

Need a new heater?

Geothermal heating uses free earth- energy

If your old heater has seen better days, why not consider the latest in energy efficient heating and cooling — a geothermal heat pump. Your new heat pump will use the earth's energy to heat and cool your home for year-round energy savings.

Geothermal heat pumps are quiet, efficient, clean, safe and environmentally sound.

Energy savings

Geothermal heat pumps take advantage of the constant year-round 55 to 60 degree ground temperature. You can get \$4 in heating and cooling from each dollar of electricity.

Other advantages

- Free hot water through a waste heat recovery system.
- No outdoor compressor — you and your neighbors will appreciate its quiet operation.
- Safe, pollution-free operation. No flame and no carbon monoxide poisoning.

***For more information on new heat pump technology,
contact your electric cooperative or local
geothermal heat pump dealer.***





Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. 618-662-2171 FLORA, ILLINOIS

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. Is actively preparing for the year 2000

One of the hottest topics in the news recently has been the Year 2000 (Y2K) issue. The Y2K issue refers to potentially serious problems that could develop in computers and other date-sensitive electric equipment and software because of dates prior to, during and after the year 2000.

If a computer, date-sensitive electronic component or software program only recognizes the year by the last two digits (such as 98 for the year 1998), it may erroneously recognize 00 as the year

1900 rather than the year 2000. This could cause a broad range of malfunctions and difficulties that could be very disruptive to our electronically based society.

A major area of concern is the complex and interconnected network of electric generation facilities, transmission systems and distribution systems known as the national power grid. As homeowners and businesses become aware of the Y2K issue, they want to know if their electric service will continue uninterrupted when the date changes.

We are a distribution cooperative that is taking this question very seriously to ensure that we will be able to keep the power flowing to all of you (our member-owners) before, on and after January 1, 2000.

We are addressing the Y2K issue now by auditing our entire system and finding which components may cause a problem. The process of achieving Y2K readiness is a very in-depth operation which we hope to have completed well in advance.

Board meeting report

All Trustees were present, with the exception of Trustee Dunigan, also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held September 28.

Accepted 17 new members for service.

Canceled 21 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of September, 1998 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders for August totaling \$16,526.54 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Received reports of recent Soyland and AIEC meetings from Manager Wattles and Trustee Cammon.

Approved a refund of capital credits to the estate of deceased members Don and Thelma Williams.

Heard a report from RUS Field Representative Aaron Johnson.

Instructed Manager Wattles to obtain costs on an updated long-range work plan.

Tabled the truck bid matter until the November meeting and instructed Manager Wattles to present the same to the Purchasing Committee for review.

Accepted the disbursement list for September, 1998.

Discussed possible repairs to the Clay Electric building located at the Charlie Brown Park fairgrounds and **Instructed** Manager Wattles to investigate expense involved.

Adjournment.

If you are planning on building a new home, please call our Member Services department about our Geo-Thermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

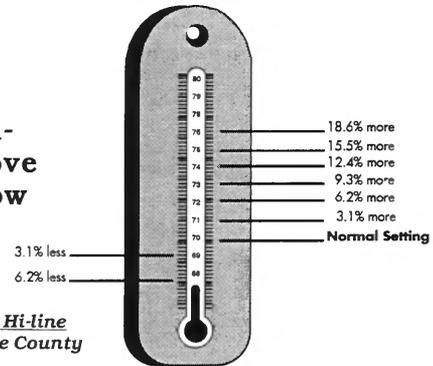
A couple of degrees equals a bunch of dollars!!!

A degree here and a degree there and pretty soon you're talking real money! Lowering your thermostat by one or two degrees in the winter can mean real savings on your heating bills. Raising the temperature can also result in much larger heating bills.

For example, lowering your thermostat to 68° from 70° will save you 6.2 percent on your heating bill. Lowering the thermostat just one degree will save you 3.1 percent. However, let's say you like to keep your home toasty warm in the winter. Cranking up the thermostat to 76° will jack up your heating bill by 18.6 percent. Remember: each degree you raise or lower the thermostat from 70° means you will pay 3.1 percent more or less on your heating bill.

Temperature settings affect heating operating costs

Cost of keeping room temperature above and below 70°.



Source: *The Hi-line News*, Meade County RECC

Who's responsible for electric facilities?

During the stages of new construction or upgrading of electric facilities, questions about ownership of poles, meter loops, wires and breaker panels are usually asked. When existing electrical equipment has been in place for many years, or if new facilities are required, ownership may not be obvious to the member-consumer. It's good to know who is responsible for maintenance or repairs and we hope that this article will answer most questions.

Overhead electric service

The Cooperative is responsible for:

- Wires from the transformer to the meter pole and electrical connections on those wires.
- The meter.

The member is responsible for:

- The meter socket.
- The meter loop.

- Fuse and/or breaker panels, including disconnect switches.
- Wires leaving the meter pole to services at other locations such as homes, barns, garages, shops, and connections for those wires.

Underground electric service

The Cooperative is responsible for:

- Wires from the transformer to the meter location or pedestal.
- The meter.

The member is responsible for:

- The meter socket.
- Wires running from the meter location or pedestal to other locations such as homes, barns, garages, shops, and those connections.
- Any disconnect switches, fuse panels or breaker panels at the meter.

Rent a high-pressure sodium security light

Rent a high-pressure sodium, 150-watt security light from Clay Electric Co-operative for only \$2.50 per month, and protect your home and family.

Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and thefts. Falls and other injuries can also be avoided by lighting dark areas.

For more information, call Clay Electric Co-operative at (618) 662-2171 during regular office hours.



Don't let carbon monoxide sneak up on you this winter!

It has been said that the chief cause of problems is solutions — those things we do to solve one problem lead to another. That is true of the steps we've taken over the years to combat the energy crunch.

Years ago, when coal, oil or propane heated most homes, and when those fuels were inexpensive, it was easy to keep a house warm. If we felt chilly, we just built a bigger fire.

Houses were built with little thought to air infiltration, because it didn't matter much. Then energy costs rose dramatically. There were families whose energy bills matched or exceeded their mortgage payments, and it became necessary to find a remedy to that problem.

One solution was to snug up houses. We did that by adding insulation, weatherstripping, by caulking in places where different kinds of material joined.

People who built new homes were encouraged to "build tight," and that helped with heating and cooling. But it brought problems, too. Those old drafty houses had one advantage: any carbon monoxide generated by the cook stove and/or furnace went out through all those cracks, along with some of the heated air.

When we set out to tighten up our homes, we made it harder for the heat to escape and the carbon monoxide as well.

Carbon monoxide (CO), which is generated any time something burns, is particularly deadly because it is invisible and odorless. Many people save themselves from fire because they can smell smoke, or see it, or they can see flames. CO is a sneaky killer, and its effects can be cumulative. More than 250 people die each year in the U.S. because of CO, and some 10,000 seek medical help after being exposed to it.

Carbon monoxide is more of a problem in winter than in summer, because furnaces use a lot of fuel, and the more fuel that's burned, the more CO that's generated. And we're much less likely to have a window or door slightly ajar, as we are in the summer. Then there's always the temptation to warm up the car while it's in the garage. Never do that!

In addition to furnaces and cook stoves, other sources of CO can be wood-burning stoves, fossil-fueled water heaters and clothes dryers. Barbecue grills, kerosene stoves and camping heaters, which are sometimes used by people desperate for warmth, are especially hazardous.

People subjected to low levels of CO experience nausea, dizziness, vomiting, headaches, confusion and fatigue, while high-level exposure results in diarrhea, impaired vision, abdominal pain, convulsions and coma. If they don't get away from the CO, death will result.

Low-level CO poisoning is often confused for flu, partly because both tend to be most prevalent during winter.

The elderly, the very young and the sick are the first to suffer the effects of CO poisoning, and in pregnant women, the fetus is the first to be affected.

There are several things you can do to protect yourself. Probably the first line of defense should be to make a point of having any fossil-fueled appliance checked by a professional serviceman every year, preferably at the beginning of the heating season. Obviously, you should seek help immediately any time you smell gas.

Another wise step is to buy and use a CO detector. For years, safety experts urged people to put smoke detectors in their homes and to keep their batteries up to date. That campaign has saved many lives and prevented a lot of property damage.

CO detectors can do the same. While they're not as cheap as smoke detectors, the prices of CO protection are coming down. Now's the time to go to your home supply store and buy a CO detector.

There are different kinds, and part of the difference is in how the unit is powered. Some plug into a wall outlet, while others use batteries. Some have a digital display that shows the CO level in the air, while others sound an alarm when the CO level reaches a certain point.

Your friends at your local electric co-op hope you'll help make the winter season safer by investing in a CO detector.





On call in
Good
weather...
and **BAD.**

When winter winds give us their worst, the line crews at your electric cooperative are on call 24 hours daily to make sure that you have prompt electricity if an outage should occur.

When the lights go out in the middle of the night, it's reassuring to know that the line crews at your electrical cooperative are there. With little notice they'll be on the scene, working their hardest to get the power back on and keep it flowing. Cooperative line crews brave some of nature's worst elements, often off the road in deep snow or 40 feet off the ground working the overhead lines. Safety must be foremost in their minds at all times.

Keeping the electricity flowing is dangerous work. . . in good weather and bad. Members, like you, can count on cooperative linemen to get the job done . . . and keep the power flowing.





Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Clay County Water Corporation, Inc. receives development funding

The Clay County Water Corporation, Inc., recently received approval of over \$950,000 in grant and loan monies to develop the first phase of the county's rural water district. The Clay County Water Corporation, a not-for-profit, countywide water company, was formed in 1994, to find a means to fund a new source of water for rural Clay County residents and businesses.

