
  - National Archives
  - Library of Congress
  - It's on a continual tour around the country
- Who was it that first made a formal call for independence?**
  - Paul Revere
  - Thomas Jefferson
  - Richard Henry Lee
- How did Britain react to the Declaration of Independence?**
  - The King sent additional armies to the United States
  - British troops were ordered to leave America
  - The King issued a warrant for Jefferson's arrest
- What is the order of the signatures on the Declaration of Independence?**
  - Alphabetical by name
  - Geographical (from northern colonies to southern colonies)
  - There's no particular order
- When was the Declaration of Independence formally adopted?**
  - August 12, 1776
  - July 4, 1776
  - September 1, 1789

Answers  
1 B, 2 C, 3 A, 4 B, 5 B, 6 A, 7 C, 8 A,  
9 B, 10 B



Paul Dion and Mark Kissinger

## Employee attends meter school

Mark Kissinger, apprentice lineman, recently attended Meter School in Springfield. At the school, Mark learned metering principles and applications.

## Independence Day

Independence Day, or the Fourth of July, celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the 13 colonies in 1776, thereby severing their ties to Great Britain.

Thomas Jefferson drafted that historic document, with substantial edits made by other members of the Congress. Fifty-six members of the Continental Congress signed an



officially inscribed version on August 2.

Celebration of the day began during the American Revolution with fireworks and parades, traditions that continue today. The best-known observance takes place in Washington, D.C., and includes a spectacular fireworks display.



Scott Carle

## New employees at WIEC:

Scott Carle began employment at WIEC on April 27 as apprentice lineman. Scott is a native of Carthage and graduated from Carthage High School. He was previously

employed for many years with GTE Telephone and more recently was employed by B&D Service in Carthage. Scott and his wife, Terri, live in rural Carthage and have a daughter, Brooke, and twin sons, Clifton and Justin. (7529-37)

Tanna Ellefritz joined the WIEC staff on May 18 as cashier/receptionist.

Tanna is a native of Carthage and graduated from Carthage High School. She received

an associate degree from Culver Stockton College, Canton, Mo. She has previously been employed with Union Bank/West, Carthage & Ferris facilities. Tanna had worked at WIEC for on-the-job training during her senior year in high school. Tanna and her husband, Joel, live in Ferris, and have three children, Travis, Dustin and Kaci.



Tanna Ellefritz

## Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

524 North Madison  
P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321

### Office hours

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

During office hours,  
or after hours  
to report outage  
(217) 357-3125

### Board of directors

Ross E. Wear — President,  
Carthage

Haven Vaughn —  
Vice President, Lomax

Briscoe Menke — Secretary/  
Treasurer, Carthage

Rob Gronewold —  
Assistant Secretary/  
Treasurer, Carthage

Jay Morrison — Director,  
Niota

William R. Newton —  
Director, Burnside

Wayne Rampley — Director,  
Sutter

### Staff

Paul Dion — Manager

Virginia Hurwitz —  
Adm. Asst.

Tommie Long —  
Mgr. of Operations

Becky Dickinson —  
Office Manager

### Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

## From Our Last Meeting



### March 24, 1998

Directors present: Rampley, Wear, Newton, Vaughn, Menke, Morrison and Gronewold. Also present: Dion, Hurwitz & Hartzell February 1998, had a deficit of \$17,503.00; total deficit for the year ending February 28, 1998, was \$46,265.00; net TIER for the month was .09.

A resolution was adopted authorizing the amendment, restatement and continuance of the SelectRE Pension Plan to conform in its entirety with all provisions of the plan documents of the SelectRE Pension Plan. **(6616-8)**

### Summary of Board Meeting — April 23, 1998

Directors present: Rampley, Wear, Newton, Vaughn, Menke, Morrison and Gronewold. Also present: Dion, Hurwitz & Hartzell Total margins for the month of March, 1998 were \$10,984.00; total deficit for the year through March 31, 1998, was \$35,282.00. Net TIER for the year to date was .55.

Employee Mark Schaley has re-

signed and Scott Carle has been hired and will start April 27, 1998.

Mark Hoemmen has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the IEC Memorial Scholarship program. He is to be congratulated.

Motion was made and carried that the audit report prepared by Quint-Dryer & Co., Certified Public Accountants, for the year ending December 31, 1997, be accepted.

Approval was given to contribute 5% of the Cooperative's CFC Patronage Capital Refund for the year to CFC's Cooperative System Integrity Fund, with the provision the contribution not exceed \$500.00.

A resolution was adopted authorizing a change in the Normal Retirement Age from 65 to 62 for the SelectRE Pension Plan.

Approval was given to a request for early retirement of capital credits by the representatives of the estate of Margaret Williams, deceased, and the estate of Jake Wood, deceased.

A resolution was adopted authorizing a loan guarantee for a portion of the Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc. indebtedness to CFC.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

## Welcome new members:

### April

Dalton, Patricia M, LaHarpe  
Curylo, Joseph J. Jr. & Rose,  
Chicago

Dodd, Richard L & Katharine J,  
Sutter

Duncan, Daniel & Sharon, Nauvoo  
Markey, Anthony D, Dallas City  
Muller, Corrie L, Niota

O'Hern, Stanford, Vermont  
Walker, Tom P & Rane L, Lomax  
Wear, Michael, Carthage

### May

Banner, Dan, Carthage  
Carson, Aaron, Colchester  
Cortelyou, Shawn, LaHarpe  
Haddix, Melvin & Rosalie,  
Plymouth

Hopkins, Cindy L, Stillwell  
Kaletsch, Marsha & Robert,  
Oneida, IL

Lepper, Matt E & Nicole Linn,  
Niota

Russell, Sam C, Carthage  
Titus, Frank W, Lomax

Our office will be closed  
Friday, July 3, in observance of  
Independence Day. The office will  
re-open Monday, July 6, at 8am.



Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

## WIEC announces Storm Guard Program

Recently our members have been asking for information concerning surge protectors for their computers or appliances. You wanted some sort of protection against the unexpected. We listened. WIEC is proud to announce that we are now offering a Surge protector program to our members. This is a two-level program that will protect your motor-driven appliances and machines as well as your electronic equipment from damage as a result of unexpected increases in electrical voltage.

The first level is a meter base that WIEC installs at your meter. For as little as \$5 a month, this protects your motor-driven appliances, such as your refrigerator, washing machine, can

opener or water pump. If lightning should hit the utility lines, this Surge protector placed at your meter will divert the energy to the ground and away from your expensive appliances. It also comes with a guarantee that will pay up to \$10,000 for replacement of any motor-driven appliances that might be damaged.

The second level of the program is point-of-use surge suppressors that are available for sale at the WIEC office. These point-of-use suppressors are for the sensitive electronic equipment, such as VCRs, TVs, microwaves, faxes, answering machines or computers. They are simple to use — just plug your equipment in and you're finished. These suppressors available at WIEC have

an advantage over the ones available for sale elsewhere. Ours have two stages of protection where the others have only one. A big screen TV or a new computer system is a major investment and it's nice to know that the protection is there when it's needed. There are different types of plug-in suppressors, including ones for phone lines, coax and DSS type mini satellite dishes. Prices range from \$56 to \$98. When included with the first level of the program, this will insure your equipment up to \$25,000.

Call our office for more information or to enroll in our new program. Let Storm Guard give you the protection against the unexpected.

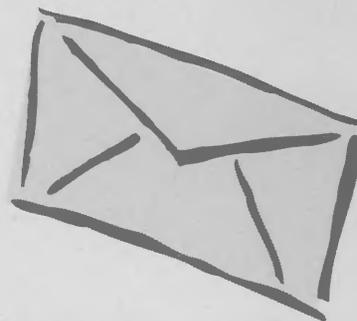
### Don't be fooled

In the May issue of WIEC news, an article appeared warning about people posing as employees of the coop. Well, we have received notice of another group using the word "Cooperative" to imply affiliation with WIEC or our cooperative family.

You may have received a brown envelope in the mail from "A National Association, Serving Rural Co-operative Members". At first glance, it appears to be from WIEC or our national Co-op, NRECA. However, it is not.

We have heard from one member, Paul Kershner from Lomax. He told us he had had a very bad experience when he responded to their ad. Please don't be fooled.

Again, if you have doubts whether a piece of mail or a person at your door is affiliated with WIEC, call us and we can tell you. You don't have to guess.



3911-21-1

### Inside

- Our meter readers ..... page 2
- Summer puzzle ..... page 3
- Board meeting summary ..... page 4

**We Get Our Power From You**

## Hats off to our meter readers

Through rain, sleet, snow, mud, cold temperatures, heat and humidity, there is someone who comes to your house every month. Most members don't even know they are on the place. Who are these inconspicuous folks? They are the WIEC meter readers. On average, each meter reader spends 14 hours, drives 160 miles to read 200 meters *per month* for their route. They are a hardworking group and we appreciate their accuracy and dedication. Listed below are the names of the readers, the townships they serve and the length of service.

Route	Name	Townships	Length of Service
Route 1	Angie Jones	Walker, Wythe,	2 years
Route 2	Angie Jones	Wilcox, Rocky Run	
		St. Albans, Walker,	2 years
		Wythe, Bear Creek	
Route 3	Larry Huls	Augusta, St. Albans,	7 years
		Harmony, Chili	
Route 4	Margaret Siepel	Augusta, Harmony,	21 years
		St. Mary, Hancock	
Route 5	Larry Huls	St. Albans, Carthage,	7 years
		Harmony, Bear Creek	
Route 6	Sheri Johnson	Wythe, Bear Creek,	1 year
		Prairie, Montebello	
Route 7	Ardath Wepner	Montebello, Sonora	15 years
Route 8	Henrietta Johnson	Rock Creek, Sonora,	7 years
		Prairie, Carthage,	
		Montebello	
Route 9	Ruthanne Danielson	Hancock, Carthage,	2 years
		Ft. Green	
Route 10	Henrietta Johnson	Carthage, Pilot Grove,	7 years
		La Harpe	
Route 11	Robert Cratsenberg	Ft. Green, Pilot Grove,	10 years
		La Harpe, Terre Haute	
Route 12	Peggy Lepper	Appanoose, Pontoosuc,	3 years
		Durham, Pilot Grove,	
		Rock Creek, Sonora	
Route 14	Calvin Bollin	Appanoose	3 years
Route 15	Clyde Gittings	La Harpe, Durham,	13 years
		Carman, Lomax,	
		Terre Haute	
Route 16	Margaret Roth	Lomax, Terre Haute,	18 years
		Media, Stronghurst	
Route 17	Arlene Seitz	Media, Stronghurst,	19 years
		Gladstone	

You can help our meter readers do an even better job by keeping the weeds, debris or other obstructions from your meter. The meter needs to be accessible. Another help would be for you to calm a nervous dog when you see meter readers come up your driveway. We have some gracious members who voluntarily tie up their animals on the days the meter readers are expected. For that act of kindness, we thank you.

Remember that the meter reader is there to get an accurate reading, so you can get an accurate bill.

## Thawing gadgets compromise safety

New gadgets on the market claim to thaw food quickly or maintain hot or cold temperatures. But, says the Federal Trade Commission, some of these products don't measure up to their claims and may even increase the risk of food poisoning.

Advertisements claim that "thawing trays" can thaw foods rapidly at room temperature using "superconductive metal." Most are simply aluminum trays; however, the same accelerated thawing can be achieved with any metal pan. In addition, the FTC notes that thawing of some meat can still take as long as two hours — long enough for harmful bacteria to develop. To avoid that risk, foods should be thawed in the refrigerator or microwave, never at room temperature. **7710-4**

The "thermo-electric cooler" was designed to maintain the temperature of food that has already been heated or cooled, but doesn't often achieve that goal. Cooling levels are not as consistent as in a refrigerator and may vary according to outside conditions such as direct sunlight or excessive heat. As a warmer, it does not usually reach the safety threshold of 140 degrees F, needed to kill existing bacteria or prevent further bacterial growth.

For more information on food safety, call the Meat and Poultry Hotline at (800) 535-4544.

### Welcome new members: June

Bollin, Monica, Nauvoo  
 Burton, William E, Bethalto, IL  
 Davis, Brian N, Mendon  
 Dighton, Gary, Carthage  
 Fryrear, Steve, Stronghurst  
 Haberer, Leonard, W. Burlington,  
 IA

Hanks, Herman & Barbara E,  
 Carthage  
 Hobb, Louis & Brenda,  
 Hamilton  
 Jacquot, Jason L, Carthage  
 Miller, John, Tennessee, IL  
 Mulch, Randy D, Basco

Pomberg, Mary Lou, Nauvoo  
 Rothert, Glen A, Carthage  
 Sellars, Irene, Plymouth  
 Sowers, Lyle, Nauvoo  
 Stamper, Charles S & Tonya N,  
 Carthage  
 Tate, Aaron & Heather, Dallas City  
 Watts, Joliene, Carthage

# Summertime Word Scrambler

Take your mind off the summer heat by grabbing a cold drink and a spot of shade and trying your hand at this seasonal word scrambler.

garden  
pool  
sunshine  
fishing  
beach  
picnic  
bugs  
float  
vacation  
hot  
mosquito  
bike  
flowers  
vegetables  
tan  
burn  
sandals  
shorts  
swim  
cooler  
fan  
sweat  
humid  
sunscreen  
hat

g	n	i	h	s	i	f	v	b	o	m	s	r	e	z	t
f	o	w	m	a	a	s	l	t	f	l	o	w	e	r	s
p	a	x	r	f	g	k	i	b	l	x	s	t	a	n	g
s	v	p	o	u	m	u	t	a	h	f	t	v	t	l	u
o	e	y	b	t	q	n	e	d	y	b	r	s	m	f	s
y	g	r	s	s	p	c	s	b	c	h	o	t	l	j	n
q	e	i	o	s	u	h	r	r	e	l	h	e	r	t	f
n	t	m	e	l	d	n	l	o	o	p	s	d	h	l	n
g	a	n	a	a	u	b	s	l	w	c	n	k	o	x	o
v	b	t	r	d	v	t	g	h	e	b	t	a	n	u	i
h	l	l	q	n	f	x	q	s	i	v	t	y	w	m	t
s	e	y	s	a	t	s	d	a	n	n	u	b	s	b	a
k	s	k	n	s	k	r	i	n	t	r	e	l	o	o	c
h	w	c	i	j	u	g	m	u	a	q	u	p	r	d	a
c	c	z	i	b	s	f	u	d	e	f	e	b	n	s	v
m	x	a	y	n	w	n	h	b	w	h	w	s	c	q	u
o	n	e	e	r	c	s	n	u	s	d	s	w	i	m	r
f	v	n	u	b	n	i	j	f	h	e	v	h	t	u	k
a	r	y	o	b	x	g	p	j	o	g	a	r	d	e	n

## Fun with Fruits And Veggies

Children who learn to enjoy fruits and vegetables at an early age are much more likely to include them in their diets as they grow into adults. To make these foods more appealing to kids, try offering them in fun as well as nutritious ways.