Clay County's subsurface soil conditions and lack of water-bearing sand and gravel aquifers has limited the county's water supplies to surface water sources. These sources are often hindered by drought and are expensive to treat. Relatively shallow private wells have also been developed, but have only produced small amounts of water. These wells are also subject to contamination from nearby farming practices and septic systems.

In 1996, the Clay County

Board of Commissioners and the Water Corporation secured a water purchase agreement with the City of Flora. Since the execution of this water supply agreement, the Water Corporation has sought State of Illinois and Rural Development Agency funding for water main extensions into the rural areas of Clay County. In the fall of this year, the Water Corporation received approval of \$400,000 of infrastructure grant monies from the Illinois EPA, and \$274,800 in low interest loan monies and \$303,000 in infrastructure grant monies from the Rural Development Agency. These monies are earmarked to complete Phase I of the Water Corporation's initial project of extending water mains to serve over 200 rural residents in Harter Township.

Clay Electric Co-operative has been very involved in the Clay County Water Corporation since its inception in 1994. The

cooperative has provided management staff support, office and meeting space, use of equipment and assisted in soliciting political and rural residents' support for the project. Alan Wattles, manager of Clay Electric Co-operative said, "The extension of water facilities into rural Clay County will enhance the quality of life for rural citizens and stimulate further economic growth within the county."

Residential developers are already platting two to three new residential subdivisions that will have access to the new water mains and water supply. Clay Electric will serve these subdivisions. The cooperative has offered to continue to assist the Clay County Water Corporation by providing such things as billing services.

Congratulations to Clay County Water Corporation and Clay Electric Co-operative on the success of their project.



If you are planning on building a new home, please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

All Trustees were present, also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held October 26, 1998.

Accepted 18 new members for service.

Canceled 10 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of October 1998, presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders for August totaling \$26,242.65 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Received reports of recent Soyland meetings from Manager Wattles and Trustee Dunigan.

Received a report of recent AIEC meeting from Trustee Cammon.

Approved one purchase of power contract.

Approved one interruptible rate contract.

Accepted the disbursement list for October 1998.

Received safety report from Manager Wattles.

Discussed upcoming AIEC continuing education classes.

Resolved that Robert Pierson be and he is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy of Trustee Pettit for District VIII.

Resolved that the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, 1998.

Adjournment.

Rent a high-pressure sodium security light

Rent a high-pressure sodium, 150-watt security light from Clay Electric Co-operative for only \$2.50 per month, and protect your home and family.

Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and thefts. Falls and other injuries can also be avoided by lighting dark areas.

For more information, call Clay Electric Co-operative at (618) 662-2171 during regular office hours.



Are you eligible for an electric heat rate?

If you have electric heat you may qualify for a special rate. Even if you have a gas water heater you may qualify for Rate 21 which runs from October through April.

Is your home total electric?

If it is, you may qualify for Rate 31, which is a total electric home rate. This rate runs from October through May. Please call the cooperative office to see if you qualify, (618) 662-2171.

What you can do during a blackout

A utility lineman was working another 16-hour day during an outage rebuilding a primary line when a woman drove up and unloaded a string of obscenities. She wanted heat and lights now. The lineman tried to explain to her that the line was down and it was dangerous. And, besides, restoring the primary line was a first step in getting power back to her and hundreds of others. She said, "I'm tired of listening to your excuses," and drove off.

It's very easy to lose your patience during a long outage. Linemen and all the other co-op employees hope you remember it took years to build the miles and miles of electric lines serving your home and others. Rebuilding a line after a major storm often can't be accomplished in just a couple hours.

There are things you can do to help. First, report your outage and anything you've seen like a downed power line. Second, be patient with our dispatchers answering the phone. The busy signal you'll probably hear is not because they've left the phone off the hook on purpose. It's probably glued to their ear as they try to answer hundreds of phone calls.

When a power line falls down in your road or yard, whatever you do, don't touch it. That's rule number one for coping with a blackout. The line might still be energized. Just because sparks aren't flying doesn't mean the power is off. Circuit breakers at the substation probably shut the line down as soon as it fell, but testing the reliability of the circuit breakers isn't worth a fatal shock. The circuit breaker may be set to try to reconnect the line during the first minute and power will rush through it again, if only for a split second. This is

why your lights may blink three times before finally going off.

Don't drive over a downed line, either; although your tires will insulate the car, you're taking the chance that the line may change position and injure you or someone else.

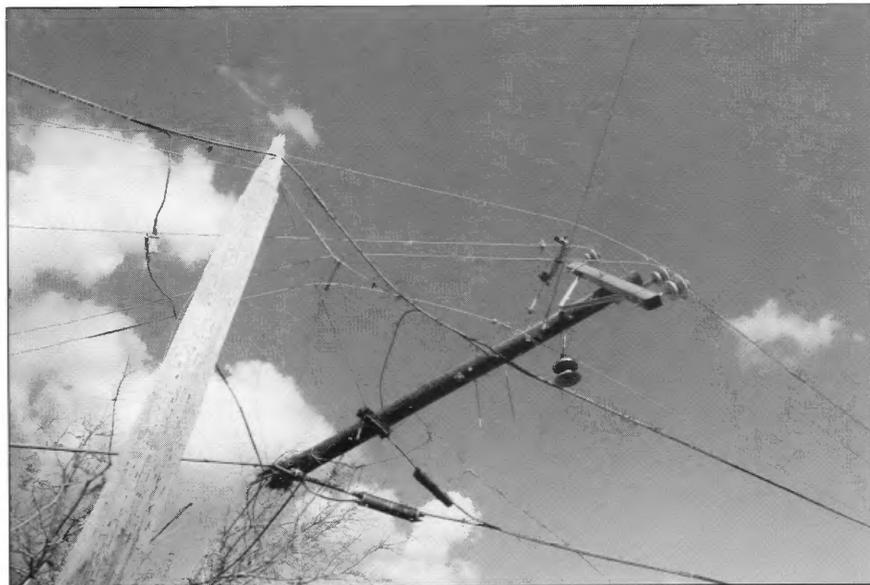
Rule number two is, don't put power into a line. (This means, do not plug a generator into the housewiring.) It is possible to light your house marginally by doing this, but you could kill someone because the power you put into your house could get out of it, into power lines outside. Going the other way, it will jump in voltage and suddenly you'll be feeding seven thousand volts into a wire that may be hanging low in somebody's yard, or that a lineman may be repairing. Instead, plug appliances or lights directly into the generator. For larger generators install a double throw transfer switch at the meter pole. Call the co-op if you have any questions on safe use of generators.

When repairs are under way, settle in with your candles and wait. The candles were in a convenient drawer with the matches

because you are an organized person who anticipates blackouts and you have stored candles, water and a battery-powered radio and you have a way to keep at least one room warm. If your home is on a well, fill a bathtub and large water containers as soon as you know a large storm is coming.

The linemen have one more word of advice. Turn off or unplug your appliances including your heater (or air-conditioner in the summer). There may be little bursts of power through the line when the power comes back on, the alternating current frequency may be momentarily higher or lower than normal. This surge may be uncomfortable for your appliances or your home computer. It helps the lineman too because, if at the moment power is restored, all the refrigerators and other big appliances in all the homes start up at the same time, that in itself can blow fuses and trip relays.

So when the lights go out don't touch the wires, don't plug a portable generator into your house, wiring unless you've installed a double throw transfer switch, call when you have information, turn off the appliances and wait. Check on your neighbors. Get out the camping equipment and candles. Finally, be safe and be patient. Our lineman won't stop until your lights are on.



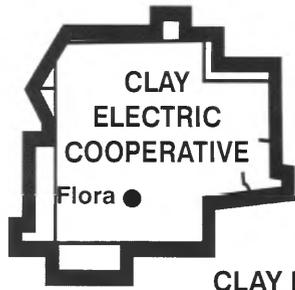
A comfortable home for *all* seasons

This winter has been a record breaker for Illinois. And as records were set, many homeowners became painfully aware of energy leaks in their homes. But, unlike the snow, home weatherization problems will remain with us even after the changing of the seasons.

Air leaks and low levels of insulation that let heat escape this winter will plague you this summer when you try to keep your home cool. Spring is a good time to make energy efficiency improvements. Your electric cooperative can help you plan for maximum comfort, convenience and economy by advising you on everything from upgrading your heating and cooling system to caulking and insulation. Call us today.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois
Helping you use energy efficiently



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

All Trustees were present; also present were General Manager Wattles and Co-operative Attorney Todd.

New Trustee Robert Pierson was introduced to the other Trustees by Manager Wattles.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held November 23, 1998.

Accepted 10 new members for service.

Canceled 21 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report

for the month of November 1998 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders for August totaling \$10,845.88 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Received a report of recent AIEC meeting from Trustee Cammon.

Approved one purchase of power contract.

Approved write-offs presented to the meeting.

Approved the recommendation of the purchasing com-

mittee to purchase a replacement basket line truck.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of November 1998.

Received safety report from Manager Wattles.

Discussed upcoming AIEC continuing education classes.

Advised of upcoming Directors Conference.

Heard presentation from Jim Montgomery of Little Dixie LPG Service.

Adjournment.