Previously untried vegetables are better received if served in familiar favorites like pizza or stir-fries. There is no harm in being sneaky. Try shredding zucchini or carrots under the cheese on pizza, or mixing them with scrambled eggs.



Offer raw or lightly steamed veggies as finger foods, served with a dip or sauce.

Allow your children to help with the preparation and encourage creativity. Cut apples, carrots, potatoes or other firm fruits and vegetables into amusing shapes with small cookie cutters. Arrange the shapes to create faces or animals.

9622-11-36

The Dole Food Company offers the following recipe, guaranteed to get kids excited about eating broccoli.

### Trees in a Broccoli Forest

Makes four servings (two "trees")

Dipping sauce  
1/4 C. plain nonfat yogurt  
1/4 C. light sour cream  
2 tsp. honey  
2 tsp. spicy brown mustard

### Broccoli Trees

2 carrots, peeled  
2 C. broccoli florets  
4 cherry tomatoes  
3 T. parsley leaves

To prepare dipping sauce, combine all ingredients in a small bowl. Trim off ends of carrots. Cut each in half, crosswise, then lengthwise to make four pieces. Arrange two plates by grouping the carrot sticks to form clusters on each. Arrange broccoli on top of carrots. Place tomato halves at the top of the plate to form a sun. Spoon dip around the base of carrots and sprinkle with parsley.

## Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

524 North Madison  
P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321

**Office hours**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

**During office hours,  
or after hours  
to report outage**  
(217) 357-3125

### Board of directors

Ross E. Wear — President,  
*Carthage*

Haven Vaughn —  
Vice President, *Lomax*

Briscoe Menke — Secretary/  
Treasurer, *Carthage*

Rob Gronewold —  
Assistant Secretary/  
Treasurer, *Carthage*

Jay Morrison — Director,  
*Niota*

William R. Newton —  
Director, *Burnside*

Wayne Rampley — Director,  
*Sutter*

### Staff

Paul Dion — *Manager*

Virginia Hurwitz —  
*Adm. Asst.*

Tommie Long —  
*Mgr. of Operations*

Becky Dickinson —  
*Office Manager*

## From Our Last Meeting

### Summary of Board Meeting -May 28, 1998

Directors present: Rampley, Wear, Newton, Vaughn, Menke, Morrison and Gronewold. Also present: Dion, Hurwitz & Hartzell.

April, 1998, had a margin of \$31,988; total deficit for the year through April 28, 1998; net TIER for the year to date was .97.

Tanna Ellefritz has been hired as a new cashier/receptionist. She worked for the cooperative several years ago as part of the high school's cooperative training program.

The June board meeting has been rescheduled due to annual meeting on regular meeting date. The July board meeting has been rescheduled

to Tuesday, July 21, 1998.

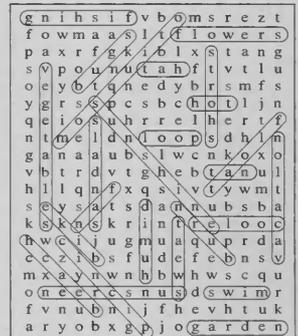
A resolution was adopted authorizing the Cooperative to apply to CFC for a CFC Power vision long-term loan in the amount of \$1,800,000 to provide financing for future financing needs.

**8623-1**

The request for early retirement of capital credits by the representative of the estate of Arta L. Hanning, deceased, was denied due to insufficient information.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office).

### Answer to Summertime Word Scrambler



## Annual Meeting prizes

### Gift

HD 50' outdoor extension cord  
150 watt work light  
Two stuffed bears  
George Washington Coin Set  
Six-months subscription to Journal  
\$20 cash  
\$25 gift cert. Walmart/Sam's Club  
50' outdoor extension cord  
Umbrella & four beverage holders  
Gift cert. for oil change & service  
Toaster Waffle Baker  
Polaroid Instant Camera  
\$25 cash  
Gift cert. - \$50 to Plum Tree  
\$50 Savings Bond  
Polaroid Instant Camera  
\$50 gift cert. - Nauvoo Hotel  
\$50 gift cert. - Plum Tree  
\$50 gift cert. - Nauvoo Hotel  
\$50 cash  
\$25 cash  
Electric Bar-B-Q grill  
First Alert Smoke Detector  
West Bend 6-qt. slow cooker  
Shop-Vac  
First Alert Smoke Detector  
Deer Scent  
\$500 cash

### Donor

Heintz Electric  
Fletcher Reinhardt  
Ridders Business Supply  
Marine Trust Co. of Carthage  
Hancock County Journal Pilot  
Carolyn Zimmerman  
Arkansas Electric Coop.  
Heintz Electric  
First Community Bank  
J & R Tire Service  
Electric Lab & Sales  
Burns & McDonnell Engineers  
Terra (Terry Allen)  
Burns & McDonnell Engineers  
Union Bank/West, Carthage  
Burns & McDonnell Engineers  
Quint-Dryer, CPAs  
First State Bank of Western Illinois  
WIEC  
WIEC  
United Utility Supply  
WIEC  
WIEC  
David Pitman, Lomax  
WIEC

### Recipient

Jerry Schmitz, Hamilton  
Duane Fugate, Carthage  
Theresa Carroll, Carthage  
Kathryn Hanks, Carthage  
Diana Belknap, Carthage  
Frederick G. Hartweg, Nauvoo  
Raymond Klingler, West Point  
Norma Mixer, Hamilton  
Russell Lawson, Plymouth  
Irene Jones, Hamilton  
Wayne Bolton, Carthage  
John LaCroix, Burnside  
J. Alan Dickerson, Carthage  
Loren Dowdall, Carthage  
Homer Neill, West Point  
Donald Parker, West Point  
Eileen Parker, West Point  
Merlin Marshall, Carthage  
Edith Galloway, Carthage  
Connie Neill, Carthage  
Keith I. Neill, Carthage  
Robert Reneau, Hamilton  
June Lefler, Blandinsville  
Richard Merritt, Carthage  
Darrold Bruns, Carthage  
Shirley Justus, Elvaston  
Reece E. Schmitz, Hamilton  
Donald C. Sewell, Nauvoo

### Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

## A look at Labor Day!

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. The idea for the celebration came from the Central Labor Union, which planned a demonstration and a picnic. Early participants in the earliest Labor Day parades were really staging rallies for the 8-hour workday. They gave up a day's pay to march.



Later Labor Days were held on Mondays to provide a longer weekend as a "workingman's holiday." The celebration's popularity grew with the formation of other labor organizations. By 1885, many U.S. cities were celebrating the day. Oregon was the first state to make Labor Day a legal holiday, and in 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a bill making it a national holiday.

### Office closing

**Western Illinois  
Electrical Coop's  
office will be closed  
Sept. 7  
in observance of  
Labor Day.**

**Have a safe and  
enjoyable holiday!**

## Don't just stand there!!

Standing in front of an open refrigerator door while you decide what you want wastes a lot of energy. The refrigerator and freezer can account for eight percent of every electric bill. Look for energy-efficient models with features like power-saver switches and improved insulation.

Here are other tips to think about.

- Place refrigerators and freezers away from heat sources (like the range)
- Keep the temperature between 37 and 42° in the refrigerator and 0 and 5° in the freezer. If you're away for more than a couple of days, turn your refrigerator up two or three settings.
- Cool foods to room temperature before placing them in the refrigerator unless the recipe specifies otherwise. Cover all stored liquids — they release vapors that increase the compressor's workload.