Standby power Insurance against Mother Nature

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

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

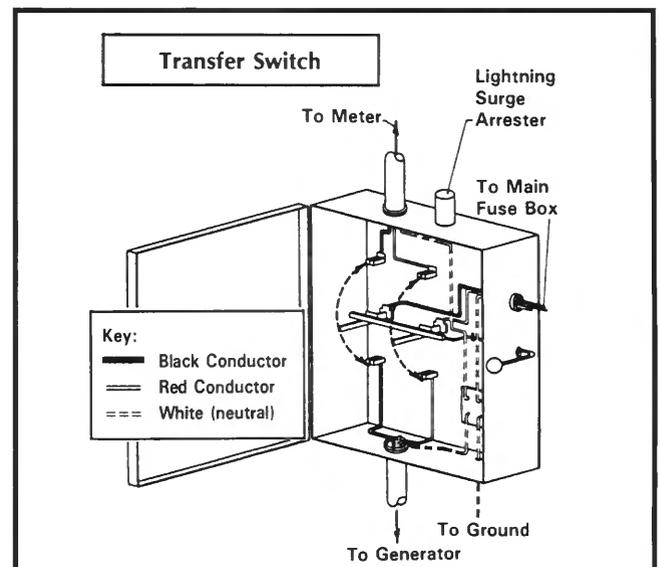
How well are you prepared to handle a prolonged outage? Now is the time to take inventory of your home and farm. Determine how you would pump water, move grain, keep pipes from freezing, and provide heat and ventilation for livestock. How will you heat your home and keep foods from spoiling?

The cooperative does not sell standby generators, but we do have personnel to help you analyze your load and make recommendations. And remember, standby generators are not normally stocked in any quantity, so don't plan on buying one after an outage occurs.

Remember, too, the installation of standby equipment requires a positive double-throw switch. Operating a standby generator without one

is extremely dangerous and could result in financial liability.

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



"Youth to Washington" Contest

Each summer, Electric Cooperatives in more than 30 states, send over 1,000 high school students to our nation's Capital to learn about government, cooperatives and rural electrification. The Electric Cooperatives of Illinois send over 60 of these students each summer and one of these is sponsored by Clay Electric Co-operative.

The 1999 tour marks the 40th year that Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives have sent students to the nation's capital. After 40 years we continue to believe in the young leaders of our country and feel that our investment in this program is a good one. We're proud of this tour and know that it is one of the most comprehensive youth tours of the nation's capital.

While in Washington, DC, these students will have the opportunity to visit many historic sites; such as, the Civil War Battlefield in Gettysburg, George Washington's Home and Grounds, the Smithsonian Museums and others. They will also visit places like the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Kennedy Center, the Bureau of Engraving and many other government buildings and offices. They will also spend time with many of our legislators that represent us in Washington. There is even time for a dance and a cruise on the Potomac River.

How do you get to be a part of this fabulous event? By participating in an essay contest sponsored by Clay Electric Co-operative. If you are the finalist chosen in the contest, you will have the opportunity to see all of these places and more from June 18 to June 25, 1999. Sound interesting? Want to hear more? Then keep reading, and we'll tell you about the rules of the contest, and how you can enter.

Who can enter

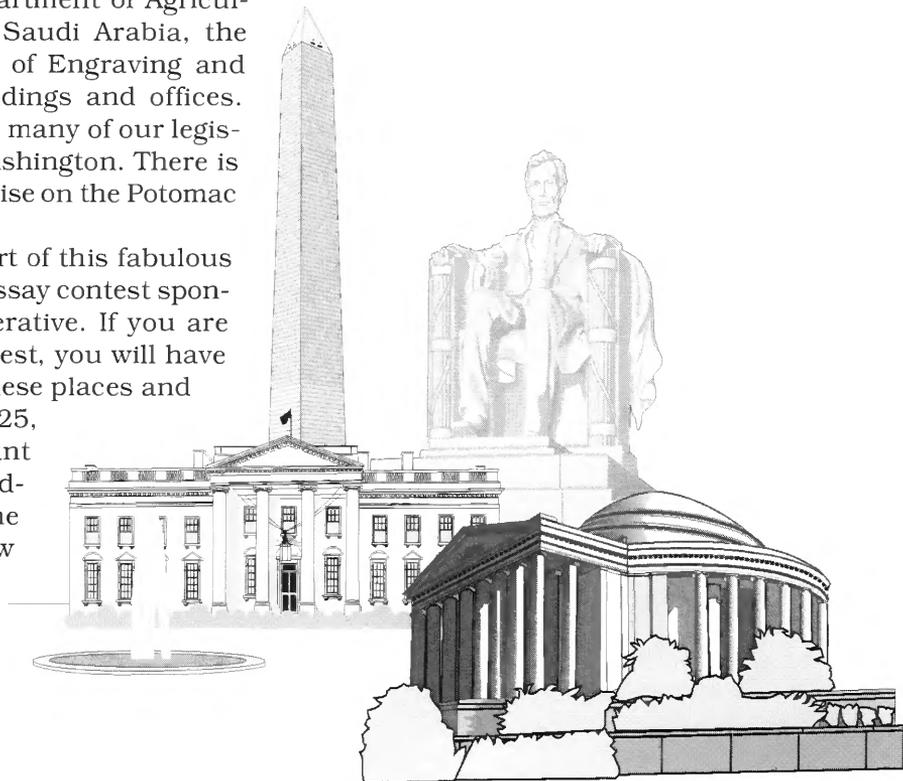
- High school junior.
- Child of Clay Electric Co-operative member.
- Attends the following

schools, Clay City, Flora or North Clay. (Sorry but members of the immediate families of any director or full time employee of Clay Electric or any other electric cooperative are not eligible to compete).

How to enter

- Obtain an entry form from your guidance counselor.
- Fill out the entry form.
- Include a summary of your school and civic activities and accomplishments.
- Write a short essay on the topic, "Electric Utility Deregulation and Competition."
- Return the entry form, student summary of activities and your essay to the guidance office by March 31, 1999.

Clay Electric will take three students to Springfield for "Youth Day" and will send one student to Washington for "Youth Tour."



If you are planning on building a new home, please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

Think conservation

Building or buying a new nest

For many of us, spring brings the urge to migrate. All over Illinois, as the days lengthen and the weather gets better, many will be looking at new homes. Others will put the final touches on plans and drawings, getting ready to build when the weather cooperates.

You can avoid energy-wasting mistakes if you consider climate, local building codes, and energy-efficient construction when you build or buy.

Does the home take advantage of the sun's natural light and warmth in the winter, when those commodities are in such short supply? Has it been designed not to overheat in the summer, when heat and sunlight are so plentiful?

When building a home

- Insulate walls and roof to the highest specifications recommended for your area.
- Insulate floors, too, especially those over crawl spaces, cold basements and garages.
- Ventilate the attic using vent panels under the eaves and gable end or ridge vents rather than motor-driven fans.
- Use double-pane insulating glass throughout the house. Consider windows with low-emissivity (low-E) coatings and gas fills when retrofit or replacement is necessary. They improve comfort, cut condensation, and reduce the fading effect of ultraviolet light on home furnishings. Low-E coated

double-pane windows will improve the insulating value of the window area by 40 to 50 percent. A low-E coating is a virtually invisible metal or metallic oxide layer on the glass that reflects heat back into the home during cold weather and back to the outdoors during warm weather.

- Window frames and their quality of construction are as important as the glass unit when making a purchasing decision. Wood and vinyl frames offer the best insulating value today.
- Consider solar heat gain from the windows. Many glazings are available today to control the amount of incoming solar radiation.
- Install windows you can open so you can use natural or fan-forced ventilation in moderate weather.

Install the water heater as close as possible to areas of major use and insulate the pipes to minimize heat loss.

- Consider all the ideas mentioned above for building a house.
- Ask for a description of the insulation and data on the efficiency of space heating, air-conditioning, and water heating equipment, or have an independent engineer advise you about the efficiency of the equipment.
- Consider the need for additional insulation or replacement of equipment. Even some new houses may not be insulated properly. Be sure to check.

If improvements are necessary, you may want to seek an adjustment in the purchase price to cover all, or a reasonable share, of the costs of bringing the house up to par.

Call your co-op for an energy audit

You might want to give some thought to having a qualified person do an energy evaluation of your home's construction and condition for an indication of likely utility bills and for recommended cost-effective energy improvements.

Many Illinois electric cooperatives offer home energy audits, and several participate in the "Certified Comfort Home" program. Check with your co-op if you need help with energy conservation decisions. Your friends there will be glad to help.



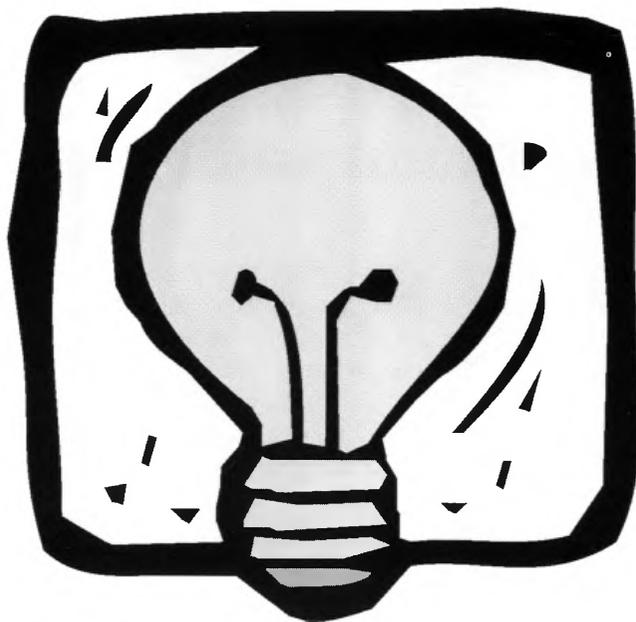
The simple essence of electricity

**Find a light bulb and sniff it.
Let everyone in the house sniff it.**

Don't be confused if you can't smell anything. You shouldn't be able to because electricity doesn't have a distinct smell. You can't smell electricity. With electricity, there are no odors, indoor pollution or carbon monoxide to worry about. Electricity provides safe and efficient power for everything in your home.

Please use electricity wisely and conserve when you can. Think about your family's safety when you buy a new appliance. Think electricity!

Electric Cooperatives of Illinois
Helping you use energy safely and efficiently





Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

All Trustees were present, also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held December 22, 1998.

Accepted 23 new members for service.

Canceled 18 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of December, 1998 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders for August totaling \$5,991.01 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Received a report of recent Soyland Board meeting from Manager Wattles.

Resolved that the Clay Electric directors be appointed as delegates to the upcoming Soyland Annual Meeting.

Resolved that Alan Wattles and Loren Dunigan be appointed as Directors and H. Clifford Cammon as Alternate Director to the Soyland Board of Directors.

Received a report of recent AIEC meeting from Trustee Cammon.

Reviewed the 1999 budget presented by Manager Wattles and after discussion.

Resolved that said budget be approved as presented.

Discussed the possible purchase of real estate and after discussion.

Resolved that the Cooperative enter into an Agreement in the form presented to this meet-

ing to purchase the property and **Directed** the president and secretary to execute said Agreement.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of December, 1998.

Advised by Trustee Pierson of recent Live Line Safety program presented by Cooperative personnel at some of the Flora Schools.

Resolved that the date and location for the Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Cooperative be September 9, 1999 at the Charley Brown Park, Flora.

Advised by Manager Wattles of upcoming continuing education program.
Adjournment.

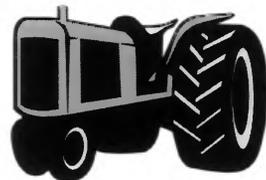
Train your kids to operate farm equipment safely

Training adolescent kids to operate farm equipment properly -and safely - is important. Consider age, size and ability when determining what and when to teach them. In cases where people are being trained to operate machinery, it may be necessary to have an instructor riding with the trainee. In this situation, special caution should be taken to ensure that everyone involved pays close attention to safety.

The Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

Foundation recommends the following guidelines for helping provide a safe environment for novice drivers - your kids.

- Provide instruction in proper driving procedures.
- Enroll adolescent-aged kids in tractor certification classes.
- Do not allow friends of your children to ride with young operators. Be a role model yourself and don't ride as a passenger; refuse to allow children to ride as passengers.



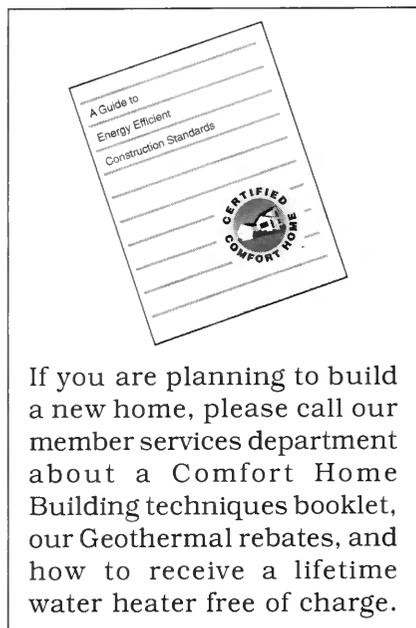
- If your tractor has a buddy seat, follow all the manufacturer's safety guidelines.
- Consider safety when assigning machinery to young operators. Older tractors without rollover protective structures (ROPS) or cabs can be especially dangerous. If you would like more information about Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, call (800) 423-5437.

Source: Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

Some people are shocked by what they find when they dig in their yards

It's that time of year when people begin poking all kinds of holes in the ground. New trees, shrubs, fence posts, mailboxes; you name it. All require some digging, and a hole from a foot to several feet deep. The problem these days is that you don't really know what you are going to dig into. It may only be a few earthworms or the ballpoint pen you lost a few

years ago. On the other hand, it could be a buried utility line, like 220 volts of electricity. Or you may chop right into the cable TV line just in time for your favorite program. All of which would be unpleasant and some of which could be downright dangerous. So, call your local utility before you start to dig. They'll help you avoid the shocks.



If you are planning to build a new home, please call our member services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geothermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

Warn children about dangers of substations

We all know that children love to climb up, on and over things. Fences are particularly inviting. Now is the perfect time to talk to your children about electrical substations and why they must never climb the fences surrounding them. Your electric cooperative has placed signs, "Danger — Keep Out" or "Warning — High Voltage", on substation fences for your protection. Make sure your child understands this fact.

If your child is somewhat older, he or she may ask plenty of questions about the dangers

involved. If a more detailed answer will help get the message across; here is a simple explanation that should help your child respect a substation fence — and the power of electricity.

The electrical substation changes the extremely high voltage carried by the long-distance transmission lines into the lower distribution voltage that serves homes and businesses. In order to perform this task, the substation needs a direct feed from the transmission line into the substation structure. The

equipment within the substation is always under high-voltage electrical load.

Substation technicians, co-op linemen and maintenance crews are trained to work in high-voltage situations and to recognize and avoid potential hazards in the substation. Just how high is the electric voltage? *Some of the pieces of equipment in the substation could be energized at more than 100,000 volts.* Remember: Substation fences mark the danger zone for you. You are safe if you stay away from them.

Time to Duck Again!

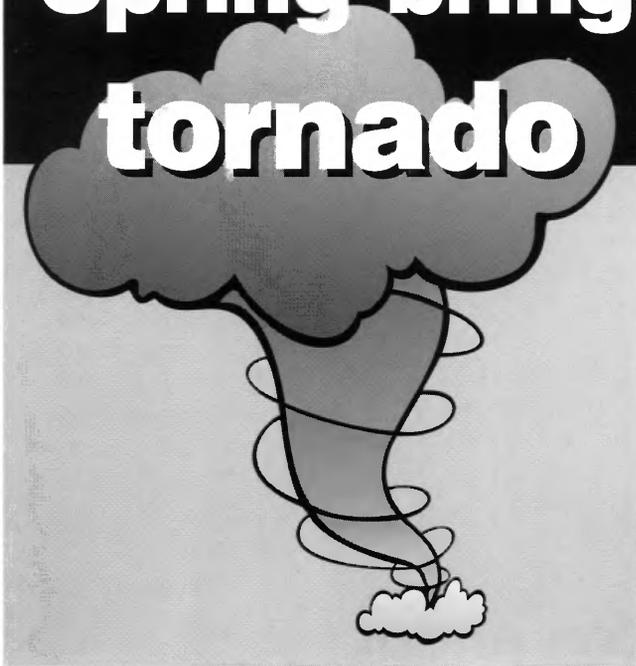
Ahhh, it's great to be outside again, even if it means there's work to be done. The TV antenna's a little crooked, there are some tree limbs to cut, and the old swimming pool will need cleaning. That means it's time to DUCK. When you're moving the grain auger, raising the TV antenna — anytime you use tall equipment — make sure you stay clear of the power lines. Duck down and keep poles, augers and other equipment away from overhead electric wires. Whether you're outside your home or out in the farm field, get your jobs done the safe way.

Look up and live!

DUCK!



Spring brings increase in tornado activity



Even though most thunderstorm and tornado activity normally takes place in April, May and June, Illinois has already had some severe storms, and we shouldn't be surprised if more come soon.

Normally, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms tend to develop in the late afternoon and early evening, but that's not always the case.

Now is the time of year when you might want to stash a few items in the safest place in your house, and leave everything there until you're sure the storm season's over. A flashlight should be in your kit, as well as a battery-powered radio and blankets and pillows. If you have a basement you should store your emergency kit in this safe area.

There are two different kinds of warnings involving tornadoes. A tornado watch simply means that the weather is getting rotten and that a tornado may develop if things get worse. You can go about your normal business if you "watch" the weather.

A tornado warning means that the weather is already rotten, and it's time to seek shelter in that little nest you prepared earlier. Warnings aren't issued unless a tornado shows up on radar, or one has actually been sighted.

If you hear a warning, go to your basement, if you have one. That's by far the safest place. In many homes, a stairwell, inside hallway or bathroom on the lowest floor will be the safest place.

Get into a closet or bathtub, if you need to.

If you're in a public building, look for a designated shelter. Often, there'll be one in an interior area on the lowest floor. Stay away from outside walls, doors and windows. Stay out of large rooms, such as gyms, and avoid parked vehicles.

If you're outside when a tornado comes, head for the nearest shelter. If you're caught out in the open, lie down in the nearest ditch or depression, preferably away from trees and power lines. Since flying debris is a major cause of deaths and injuries during tornadoes, cover your head as well as you can.

If you're in your car, get out and find shelter. If there is none, lie flat in a depression. Don't try to outrun a tornado in your car. This isn't the movies, it's reality!

One of the worst places to be in a tornado situation is a mobile home. Leave a mobile home immediately if you hear a tornado warning and take your chances in the best shelter you can find. Experts agree that you're better off in a ditch or small depression than in a mobile home.

If you're stuck in a tornado-prone area and a house without a basement, there is an option you may want to look into. Years ago, it was common practice to have a small storm shelter out in the yard, usually about half underground and mounded over.

As more and more homes were built with basements, they fell out of favor. If you have a mobile home, and no access to a better form of protection, you may want to give some thought to building such a shelter.

After the storm can be a dangerous time. Watch for downed power lines. They may look safe lying on the ground, but they are **not** insulated and they could still be energized and deadly.

Be careful clearing trees after a storm. Contact your local electric co-op if the trees are near power lines. They have the tools and training to handle the job safely.



There's no place like home...

... and when the quiet of night rolls around, you'll have peace of mind with a security light from your electric cooperative.

Nothing foils a would-be burglar or trespasser like a brilliant electric cooperative security light. Today's security lights are brighter and more efficient than ever. And since the security light turns itself on at dusk and off at dawn, it never wastes electricity.