- Make sure your refrigerator door closes tightly. Close it on a dollar bill. If you can pull it out, you may need a new gasket. **956-14**
- Clean condenser coils (located on the back or bottom of your refrigerator) at least once a year to increase efficiency.
- Don't overcrowd your refrigerator. It can interfere with airflow and create "hot spots." On the other hand, most freezers work better fully loaded.
- Side-by-side refrigerators/freezers use about 45 percent more energy than over-under two-door models. Upright freezers use more energy than top-loading freezers

*(From Entergy Corporation's website @ [www.entergy.com](http://www.entergy.com))*

## Inside

- **1998 Annual Meeting of Members** ..... page 16b
- **Before cold winds blow** ..... page 16c
- **Welcome new members** ..... page 16d

**We Get Our Power From You**

## 1998 Annual Meeting of Members

275 members attended the 59th annual meeting of WIEC that was held June 25, 1998.



Paul congratulating Ross Wear and Briscoe Menke on their re-election to the WIEC board of directors.



Ross Wear, president of WIEC board of directors, presents the \$1,000 IEC Memorial Scholarship to Mark Hoemmen. Mark is the son of Frederick and Kathy Hoemmen of Dallas City.



Manager Dion told members of the new Customer Choice law passed in 1997. "The decision regarding when and under what conditions the cooperative will participate in the deregulated market will be made by the WIEC board of directors."



Tommie Long, manager of operations, and Harold Enzeroth, line foreman, accept awards for "best lost time" and "injury-illness" in recognition of WIEC's outstanding safety record.



Donald Sewell, Nauvoo, was winner of the \$500 grand prize at WIEC's annual meeting. Manager Paul Dion made the presentation.



Director Wayne Rampley hands member Norma Mixer her prize. Over 25 prizes were handed out to members during the evening.



Scott Carle, apprentice lineman, helps WIEC member get her ice cream bar. Chips and pop were also available.

## 1998 Annual Meeting of Members

## The Miss America Pageant

The first Miss America Pageant was a bathing beauty contest held in 1921 on the beach in Atlantic City, N.J., as a way to extend the summer tourist season one week beyond Labor Day. By 1940, the competition had moved indoors to the Convention Center, where it remains today and is broadcast each year on the second Saturday following Labor Day.

The first pageant winner, Margaret Gorman, hailed from Washington, D.C., and was only 15 years old. The blue-eyed blonde stood at 5'1" and measured 30-25-32. She remains the youngest and shortest contestant ever to have won the title of Miss America.

1. Miss America is allowed to keep her crown after her year's reign?  
A) True                      B) False
2. In 1994, the judges chose the first Miss America with a disability. What was her disability?  
A) Blindness              B) Deafness              C) Paralysis
3. Which two states have produced the most Miss America winners?  
A) California and Pennsylvania (six winners from each state)  
B) Ohio and Alaska (eight winners each)  
C) Hawaii and Arkansas (10 winners each)
4. Alaska, Delaware, and Idaho have had no Miss America winners:  
A) True                      B) False

5. Who was the first African American to win the title of Miss America?  
A) Vanessa Williams  
B) Cheryl Brown  
C) Halle Berry
6. What is the traditional song sung to the new Miss America?  
A) You Are So Beautiful  
B) America the Beautiful  
C) There She Is, Miss America
7. What piece of attire made its reappearance in the 1997 pageant?  
A) Hoop skirts              B) Bikinis              C) Athletic shoes
8. Which celebrity is not a former Miss America?  
A) Actress Lee Meriwether  
B) Actress Lynda Carter  
C) Former Sportscaster Phyllis George
9. In the first round of judging, which category is the most heavily weighted?  
A) Talent                      B) Interview  
C) On-Stage Personality in Evening Wear  
D) Physical Fitness in Swimsuit
10. Who emceed the pageant for 25 years?  
A) Bert Parks              B) Dick Clark              C) Merv Griffin

Answer Key: 1B; 2B; 3A; 4A; 5A; 6C; 7B; 8B; 9A; 10A

## Before the cold wind blows

Fall means the start of school, burning leaves and that cold weather is just around the corner. Before it arrives, check your furnace to make sure that it will be dependable when the temperature drops. If considering a new unit, please think about electric heat. There are many different types on the market today.

The most energy efficient type is geothermal. The basic theory is that the unit uses Mother Earth's ground temperature to heat and cool your home. Because it works with the constant temperature of the earth, operating a ground source heat pump is dirt-cheap. We offer a 6-cent per kwh year round rate plus other incentives. Geothermal sales grew by 22 percent last year in the United States and there have been 15 units installed on our lines since January 1997. Users

say that they experience more consistent comfort than they did with conventional heating and cooling systems. **855-31**

WIEC also has an electric heat program for other types of electric heat besides geothermal. Once the unit meets our qualifications, the member will be eligible for the 5-cent rate on kwh used in the months of October through April.

If considering a new furnace this fall, check into electric. It's safe, clean and comfortable. We have information available at the office including a list of contractors for you to talk with. WIEC members may also apply for financing through WIEC when new electric heat is installed. (Does not apply to new structures). **781-60**

## Employee retires after 28 years

Ardith Murphy, data entry clerk, retired from WIEC on July 31, 1998 after 28 years with the co-op. She began her employment in 1970 in the billing department. Over the years, Ardith has probably entered millions of pieces of data on several different computer systems. She also answered the phone, assisted at the counter and whatever else needed to be done. She has been an important part of the billing process with her speed, her accuracy and her ready smile.

Ardith and her husband, Darrell, have four children and eight grandchildren. She is looking forward to retirement so she can stay home on their farm and enjoy life with her family. We wish her the best.

## Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

524 North Madison  
P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321

Office hours  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

During office hours,  
or after hours  
to report outage  
(217) 357-3125

### Board of directors

Ross E. Wear — President,  
*Carthage*

Haven Vaughn —  
Vice President, *Lomax*

Briscoe Menke — Secretary/  
Treasurer, *Carthage*

Rob Gronewold —  
Assistant Secretary/  
Treasurer, *Carthage*

Jay Morrison — Director,  
*Niota*

William R. Newton —  
Director, *Burnside*

Wayne Rampley — Director,  
*Sutter*

### Staff

Paul Dion — *Manager*

Virginia Hurwitz —  
*Adm. Asst.*

Tommie Long —  
*Mgr. of Operations*

Becky Dickinson —  
*Office Manager*

### Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

## From Our Last Meeting



### Summary of Board Meeting — June 23, 1998

Directors present: Rampley, Wear, Newton, Vaughn, Menke, Morrison and Gronewold. Also present: Dion, Hurwitz and Hartzell.

May 1998, had a deficit of \$5,332.00; total deficit for the year through May 31, 1998 was \$8,625.00; net TIER for the year-to-date was .93.

A resolution was adopted designating Haven Vaughn as the cooperative representative and William R. Newton as the alternate to the 1998 meeting of Illinois members of NRECA to be held July 30, 1998, in Springfield.

A resolution was adopted designating Briscoe N. Menke as the cooperative's representative and Haven Vaughn as the alternate to

the 57th annual meeting of AIEC in Springfield July 30-31, 1998.

A resolution was adopted designating Briscoe N. Menke as the cooperative's director and Robert N. Gronewold as the alternate for the AIEC board of directors.

Approval was given to a request for early retirement of capital credits by the representative of the estates of Delmar B. Russell, deceased, and Wilbur E. Meyer, deceased.

The request for early retirement of capital credits by the representative of the estate of Arta Hanning, deceased, was again denied due to insufficient information.

Approval was given to Tom and Laurie Scheetz for an ERC loan in the amount of \$6,000 for installation of a ground source heat pump. **3823-48**

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office).