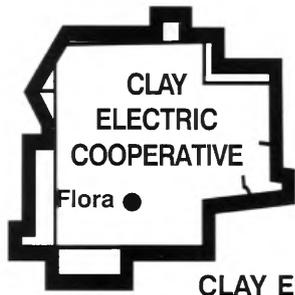
Today, a security light is a necessity for every farm and home. . . providing you with safe, secure protection for you family and possessions.

So, put a little light in your night . . . and call your electric cooperative today for all the details.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

You deserve the peace of mind a security light can provide.



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

All Trustees were present; also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held January 25, 1999.

Accepted 15 new members for service.

Canceled 17 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of January 1999 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders totaling \$5,501.28 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Received a report of recent Soyland board meeting from

Trustee Dunigan.

Was Advised of special board meeting with Soyland officials.

Heard a report of recent AIEC board meeting from Trustee Cammon.

Appointed Trustee Logan as Voting Delegate and Trustee Henson as Alternate to NRECA annual meeting.

Appointed Trustee Dunigan as Voting Delegate and Trustee Czynewski as Alternate to the CFC annual meeting.

Appointed Manager Wattles as Voting Delegate and Trustee Henson as Alternate to the ICWCG annual meeting.

Authorized execution of CFC Certification and directed Manager Wattles to forward to CFC.

Approved replacement of used chipper.

Reviewed and Approved a Year 2000 statement.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of January 1999.

Received and Reviewed safety comments.

Heard a report by Manager Wattles regarding possible meter tampering.

Reviewed a long-range work plan and following discussion thereof.

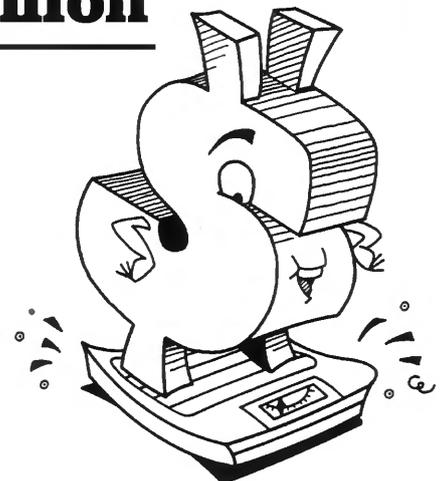
Directed Manager Wattles to enter into an agreement with Ledbetter & Toth Engineering to prepare such plan.

Adjournment.

IOU tax breaks hit \$8.8 billion

A report commissioned by the American Public Power Association says that investor-owned utilities (IOUs) enjoyed tax breaks that cost the federal government \$8.8 billion in 1996. The report, conducted by MSB Energy Associates for APPA, said the cumulative loss to the U.S. Treasury from 1954 to 1996 totals more than \$267

billion. This suggests that "deferred taxes are permanently deferred and may be more like an equity contribution than a liability," the report said. APPA's figures are slightly higher than similar studies made by the rural electric co-ops, which estimated an annual IOU benefit of \$5 billion per year.



Energy savings build higher market value

For every dollar saved in annual utility costs, sellers can expect to add \$20 to the value of their homes. That's the finding of a research study done for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star Program. The study reveals that homebuyers are generally willing to pay more for energy-efficient homes; as long as the expected fuel savings exceeds the mortgage interest cost. Energy-efficient homes can be profitable to homeowners re-

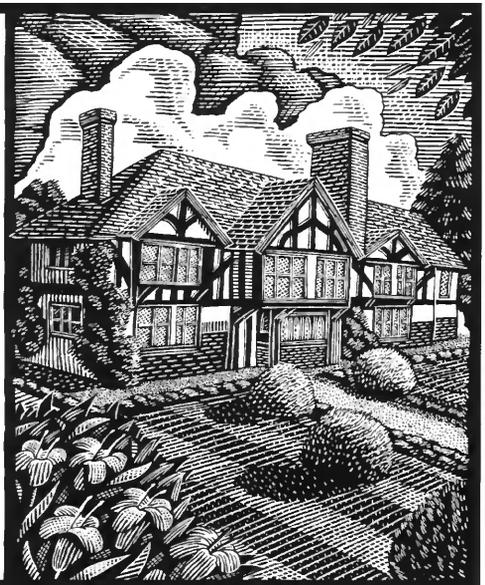
gardless of how long they plan to live there, since the total monthly payments are less and the eventual sale price can be higher.

The EPA study indicates that a \$420 saving in annual utility costs will add about \$8,400 to the market value of a high-efficiency home. The data came from 1991 through 1996 sales reports by the American Housing Survey and the U.S. Census Bureau. Although the project included different types of

homes and heating fuels, lower energy bills were a consistent factor in producing higher sales prices. This confirms the message that Illinois' electric co-ops have been repeating for many years: a well-built home with a high efficiency heating/cooling system such as a heat pump or geothermal system can pay for itself both today and in the future. Ask us for more details about building in these savings in YOUR new home!

If you are planning to build a new home

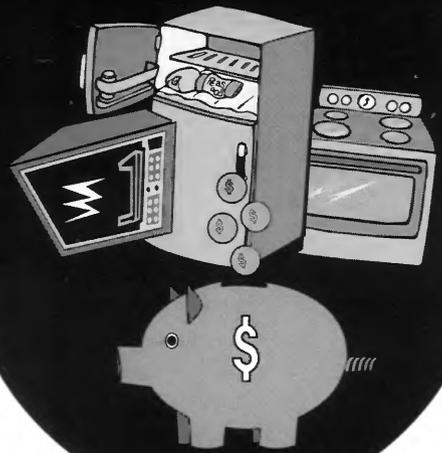
Please call our member services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geothermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.



**Your cooperative office
will be closed
Monday, May 31,
in observance of the
Memorial Day holiday. The
cooperative office will open
for normal business hours
on Tuesday, June 1.**

**Remember: To report
outages after hour, week-
ends and holidays,
please call
(800) 582-9012.**

Quick, cheap and clean ways to save in the kitchen



Aside from heating, air conditioning and water heating, the kitchen is one of the most energy-expensive places in the average home. Things you do in the kitchen influences those costs.

As you cook in the kitchen, the house warms up and the air conditioner has to work more, so your electricity usage goes up. As you use more hot water to cook or wash dishes, that expense increases, too.

There are many things you can do to save energy in the kitchen, and all of them together can help you save a bundle on your energy bill. As you work at meal preparation, keep the following items in mind—any or all of them will help, both in comfort and savings.

If you have a gas stove with a pilot light make sure it is burning efficiently, with a blue flame. A yellowish flame indicates that you need to have it adjusted.

Never boil water in an open pan. It will come to a boil faster and use less energy in a covered pan.

Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean. They'll reflect the heat better, and you will save energy. Match the size of the pan to the burner or heating element. More heat will get to the pan, and less to the surrounding air.

If you cook with electricity, get in the habit of turning off the burners several minutes before the allotted cooking time. The heating element will stay hot long enough to finish the cooking for you without using more electricity.

When using the oven, make the most of the heat from that single source. Cook as many foods as you can at one time. Prepare dishes that can be stored or frozen for later use, or make all oven-cooked meals.

Watch the clock or use a timer; avoid the temptation to open the door and peek. Every time you open the door heat escapes and your cooking takes more energy.

Use small electric pans or ovens for small meals rather than the kitchen range or oven. They use less energy.

Use pressure cookers and microwave ovens when you can. They can save energy by reducing cooking time, and microwaves don't put nearly as much heat into your house.

The average dishwasher uses 14 gallons of hot water per load. Be sure to use it energy efficiently. Make sure your dishwasher is full, but not overloaded, when you turn it on.

If you're in the market for a new dishwasher, look for a model with air-power and/or overnight-dry settings. These features automatically turn off the dishwasher after the rinse cycle. This can save you up to one-third of your total dishwashing energy costs.

Let your dishes air dry. If you don't have an automatic air-dry switch, turn the control knob to "off" after the rinse cycle and prop the door open a little, so the dishes will dry faster.

Don't use the "rinse-hold" on your machine. It uses three to seven gallons of hot water every time you use it.

Scrape dishes before loading them into the dishwasher so you won't have to rinse them. If they do need rinsing, you can save pennies by using cold water.

Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures: 38 to 40 degrees for the fresh food compartment of the refrigerator; five degrees for the freezer.

If you're buying a refrigerator, be sure to look for the more efficient models. Once you get past the sticker shock, note that refrigerator technology has improved over the last few years, and that the more efficient new models will do a good job at a far less cost than the older ones. Get one that's as energy-efficient as you can afford.

Remember that those frills, such as automatic icemakers and ice and water through the door, add a lot to the cost of such units, and you get little benefit in return.

Consider buying manual-defrost refrigerators and freezers. While they're inconvenient to defrost, they cost quite a bit less to operate.

Regularly defrost manual-defrost refrigerators and freezers. Frost buildup increases the amount of energy needed and makes the motor run longer and more often. Never allow frost to build up to more than one-quarter of an inch thick.

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a piece of paper or a dollar bill so that it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. If you can pull it out easily, the latch may need adjustment or the seal may need replacing.

*Give your bill a
break... while you
break for vacation.*



Your bags are packed, you remembered to put a hold on your mail and take the dog to your mother-in-law's for the week, but what about your monthly electric bill? It won't go away just because you have.

You can, however, take steps to reduce your bill while you relax on vacation.

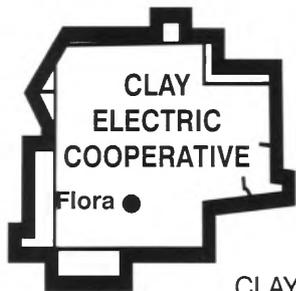
Make sure that all radios, televisions and lights are turned off. You can use dusk-to-dawn timers with lights to maintain the "presence" at home during the evening. Lower your refrigerator and/or freezer temperature settings. Turn off your water heater if you'll be gone more than a few days.

And after all of that is taken care of, remember to have fun while you're on vacation.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

For more information on conserving energy while you're away,
call your local electric cooperative.



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Bateman, Monnahan tour capital

The forecast for Wednesday, April 21 was gloomy, with heavy rains and howling winds predicted.

Fortunately, the reality was altogether different, as some 250 young people from all over down-state Illinois converged on Springfield for the "Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative Youth Day."

Most of the youths were contestants in the co-ops' "Youth to Washington" contest, and many were finalists. The tours were conceived years ago to provide an opportunity for young people, prospective leaders, to go to Washington to meet with their legislators and get a look at government in action.

Clay Electric Co-operative sent two local students and one chaperone to Springfield, where they met with their state lawmakers and other officials.

Representing Clay Electric were Jay Monnahan and Nicole Bateman. A highlight for many this year was the opportunity to meet with Secretary of State Jesse White, a former major-league baseball player and long-time schoolteacher. White took time out from his schedule to meet with most of those on the tour, and signed autographs for those who asked.

While in Springfield, the students toured the State Capitol, the Executive Mansion, the State Supreme Court and Lincoln's Tomb. They also briefly visited the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



Students from across the state took part in "Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative Youth Day" on April 21. Two students representing Clay Electric met with Sen. William O'Daniel and Rep. Charles Hartke at the State Capitol. From left in the top photo are: Jay Monnahan, Flora High School; Sen. O'Daniel; Nicole Bateman, North Clay High School; and Doug Hockman, Clay Electric. Bottom photo: The group is pictured with Rep. Hartke. The day's activities were sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois.



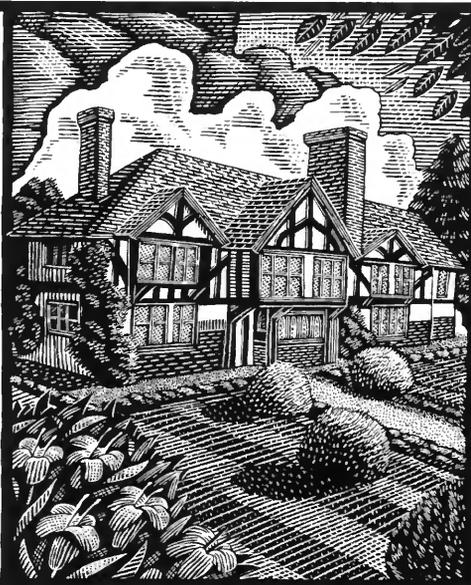
Don'ts for standby generator users

48

- Attempt to connect generator directly to the electrical system of any building.
- Fail to ground the generator's electrical system adequately.
- Operate generator in rain, wet, icy or flooded conditions.
- Use worn, damaged, undersized or ungrounded extension cords.
- Place generator on or against ungrounded conductive surface, such as a steel walkway or metal roof.
- Improperly connect appliances or tools to generator.
- Operate unit when damaged, or with guards or panels removed.
- Attempt to fill the fuel tank while the engine is running.
- Expose generator to sparks, fire or hot objects.
- Improperly store generator fuel.
- Fail to ventilate generator by operating in an enclosed area.
- Tamper with factory set engine speed settings.

If you are planning to build a new home

Please call our member services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geothermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.



Board meeting report

All Trustees were present, also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held February 22, 1999.

Accepted eight new members for service.

Canceled 24 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of February 1999, presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders totaling \$6,675.47 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Received a report of recent Soyland Board meeting from Manager Wattles.

Heard a report of recent AIEC Board meeting from Trustee Cammon.

Reviewed, Discussed and Accepted the 1998 audit as presented.

Resolved that this Cooperative enter into a three year agreement with Quint-Dryer & Co., P.C., P.A. to provide auditing services to the Cooperative.

Directed the Manager and Officers to review, research and consider securing an alternative power source.

Declined participation in Touchstone Energy program.

Heard a report by Manager Wattles concerning Y2K compliance and following discussion.

Authorized Manager Wattles to purchase new SCADA equipment that would be compliant.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of February 1999.

Received safety report, were advised that two employees had recently attended a grounding seminar and also attended the Annual Safety Supervisory Technical Conference in Springfield.

Approved the sale of water heaters to cooperative members at cost and to non-members at the cost per the cooperative policy on sales to non-members.

Advised of upcoming NRECA legislative conference and CFC Energy Co-opportunity Diversification conference

Authorized the Cooperative to enter a team in the Clay County Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Adjournment.

Farm electrical safety checklist



Service pole and service entrance

YES NO

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- Do farm family members and all hired farmhands know where and how to disconnect power in the case of an electrical emergency?
- Are disconnects, especially main breakers, regularly turned off and turned back on to ensure free action and good contact? (Manufacturers of circuit breakers claim that they should be opened and reclosed once per month.)
- In case of fire, can the electricity be shut off to that particular building on fire without shutting off electricity to the water pump?

Animal housing

YES NO

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- Do animals enter a building or drink at the stock tanks without hesitation?
- Is the water piping (metallic) and service entrances of buildings properly grounded? (NOTE: Check for corrosion of grounding system by animal waste.)
- Is the farmer using an industry-made electric fencer which bears the UL label?
- Are heat lamps in farrowing houses hanging by the cord only? In case of drop, are there guards on the fixture?
- Are the lights enclosed in globes and guards (where required)?
- Is the wiring suitable for wet conditions (because of the humidity created by the animals' respiration)?
- Does all wiring appear to be in good condition and free from damage by rodents?

Grain-handling equipment

YES NO

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- Are overhead lines out of the way of augers and winged-type farm equipment?
- Do all motors have correctly sized overcurrent protection?
- If magnetic starters are used, are heater coils of the proper size?

Machine shed

YES NO

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- Is the grounding bayonet on drop cords, power tools, etc., intact?
- Is the service entrance properly grounded?
- Are all receptacles in use properly grounded?
- Are drop cords of adequate size for the appliance or machine they are serving?
- Are drop cords put away after use so machinery can't run over them?
- Are power tools such as circular saws, table saws, drills, jig saws, etc., left unplugged when not in use so that a child couldn't accidentally turn them on?
- Is it adequately lighted?
- Are drop cords in good condition with no sign of insulation damage?

General

YES NO

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- Do children know whom to call in case of an electrical emergency?
- Do family members know first aid for electrical shock and/or burns?
- Are GFCI's installed where required?
- Do appliances function satisfactorily without giving a tingle to user when turned on?
- If lightning protection is installed, are all wires leading to ground?
- Are all electrical fittings on the gas pump of explosion-proof type?
- Before trees are planted, has proper siting been provided to avoid nearby overhead and underground power lines?
- Are trees free and clear of overhead electrical lines?
- Before new buildings are constructed, have the buildings been cleared of nearby overhead and underground power lines?
- Can tractors equipped with end loaders be raised to the most upper position and clear all overhead electrical lines?

*Items checked NO indicate a potential electrical safety hazard.
 Proper action should be taken immediately to ensure safety.*



CHILL!

Put the sizzle
in your steak,
not your
home

One of the joys of summertime is a juicy steak, grilled over a hot flame. But who could enjoy it in a hot, humid home?

With a geothermal heat pump, you'll have cool comfort in the summer and snug coziness in the winter. A geothermal heat pump uses the earth's energy to provide cooled or heated air—and will pay for itself in a few years.

For more information about the advantages of geothermal heat pumps, call your local electric cooperative. We'll help you keep your cool.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Powerful solutions for over 60 years



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

All Trustees were present, also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

Invocation was given by Trustee Czyzewski.

Heard a presentation by Richard McCracken of Federated Insurance.

Discussed all bids on insurance for Cooperative and following discussion.

Authorized Manager Wattles to renew with Federated for another year.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held March 22, 1999.

Accepted 21 new members for service.

Canceled 11 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of March 1999 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders totaling \$11,934.07 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Received a report of recent Soyland Board meeting and Soyland Power meeting from Manager Wattles and Trustee Dunigan.

Heard a report of recent AIEC Board meeting from Trustee Cammon.

Approved a refund of capital credits to the estates of deceased members Harvey Stanley, Elston Meredith, James B. Dawkins, Lola Wade, Clyde Merriman and Jeff Brooks pursuant to Cooperative policy.

Approved continuation in the CFC Integrity Fund.

Informed of upcoming contract negotiations.

Heard a report from Manager Wattles concerning recent

computer replacements to become Y2K compliant.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of March 1999.

Advised of upcoming CFC Forum 99.

Appointed Manager Wattles as Delegate and Mike Winka as Alternate Delegate to the United Utility Supply Cooperative annual meeting.

Informed of NRECA credential director certificate program by Manager Wattles.

Discussed a recent damage to Cooperative lines claim and following discussion.

Advised Manager Wattles to follow the directives of the Cooperative's policy.

Discussed Cooperative meter pole policy with no affirmative action being taken.

Adjournment.

Building a new home?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

A Guide to
Energy Efficient
Construction Standards



Notice of Closing



Our office will be closed Monday, July 5, in observance of the July 4 holiday.

Budget billing offered

If you're on a tight budget or income, you may want to try our budget billing program. Clay Electric Co-operative offers a fixed budget plan. The amount of the budget will be computed based on the applicant's previous twelve months billing history. If there is not twelve months history, members are not eligible for budget billing.

The next budget billing year will be for the period of June 1999 through May 2000.

Budget billing accounts will be reviewed in October '99 and February '00 and at this time

your account will be reviewed to either increase or decrease your budget amount based on your actual usage.