## Welcome new members

### July

Brueck, Mark R. and Sharon J. *Burlington, IA*

Clark, John H. and Esther C., *Grand Ridge, IL*

Dickerson, Rod, *Carthage*

Dion, Paul M., *Carthage*

Garrido, Kathleen, *Nauvoo*

Hammond, Tom, *Astoria, IL*

Jones, Harley K. and Tiffany R., *LaHarpe*

Little, Jon W. Jr. and Tonya A., *Burnside*

Lotz, Timothy and Bonnie, *Carthage*

McGrath, J. Phil and Susan, *Niota*

McSparen, Gary L., *Lomax*

Nolan, Daniel K., *Niota*

Poland, Leonard E. and Shirley A., *Nauvoo*

Ronner, Damien, *Stronghurst*

Rowan, Steven P. and Morfoula S., *Burlington, IA*

St. Clair, Joseph P., *Hamilton*

Savage, Dan L., *Stronghurst*

Straka, Jeffrey and Debra, *Nauvoo*

Strope, Anthony A. and Tracy L., *Nauvoo*

Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

## Hunter's Secret hunting season insurance

Many hunting products—and loads of other products, in fact—claim to be unique, but when WIEC member, David Pitman of Lomax tells you his product is unique, you can believe it. He's come up with a scent that enables hunters to go afield without worrying about their scent giving them away. He calls his product "The Hunter's Secret". Pitman, who has lived in many places, realized that Lomax was "home", and set out to get into a business that would enable him to make a living while living there. Hunter's Secret is the solution.

"The idea behind Hunter's Secret is simple," he says. "Hunters spend good money to outfit themselves for their sport. They may buy camouflage gear, special clothing, watertight boots and fine hunting weapons.

"But one area they do not have covered can be the most irritating, and that's the elements. Scent control, the wind, the sun, and bugs are all major distractions in a successful hunt or to the enjoyment of their sport, whether it is hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, or whatever."

His first development, The Hunter's Secret Bag, offers a unique delivery system and natural scent-masker. The plants he uses have been used traditionally to

cover scent, and his herbs are naturally repellent to many bugs.

"Unlike many covers," he says, "The Hunter's Secret Bag is dry. The particles are absorbed into the fabric and the aroma does not dissipate, as it will with wetting agents that evaporate after application. Hunters from all regions of the country tell us it really works.

"All our products are developed to aid the sportsman by moisturizing the skin, protecting from sunburn, and deterring bugs, all the while adding to their cover and comfort. The in-



Hunter's Secret is offered in several forms, and in a gift pack.

gredients for all are derived from the same blend of plants and herbs. Each has many healing and soothing qualities. Used together, they offer the sportsman a fine answer to the question of comfort and stealth."



David Pitman is pictured with a couple of the staples of his product line, which enable hunters to cover their scent while in the field.

As the hunting season approaches and the time nears to drag out all that equipment, you may want to give Dave a call, and see if you can improve your odds just a little. He's at P.O. Box 66, Lomax, 61454. His phone number's (888)419-3702, and the fax number is 1-217-449-3702, or point your web browser to [theiridge@netins.net](mailto:theiridge@netins.net). You'll be glad you did. (9621-19-7)

### Inside

- Co-op membership ..... 16b
- 12 days of harvest ..... 16c
- Meter-reader applicants needed ..... 16d

**We Get Our Power From You**

## From Our Last Meeting



### Summary of Board Meeting - July 21, 1998

Directors present, Rampley, Wear, Vaughn, Morrison and Gronewold. Absent Menke and Newton. Also present: Dion, Hurwitz & Hartzell.

June 1998 had a margin of \$37,454; total margins for the year through June 30, 1998 were

\$28,828; net TIER for the year to date was 1.18. (10532-13)

Manager Dion reported on the storm of June 29, 1998. The cooperative experienced over 20 broken poles. The employees are to be congratulated for their hard work and dedication in restoring customers to power. Over 95 percent of the cooperative's customers had power within 24 hours.

A motion was approved designating Haven Vaughn as the cooperative's voting delegate and Briscoe Menke as the alternate delegate at the NRECA Region 5 meeting to be held in LaCrosse,

Wisconsin, Sept. 16-18, 1998.

A motion was approved designating Briscoe Menke as the cooperative's voting delegate and Haven Vaughn as the alternate delegate at the CFC District 5 meeting to be held in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Sept. 16-18, 1998.

Approval was given to a request for early retirement of capital credits by the representative of the estate of Arta L. Hanning, deceased.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

## Belonging — What does it mean?

Congratulations! You are a member of Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative. You've got your membership certificate, get a bill and receive the monthly newsletter. But is there anything else? Yes there is. It means that you receive electrical service at cost. Any money leftover at the end of the year — after the bills are paid - is allocated back to the *members*. That's the "something else" that makes cooperatives unique.

In 1997, WIEC allocated over \$265,000 in capital credits. To figure your share of the capital credits that were allocated, take the dollars paid to WIEC for electrical use, less tax, and multiply by the allocation factor of .0618. For example, in 1997:

Amount you paid to WIEC	\$1,225
less utility tax of	<u>-25</u>
difference	\$1,200
multiplied by allocation factor of	<u>.0618</u>
Capital credits for 1997	\$74.16

Most rural electric cooperatives, including WIEC, will keep these capital credits for a while to pay for capital improvements and other expenses. Then, when the board of directors decide that the Cooperative's financial position is strong, they will authorize the capital credits to be refunded.

## Low Income Energy Assistance

If you need financial assistance to pay your electric bill, you may be eligible to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The program begins on Oct. 1, 1998 for households that have elderly, disabled, or have been disconnected. Applications for all others will be accepted starting Nov. 1, 1998. Applicants must call for an appointment and bring with them proof of income for the last 30 days, their most recent electric bill and Social Security Numbers for all the household. For more details contact the following:

Members in Hancock, Henderson and McDonough Counties:

### Western Illinois Regional Council

223 S. Randolph  
Macomb, IL 61455  
(309) 837-2997

### Members in Adams County: Two Rivers Regional Council

4<sup>th</sup> & State  
Quincy, IL 62301  
(217) 224-8171

In addition, members may also find help from: The Salvation Army, their Township supervisors, the Veteran's Administration and area churches.

## Welcome new members

### August

Adams, Wm. Howard, Urbana, IL  
Beckner, Cynthia J, Colchester  
Blue, Sean A, Blandinsville  
Clarkson, Jerry L, Nauvoo  
Evans, Steven John & Barbara  
Bennett, Stronghurst  
Farmer, Jason & Paula, Sutter

Gates Sammy, Bumside  
Hernandez, Penny R, Carthage  
Hewitt, Sandy Kay, Lomax  
Langley, Charles D, Dallas City  
McVey, Theresa, Gladstone  
Prairie Winds Motel, c/o Steve  
Carvell, Carthage  
Pryor, Monte E & Lisa A, Augusta

Rogers, Dan, Lomax  
Smith, Debra M & William R,  
Blandinsville  
Smith, Gary L & Becky J, LaHarpe  
Taylor, William, Pekin, IL  
Vollbracht, Brian, Bowen  
Woolsey, V David, East Galesburg, IL

## The 12 days of harvest

On the first day of harvest, my true love said to me, that with all our kids to help he wouldn't need me.

On the second day of harvest, the kids all laughed with glee, 'cause all the chicken chores and milking chores would now be up to me.

On the third day of harvest, my husband said to me, "Help me tie this tarp down, run this half load to town, pick up some salt blocks and check the cattle 'cause we're too busy."