May is the catch-up month. The applicant will pay the May actual bill.

The applicant may cancel the agreement at any time by notifying Clay Electric and agreeing to remit the total of electric bill rendered from the time forward, when due. At the time of cancellation, the applicant further agrees to pay in full any arrears charges that may be due on said account.

If you are interested in budget billing, please contact the office. There is a budget agreement that needs to be completed before you can be enrolled in the budget billing program. The deadline for sign-up will be by the 10th of each month. Don't delay — take full advantage of our budget billing program now.

The rates that qualify for budget billing are rate 1, rate 21 and rate 31.

Call the billing department at (618) 662-2171.

Check that honey-do list

Sure enough, warm weather is bringing us mushrooms and unfortunately, a list of projects to do around the home and farm. Painting seems to be at the top of that list for most people.

Each year thousands of gallons of leftover paints, thinners

or solvents are flushed down plumbing systems or just dumped into garbage cans. This can be overwhelming to sewage and septic systems. At the landfill, it can damage protective barriers and as a result of flushing, these actions can destroy your septic tanks, and contami-

nate surface and underground waters.

For ways to dispose of your leftover paint call the Illinois EPA at (217) 785-8604.



We're working to cut your costs

In a day when it seems that a dollar buys less and less, the men and women working at your local electric cooperative are doing what they can to make sure you get the most out of every dollar you spend with them.

Consumer education is one of the primary missions of your cooperative. Wasting energy not only costs you money — it forces your utility to buy more power from generating plants, adding to the cost of operating the system and adding to your electric bill. This publication, and others like it, regularly carries information to help keep your electric bill as low as possible.

Whether it's a tip on installing energy-efficient lighting in your home, insulating your water heater, or just changing the filters in your heat pump, your

local co-op wants to help you get the best deal you can on the electricity you buy.

That's what makes energy conservation a partnership between you and your local electric co-op. While you work at home to keep your power bill as low as possible, the local co-op is working to put the latest technology in place to better manage the system of power plants, wires and substations that bring the power to you. This new technology adds to the savings that can be passed on to you.

Another important part of your electric co-op's commitment to you is safety education. Electricity is such a normal part of your life that it is easy to forget it can be dangerous if improperly used. Your cooperative reminds you to play it safe by

installing child safety plugs in unused outlets, being careful when using electric tools near water, or having underground cables marked prior to digging around your home. Electric co-ops also provide important information to local schools to help teach children about electrical safety.

Your electric cooperative was created to serve the people it provides power to — not to provide profits to out-of-town power companies. The principle on which we were founded — service to our local communities — is just as strong today as the day we opened our doors. Regardless of how much electricity you use, your local electric cooperative will do everything it can to help you get the most out of your energy dollar.

MOWER POWER TO YOU— MAINTAIN THAT MACHINE



Now that the first blush is off of spring, many of the fun things we wanted to tear into while we were trapped by winter's gloom may have lost some of their luster. Some of us, so deep in winter's thrall just a few short months ago, actually looked forward to such tasks as mowing the lawn.

For most of us, some of the fun has departed that little chore, by now. While that leaves a long summer ahead of us, it also provides us with an opportunity to turn loose of the old mower long enough to do some maintenance, or to have it done.

Many people tend to forget that mowers need care, and run them into the ground without ever doing more than adding gas and oil.

That's a mistake. Mowers will cut better, last longer and be less polluting if they get at least some routine maintenance. For example, many people neglect their mower's blade, the part where the machine meets the grass.

We're assuming here that you're a fairly normal person, and that you just wheeled your mower into storage last fall and left it.

If you're a real conscientious person, you didn't do that. Following the owner's manual to the letter, you ran the engine until all the gas was out of the tank, pulled the spark plug, shot a squirt of oil into the cylinder, put on a new plug, and changed the oil. And took the blade in and had it sharpened.

If you're like most of us, you probably never even thought of doing any of those things. If you just pulled your mower out this spring and started mowing, it's still not too late to do a little maintenance on that little rascal. By now, you've probably grown less fond of the mowing chore, and will be able to back away from it long enough to let the engine cool.

So, if you want your mower to cut better and

last longer—and who doesn't, since they're fairly expensive — now's as good a time as any to mow the lawn and shut the mower down for maintenance. The first thing to do is to disconnect the spark plug wire, so the engine won't start while you're working.

Next, take the blade off and take it in to a shop to have it sharpened. Since we're essentially in the middle of the season, that shouldn't take too long, but it still may take a few days. That's why we encouraged you to mow first.

Then, pull the spark plug and examine it carefully. If it's dirty, clean it. If the points are fused together, or nearly so, you'll need to replace it. Check their gap with a feeler gauge and set the gap to the manufacturer's specifications. Clean or change the air filter.

Since most mowers are air cooled, and since they burn a lot of oil, many people think that the constant addition of oil is enough to eliminate the need for oil changes. Not true. They need oil changes just like any engine does, and the failure to do that chore will shorten the engine's life considerably.

You can change the oil by removing a plug under the mower deck, and letting the oil drain out. Then, you replace the plug and pour in new oil. There will be a dipstick, or a little circle in the filler, that will enable you to know when you've put in enough oil. Be sure the plug's tightened before you do much more.

The simple change of oil and cleaning or replacement of the spark plug and air filter should make your mower a lot easier to start and will increase its life span, too. Having the blade sharpened should enable it to cut better, and will make mowing a little easier.

If all this sounds a little messy and inconvenient, that's because it is. You can avoid most of these headaches by going to a battery-powered electric mower. That will reduce most of your annual maintenance to having the blade sharpened. They're a lot more convenient, and a lot less messy and a lot less polluting, too!



Demolition derbies and corn dogs, lemon shake-ups and funnel cake, Ferris wheels and tractor pulls. . . These are just a few of the treats you'll find at the fair. Whether you visit your local county fair, the DuQuoin State Fair or the Illinois State Fair, the electric cooperatives of Illinois would like you to remember the important role agriculture plays in our lives.

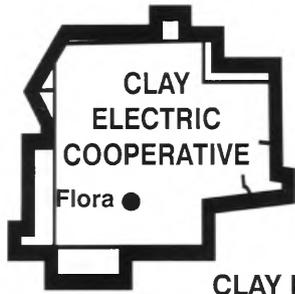
Just as electricity powers the modern farmstead, so the Illinois farmer feeds the world.

A salute to the Illinois farmer from:



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Powerful solutions for over 60 years



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Poehler, also present were General Manager Wattles, Cooperative Attorney Todd, CFC representative Jim Kaufman and Ray Muhs with Illinois dig program "JULIE".

Invocation was given by Trustee Burkett.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held April 26, 1999.

Accepted 27 new members for service.

Canceled 17 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of April, 1999 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders totaling \$18,721.08 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Received a report of recent Soyland Board meeting from Manager Wattles.

Heard a report of recent AIEC Board meeting from Trustee Cammon.

Heard a report from Jim Kaufman of CFC regarding financing available to the Cooperative.

Heard a report from Manager Wattles concerning Y2K compliance update.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of April, 1999.

Heard a report from Ray

Muhs asking the Cooperative to participate as a member in the "JULIE" dig program, following the presentation the matter was tabled for further consideration.

Advised about recent adult CPR training to line personnel and inside personnel.

Accepted an offer on real estate made by Lavica Merle Golden.

Discussed power supply options with no affirmative action being taken.

Directed Manager Wattles to secure information from various vendors regarding upgrades to Cooperative pavillion in Charley Brown Park.

Adjournment.

Building a new home?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.



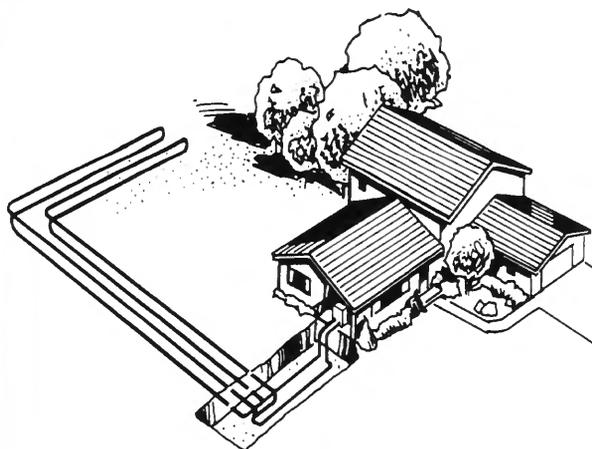
See How Mother Earth Helps Pay Energy Bills.

IT'S **GE**  **-LOGICAL** SM

Seeing is believing. You're invited to see firsthand why geothermal heating, cooling & hot water delivers what you want and what our world needs – **lower operating costs, comfort, cleanliness and a better environment.**

Geothermal systems harness the earth's renewable, natural supply of free energy ... and use it for heating, cooling & hot water. **Savings can be from 30-60% on your heating, cooling & hot water bills.**

When you see it for yourself by attending the WaterFurnace Field Day, you'll become a believer in the benefits of geothermal technology.



Mike and Emily Putbrese residence

Saturday, August 7, 1999

1 mile east of Xenia on new Route 50 Co. Rd. 425E and Hwy 50.

8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

T A K E C O M F O R T I N A B E T T E R E N V I R O N M E N T

WaterFurnace
Geothermal Heating • Cooling • Hot Water

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Save money, save the earth, save energy

Over the last couple of decades, many of us have taken some steps to save energy and to help mitigate the damage we do to the environment. Recycling, composting and switching to more environmentally friendly products are some of the steps we've taken.

The following home energy-saving tips — even though they're often overlooked — help protect the environment too, because they help you use energy more efficiently.