On the fourth day of harvest, they gave a broken part to me and said, "Try the coop in town and every implement dealer. Keep driving until you find the right policy."

On the fifth day of harvest, my husband said to me, "We're moving to the other end of the field. You bring the pickup, fill up the gas tanks and water jugs, put the tool box and can of bolts with nuts and washers. Better bring our dinner and this time, don't forget the iced tea."

On the sixth day of harvest, my daughter called to me, "The elevator's tied up and I can't get unloaded. Take the old Chevy truck, make sure it's gassed up, check the oil and battery and get over to the west field in a hurry."

On the seventh day of harvest, my husband said to me, "We're going to bring some wheat in. Will you clean the north bin?" Then they set up the auger and left me scooping breathlessly.

On the eighth day of harvest, my husband gave a list to me. "Don't know if this belt will last. Better get to town fast. I also need another reel slat, filter and this bearing. Bring it all back to the field. Throw in an extra scoop shovel and don't forget the goop that makes the chains run free." (3619-26)

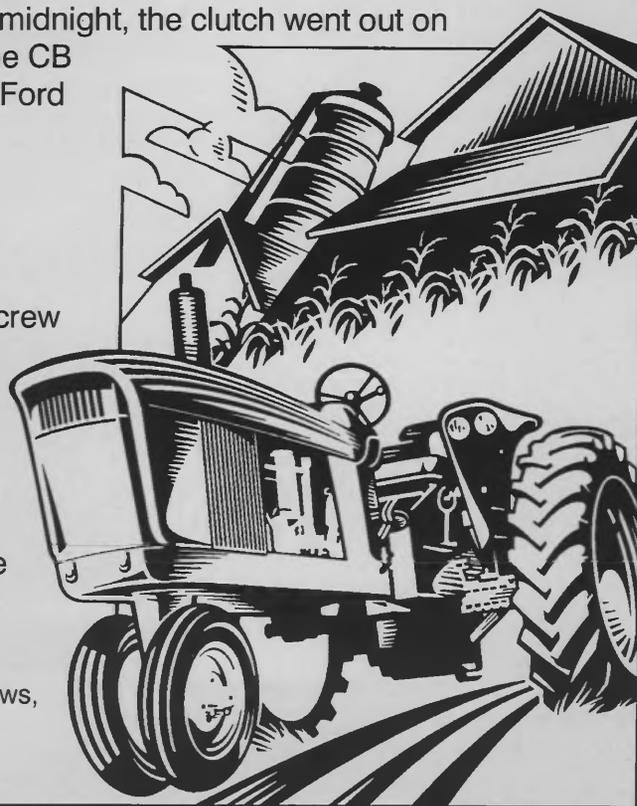
On the ninth day of harvest, shortly before midnight, the clutch went out on the combine. My husband called to me on the CB and said, "Find the heavy log chain. Get the Ford tractor and come pull me home."

On the tenth day of harvest, my true love snapped at me as I handed tools up to him nervously.

On the eleventh day of harvest, the whole crew said to me, "Want to fill the gas tanks while we eat, take home this load of wheat and bring back a lug wrench, another water jug and a spray bomb for the bugs?"

On the last day of harvest, my husband grinned at me, "If all goes right we should be done by midnight. And aren't you glad you didn't have to help this year?"

(Editor's note: This has appeared in previous WIEC news, but we thought it was worth another look!)



## Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

524 North Madison  
P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321

**Office hours**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

**During office hours,  
or after hours  
to report outage**  
(217) 357-3125

### Board of directors

Ross E. Wear — President,  
*Carthage*

Haven Vaughn —  
Vice President, *Lomax*

Briscoe Menke — Secretary/  
Treasurer, *Carthage*

Rob Gronewold —  
Assistant Secretary/  
Treasurer, *Carthage*

Jay Morrison — Director,  
*Niota*

William R. Newton —  
Director, *Burnside*

Wayne Rampley — Director,  
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*Adm. Asst.*

Tommie Long —  
*Mgr. of Operations*

Becky Dickinson —  
*Office Manager*

### Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

# WANTED

WIEC is updating our files concerning meter reader applications. This part-time job consists of reading between 150-175 meters over a three-day period around the end of the month. We allow three days to read, however it usually takes less time. Usually the meters are in the meter reader's neighborhood and cover approximately a township to township and a half. Applicants must have their own transportation and will be reimbursed for mileage. **(5533-39)**



If you or another member you know would be interested in reading meters for WIEC, please let us know. We will be happy to answer any questions.

## Paying your bill just became easier

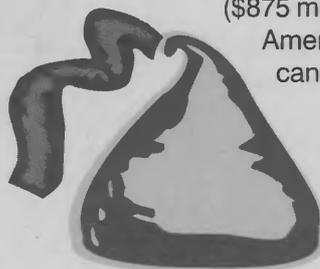
Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will be installing a payment box that will be accessible from your car or truck. Look for the white metal box on the west side of the circle drive. This box is intended for payments by check, cashier's check or money order. Please do not use this box for cash payments. If you prefer to pay your bill with cash, continue to use the walk-up box located by the front door. And as always, members are welcome to come inside to pay their bill or drop the payment in the mail.



## Halloween candy consumption

Halloween is the busiest time of the year for the candy industry. Last year, Americans spent \$950 million for this October holiday. Other big holidays for candy sales are: Christmas (\$945 million in 1997), Easter (\$875 million), and Valentine's Day (\$709 million).

Americans consume an average of 26.2 pounds of candy and gum each year.



However much candy you and your family consume, WIEC hopes you have a safe and sweet Halloween.



Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

## WIEC Celebrates 60th Anniversary

On Aug. 1st, 1938, the first meeting of the board of directors of WIEC was held. These seven men and women knew that the rural residents of Hancock County wanted electricity, but could not pay the exorbitant high fees the commercial power company wanted to charge. They knew that by working together, they could bring electricity to the rural area.

They had the cooperative spirit. That was sixty years ago and WIEC is still here bringing electricity to the rural areas of Hancock, Henderson, Adams and McDonough counties.

A lot has happened in 60 years. There have been many innovations that have made electricity not merely a convenience, but a necessity. We understand this and

do our very best to bring the kind of service and reliability you can depend on.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a Member's Appreciation Day on Nov. 25, 1998 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please make plans to stop in and have some cake and coffee. Help us celebrate 60 years of serving you — our members.

## Students encouraged to apply for 1999 IEC Memorial Scholarship



Western Illinois Electrical Coop manager, Paul M. Dion, 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. **6819-31**

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," Dion said. "Western Illinois Electrical Coop. 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 Western Illinois Electrical Coop. at (217) 357-3125, or ask your high school guidance counselor.

### Inside

- PRO Mbroldery ..... 16b
- New members ..... 16c
- Holiday meal tips ..... 16d

**We Get Our Power From You**

## Quality, service are hallmarks of PRO Mbroidery

Denise Martin of Ferris has the best of both worlds — and the worst! The WIEC member remarks that she decided to work out of her home because her embroidery business was largely wholesale, and that downtown visibility wasn't necessary. But it also offered flexibility as far as hours of business are concerned. And while that's often an advantage, sometimes it isn't.

"There's a problem in that you're never away from it," she says, "but it's an advantage when you have to get a job out fast."

Denise, who operates PRO Mbroidery, used to work for a similar shop in Quincy and decided to go into business for herself. She considered locating on the square in Carthage, and rejected the idea, largely because of the advantages of working from home. "I like the rural area," she says, "and I like where I'm at. I'd miss that if I worked in town. And there's the advantage of being able to care for my daughters, too. They're 15 and three years old."

She notes that much of her business comes from the internet, and that she has a web page, to display her wares. "It's really nice, because I can have my entire product line on display, and people can order without any trouble," she says.

Her clientele involves mostly schools and businesses, but she'll work with anyone who needs some work done. Besides embroidery, she does heat transfer work and makes special mouse pads. "The heat transfer work is very much like the iron-on materials you see all over," she says, "but I have a press that does a better job than ironing will do. And the mouse pad work is very similar to that process."

But embroidered shirts and caps are her mainstay, and schools are an important source of work. "I've had orders from as far away as Florida, Washington State and Connecticut," she relates, "but by far most of my or-



Denise works at her computer. She can modify or adjust settings to make different designs.



Denise prepares a piece of material for work. She notes that she can embroider anything that can be put into a hoop.

ders come from the upper Midwest. For a while, most of the school orders tended to be for shirts, and corporate orders were for caps, but things have changed lately." **7826-5**

"With more businesses going to casual Fridays, I'm getting a lot of orders for embroidered polo shirts, both short and long-sleeved, and for sweaters, too. And some businesses, especially banks, are going to embroidered polo shirts for their employees."

She tries to set up her work so the first to order are the first to receive their goods, but occasionally someone comes in with a small rush order that she'll put ex-

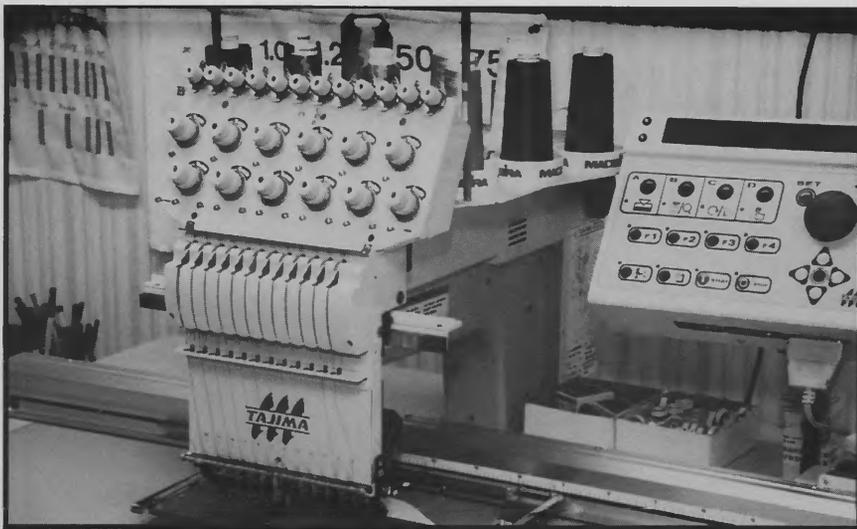
tra effort into getting out in a hurry.

"That's one of the advantages to having your work at home," she says, "because it enables you to work until the job's done. I've put in some 12-and 16-hour days to get jobs out, and I just accept that as part of being self-employed and working out of my home."

And while there are any number of institutional customers, individuals come in for embroidered items, too, and Denise tries hard to provide them with a product they'll be happy with. "A lot of people will come in with a general idea," she says, "and I'll work with them to help them determine which colors they want, how much lettering they need, how big it should be, the graphic design they like, and things like that. I have a lot of patterns I can use to provide different art and lettering."

Her machine, which is fully computer-controlled, can work with up to 12 colors of thread, and it trims the threads as it finishes stitching each color.

Her small shop — she has the one machine — assures top quality. "I set up the machine and watch it run," she says, "and I can tell if the tension is right, and if everything is going well. It's not like one of those big shops where



The Tajima machine will handle up to 12 colors of thread.



Denise prepares a shirt for embroidery. Note the many colors of thread in the background.

there are 30 machines and a couple of people watch over all of them. I inspect each item that comes off the machine, and I make sure it's ready to wear."

She emphasizes that she can replicate just about any design, given time, but that there are some things she cannot do. "Reg-

istered trademarks are off limits unless the buyer has permission from the owner," she says, "and that's taken for granted. But I have a lot of nice art and a machine that's very programmable. I can provide top quality embroidery at a good price, and with good service." **5814-17**

Those interested in contacting PRO Mbroidery can call Denise at (217) 746-8000. Her internet address is [www.adams.net/~broidery](http://www.adams.net/~broidery).

## Welcome new members: September

Anderson, Kevin P, Lomax  
Beckett, Jennifer A, Carthage  
Billings, Clarence V & Nancy J, Stronghurst  
Boyer, Mike, Niota  
Coulter, Joe, Warsaw  
Dalisay, Senen R, M.D. & Sharon A, Hamilton  
Gates, Neeley J, Dallas City  
Huls Dairy, by Tony & Sid Huls, Carthage  
Jackson, David W & Judy W, Nauvoo  
Kelley, Robert & Amy, Carthage  
Messer, Joseph, Burlington, IA  
Riggins, Larry & Jackie, Macomb  
Senf, Sandra M, Dallas City  
Spangler, Darren K & Shelly A, Carthage  
Tallman, Heidi Ann & Raymond Joseph, Lomax  
Webb, Shawna, Niota

## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is celebrated each year on the last Thursday in November, this year Nov. 26, and is a legal holiday in the United States.

The Pilgrims, one of the first groups of European settlers in America, observed the first Thanksgiving in this country nearly 400 years ago. In 1621, William Bradford, governor of the Plymouth colony, called for a day of feasting to celebrate the bountiful harvest. The Pilgrims included their Native American neighbors in the festivities.

George Washington proclaimed

the first national Thanksgiving on Nov. 26, 1789. Abraham Lincoln later designated the last Thursday of November for the holiday, sparked, in part, by pressure from Sara Joseph Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book, a popular magazine of the time.

Today, a feast remains the focal point of the celebration, and the traditional fare — turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie — echoes the menu of the very first gathering. More people travel to be with their loved ones on Thanksgiving than on any other holiday.



## Holiday closings

WIEC will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> in observance of Veteran's Day and Thursday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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Monday - Friday

During office hours,  
or after hours  
to report outage  
(217) 357-3125

### Board of directors

Ross E. Wear — President,  
Carthage

Haven Vaughn —  
Vice President, Lomax

Briscoe Menke — Secretary/  
Treasurer, Carthage

Rob Gronewold —  
Assistant Secretary/  
Treasurer, Carthage

Jay Morrison — Director,  
Niota

William R. Newton —  
Director, Burnside

Wayne Rampley — Director,  
Sutter

### Staff

Paul Dion — Manager

Virginia Hurwitz —  
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Tommie Long —  
Mgr. of Operations

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### Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

## From Our Last Meeting



### Summary of Board Meeting — August 27, 1998

Directors present: Rampley, Wear, Vaughn, Morrison and Gronewold. Absent: Menke and Newton. Also present: Dion, Hurwitz & Hartzell

July, 1998, had a margin of \$113,131.00; total margins for the year through July 31, 1998 were

\$141,960.00; net TIER for the year to date was 1.77.

A payment box will be placed in the circle drive in front of the cooperative for payments made by check only and for the convenience of the members.

The end of June storm expense was less than \$18,000.00 total.

Approval was given to a request for early retirement of capital credits by the representative of the estate of Cora Belle Eyman, deceased. **4628-49**

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

## USDA offers tips for preparing holiday meals

Holiday time is traditionally turkey time. But rib roasts, hams, crown roasts of lamb, or wild game can also make a delightful and delicious presentation on the holiday table.

Whatever the choice, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service offers the following tips to make your special meal perfect and perfectly safe.

Choose meat or poultry that has been inspected for wholesomeness by the USDA or a state inspection system.

Once home, refrigerate all meats immediately.

Cook or freeze fresh poultry within one to two days; fresh meats, three to five days.

Dress wild game in the field after killing, and chill as soon as possible.

To remove the "gamey" flavor from wild meat or poultry, soak overnight in a solution of either one-tablespoon salt or one cup vinegar per quart of cold water.

For best flavor, roast tender meats and poultry in a shallow uncovered pan in a moderately slow oven.

Use a meat thermometer to determine when the meat or poultry has reached a safe temperature

as well as preferred doneness. As a general rule of thumb, beef should reach an internal temperature of 145 degrees Fahrenheit for medium rare, or 160 degrees for medium; lamb, 160 degrees for medium or 170 degrees for well done; fresh pork, 160 degrees; veal, 160 degrees medium, 170 degrees well done; poultry, 180 degrees.

For more information about meat and poultry safety, call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at (800) 535-4555. Home economists will answer calls in person 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Monday through Friday. Callers can also select from a menu of recorded food safety messages 24 hours a day.

Information is also available on the Internet from the USDA FSIS home page at <http://www.usda.gov/fsis>.





WIEC recently fielded a team in the "Walk for Life" cancer walk-a-thon, and raised over \$700 to help fight the disease. The team is pictured here. Front row (l-r), Donna Cramer, Virginia Hurwitz and Karmen Metternich. Back row (l-r), Tommie Long, Becky Dickinson and Paul Dion.

## An ERC loan can help make your home energy efficient.

Don't let the winter winds blow your heating dollars out the window. Insulation, weather-stripping, caulking or new storm windows or doors can save you money. WIEC has loan money available to its members for improvements such as these on their existing home. Other improvements can be attic ventilation fans as well as installation of electric heat. We can loan up to \$3,000 at a 5 percent interest rate for 60 months for these types of improvements. Loans for

installation of a ground source heat pump can be up to \$6,000 at a 5 percent rate for 60 months. The best part is that the payment can be added to the member's electric bill - no extra checks to write! **8611-10**

Improvements must be made on an existing structure on WIEC lines and the member must have a good payment record with WIEC. Call us and we can give you more information.

## Inside

- **Employee is shooting enthusiast** ..... **16b**
- **heating tips** ..... **16c**
- **student reminder** ..... **16d**

**We Get Our Power From You**



## Office closings

WIEC's office will close at noon on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and re-open Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>.

WIEC's office will close at noon on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> and re-open Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.

The board of directors and employees of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. wish you and yours a happy, healthy holiday season.



## Goin' south for the winter?



If you're planning on leaving the snow and cold behind this winter, please let our office know. We will need your new address to make sure that you get your electric bill sent to you in a timely manner. WIEC can also arrange your enrollment in our ACH program. This will allow your bill to be paid without having the hassle of dealing with the mail or interrupting your vacation time.



## **WIEC employee shoots clay pigeons**

Like many women, Karmen Metternich enjoyed watching her husband at his hobby. And like many women, she decided to try her hand at it, too. Now the Metternichs enjoy an occasional evening at the local trap shooting range. **9636-9**

Karmen, a Hamilton-area native, is WIEC's billing coordinator. Her husband, Aron, is an assistant superintendent at the Hamilton Water and Sewer Departments. They live just outside Hamilton with their 17-month-old daughter, Sydney.

Karmen came to WIEC in a roundabout way, first leaving

Hamilton to attend Western Illinois University, where she got a teaching degree, and taught at Good Hope. After a budget cut left her jobless, she sold insurance for four years until the job she now holds came open.

"I'd gone with Aron to 'The Smokin' Gun', a shooting club just outside Hamilton," she says, "and often there were several other women spectators there, too. Marlys Miller asked me to join her team, 'Great River Ready Mix,' so I gave it a shot. There are two women's teams now, but it would be great if more would participate."

Karmen notes that she has a Winchester Model 12 shotgun, a world-class classic if not a real glamor gun, while Aron has a Browning BT 99.

"Aron goes to several shoots a year," Karmen says. "I do most of my shooting at 'Smokin'Gun' and the Hancock County Gun Club in Carthage.

"In trap, targets are thrown one at a time at various angles. You stand on one of five stations and shoot five targets per station for a total of 25 targets per round. "The goal, of course, is to hit all 25 targets in a series, although I've never done that. I've hit 24 out of 25 a couple of times, though."

While many people get involved in their spouse's hobbies to a limited degree, and without a great deal of depth, Karmen gets her hands dirty at the reloading bench, too. They reload their empty shell cases, an economic necessity brought on by the high cost of shotgun shells.

The case is the most expensive single part of a shot shell. It is far more durable than necessary for just one shot, and is the easiest to reclaim. This is why many shooters reload their fired cases. Karmen and Aron also reload, using a MEC 900OG reloading press.

"I reload my shells," Karmen

says, "but Aron doesn't like me to reload his. He says I don't pay close enough attention and the machine doesn't drop a full charge. That can be a problem when you're shooting in a tournament, although I'm perfectly happy with the shells I load."

They buy enough reloading components for 5,000 rounds per year. "When I'm shooting," Karmen says, "I'll go through about 50 shells a week and Aron will use about 200. Being able to reload makes it affordable. It's nice because it's a hobby we can enjoy doing together."



Karmen's Winchester Model 12 shows a certain amount of wear, as many workhorse classics do.

## Welcome new members:

Belknap, Dan R, Carthage  
 Berry, Elgin & Gaby, Burnside  
 Blackledge, Jeffrey L & Debbie, Stronghurst  
 Brown, Denis M, Carthage  
 Burr, Rodney L, Lomax  
 Gittings, Ronnie C & Shelly R, Lomax  
 Johnson, Tim, Colchester  
 Lefler, Charles L & Donna G, Stronghurst  
 Miller, Suzette, Plymouth  
 Parry, William L & Brandy C, Carthage  
 Reighard, Susan, Stronghurst  
 Rogers, Michael N & Christina B, Nauvoo  
 Smith, David R, Carthage  
 Spence, David A & Ellen N, Peoria  
 Tanner, Nikki L, Niota  
 Wells, Jesse R, Gladstone

## From Our Last Meeting



Summary of  
Board Meeting  
— September  
24, 1998

Directors present: Rampley, Wear, Vaughn, Morrison, Menke, Gronewold and Newton. Also present: Dion, Hurwitz & Hartzell.

August 1998, had a margin of \$49,524; total margins for the year through Aug. 31, 1998 were \$191,484; net TIER for the year to date was 1.91.

Because of Thanksgiving falling on regular meeting date in November, the November board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1998, at 7 p.m.

Consideration was given to date for upcoming Goals Committee meeting. Operations committee will be held on Monday, Nov. 2; Member Services committee on Thursday, Nov. 5, and Finance committee on Tuesday, Nov. 10. **585-32**

Approval was given to a request for early retirement of capital credits by the representatives of the estates of Earl Scanlan, deceased, and William C. Hayes, deceased.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WEC office.)

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7309



Recently, four employees of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. went to St. Louis to attend training seminars pertaining to the computer system used at WIEC. This additional training will allow them to use their system more efficiently. Pictured are (l-r) Donna Cramer, Tanna Ellefritz and Karmen Metternich. Also attending was Becky Dickinson. 587-37



Marti Hopp, Nauvoo, discovers how easy it is to use WIEC's new drop box. The box is located in front of the office.

## Hey college bound seniors!

Just a reminder, the deadline for applying for the IEC Memorial Scholarship is Jan. 1. Applications can be picked up at your high school guidance counselor's office or at the WIEC office.