INSULATING DOORS AND WINDOWS

Start with your home's biggest energy wasters — your windows and exterior doors. You lose more of your heating and cooling dollars through these — per square inch — than through any other part of your home. For example, heat passes through a window with a single pane of glass 14 times faster than through a well-insulated wall. So, even with an attic full of insulation, you can still be wasting money and energy through your windows and doors.

Install storm windows, or double-pane windows, to cut this energy drain in half. Over the last few years, window companies have developed various films designed to keep heat out — or in — and to prevent the passage of ultraviolet rays into the home. These will save energy and help prevent fading in pictures, furniture and carpets. Add storm doors for additional savings.

CAULKING AND WEATHER-STRIPPING

After insulating your windows and doors, don't forget to caulk and weather-strip around them. Almost 40 percent of your monthly heating and cooling bill may be going out through small cracks around doors and windows and other parts of your home.

Caulking is a rubber-like material that can expand or contract to seal air leaks around each pane of window glass and between door and window frames and the house. Weather-stripping is a flexible material (foam rubber, felt, or aluminum) that helps to assure a snug fit between the parts of windows and doors that open and close.

WATER HEATING

Water heating is the second-largest energy user in the average American house. You can save water and the energy needed to keep it hot by maintaining an energy-efficient water heating system and by conserving hot water.

Start with the water heating tank itself:

- Get the right size water heater. Keeping more hot water on hand than you need can waste energy.
- For every 10 degrees you lower the temperature, you can save about 6 percent of your water heating energy.
- If the sides of your water heater feel warm to the touch, you may need more insulation. Wrap a water heater with an insulating blanket, especially if the water heater is located in an unheated area of your home.

In addition to insulating the water heater, you will also save money by insulating the hot water pipes going out of the water heater.

If you don't have low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators to reduce water flow, install them soon. They'll help you save both water and energy. Aerated showerheads and faucets mix air with water to maintain pressure, and low-flow showerheads pulse the water flow. These simple devices are easily installed and can reduce the amount of water and energy used by 50 percent.

DUCT SEALING

Seal and insulate the ducts that carry heated or cooled air to the registers in each room of your house. Doing a checkup here can save 10 to 15 percent on your energy bill. All ductwork should be sealed at the joints to prevent leakage. Ducts located in unconditioned areas of your home (attic or crawlspaces) should be insulated.

SET-BACK THERMOSTAT

A set-back thermostat allows you to change the temperature setting or turn off your heating or cooling system at preset times. Each morning when you leave and each evening when you return, the temperature changes to save energy, automatically. Heating or cooling is done only when someone is home.

By using these easy and cost-effective energy saving guidelines, you can stay comfortable all year and still save money.

For more information on how you can save energy all around your house, call your friends at your electric cooperative. They'll be glad to help.

It's back to school time



Summer is over, school bells are ringing and the children are headed off to class. It's Indian Summer, and it feels like winter will never come. But, don't be fooled. Winter is coming, and now is the time to prepare.

Look around your home. See any gaps around your doors or windows? A 1/12-inch gap around a standard exterior door is like having a 4" x 5" hole in the wall. Add that to cracks around other doors and windows and you could be allowing a lot of cold air into your home this winter.

Plugging those leaks will increase your comfort, and it pays for itself in reduced energy bills. Just weather stripping around doors and windows can cut heat loss by nearly half. Caulking, additional insulation and storm doors and windows are other measures that will make your home even more energy-efficient.

Call your local electric cooperative for advice on weatherization plans that will fit your budget and pay off in lower energy costs. Then, sit back and enjoy the Indian Summer.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Powerful solutions for over 60 years



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting June 28, 1999

All Trustees were present, also present were General Manager Wattles, Cooperative Attorney Todd, Jack Young and Curtis Endsley of Wayne White Counties Electric Cooperative.

Invocation was given by Trustee Pierson.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held May 24, 1999 and the special meeting held June 15, 1999.

Accepted 25 new members for service.

Canceled 13 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of May, 1999 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders totaling \$10,584.52 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Heard a report of recent AIEC Board meeting from Trustee Cammon.

Approved a refund of capital credits to the estate of deceased member Drue Bible pursuant to cooperative policy.

Authorized the payment of annual dues to the Association

of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Resolved that Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. establish a revolving equipment loan and authorize borrowing from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of May, 1999.

Approved write-offs totaling \$1,490.74.

Discussed upcoming NRECA Region V meeting.

Discussed upcoming AIEC annual meeting.

Appointed President Henson as delegate, Trustee Cammon as voting delegate and Trustee Dunigan as alternate voting delegate to the NRECA Region V meeting.

Appointed Trustee Dunigan as voting delegate and Trustee Cammon as alternate voting delegate to the AIEC annual meeting.

Received information from Jack Young and Curtis Endsley of Wayne White Counties Electric Cooperative regarding a contract they recently negotiated with Intergy.

Discussed the future of Clay Electric Cooperative's power sup-

ply and following said discussion.

Resolved that it is in the best interest of the Cooperative to withdraw from membership in the Soyland Power Cooperative.

Appointed the following nominating committees:

District IV

Carrol L. Frutiger, Michael Phillips, Kenneth Richardson, Don Iffert, Richard Kessler, Gregory Phillips, Randy Shelton, Robert Kuenstler and Bill Mitchel.

District V

Danny Schnepfer, David Atchason, Cecil Wilkins, Dennis Holkenbrink, Kenneth Daugherty, Jack Stanfield, James P. Quinn and Mark Phillips.

District VII

Clifford Pearce, Gilbert D. Hale, Harlie Mix, Danny McAllister, Sam Thompson, Kent Warren, Ron Colman, Robert A. Briscoe, Billy Klein, Jr., Gary Cox and Mike Kitley.

Adjournment.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Special Meeting June 15, 1999

All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee's Pierson and Czyzewski, also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

Invocation was given by President Henson.

Were Advised by Manager Wattles of a resignation by an office employee.

Heard a presentation by Manager Wattles and Trustee Dunigan regarding recent power supply meeting.

Authorized Manager Wattles

to enter into a contract with Southern Engineering to conduct a study to determine whether the cooperative should remain with or withdraw from Soyland Power Cooperative.

Adjournment.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. Annual Meeting of Members



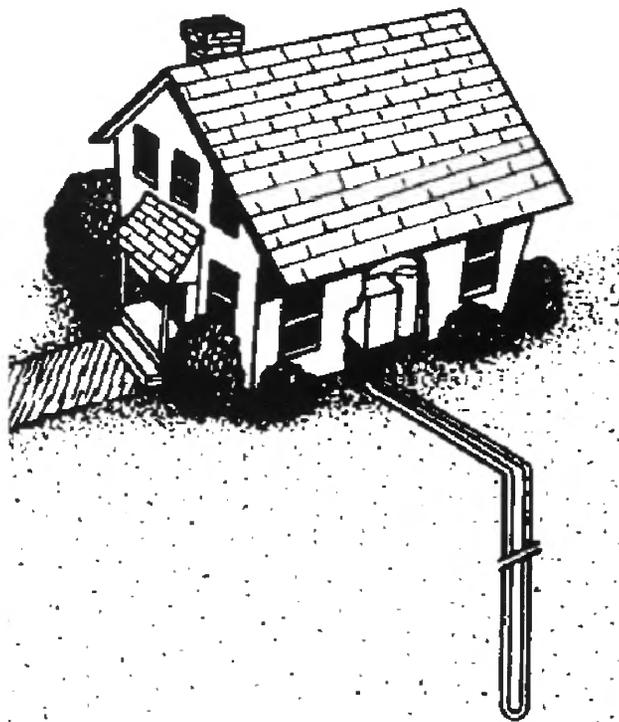
Will be held Thursday, September 9,
1999 at Charley Brown Park Old
Highway 50 West of Flora, IL.

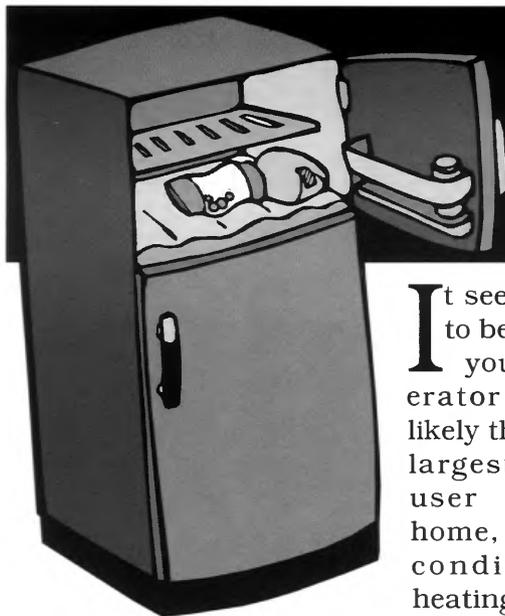
Registration and meal
begins at 6 p.m.

Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.
Entertainment by Edgewood Opry

Building a new home?

*Please call
our Member
Services depart-
ment about a Comfort
Home Building
techniques booklet,
our Geothermal re-
bates, and how to re-
ceive a lifetime water
heater free of charge.*





Fridge is fourth-largest energy user in most homes

It seems hard to believe, but your refrigerator is very likely the fourth-largest energy user in your home, after air conditioning, heating and water heating. Depending on how big your fridge is, how many features it has, and its age, it may use between \$200 and \$400 worth of electricity a year.

The experts tell us that it's smarter to buy a new energy-efficient model, rather than use a fridge that's only a few years old. But as attractive as that sounds, most of us have better places to put our money than into replacing a fridge that we may not yet have paid for!

If your refrigerator is working okay and isn't too old, you can do some things to help reduce its operating costs. Here are a few suggestions.

Clean the condenser coils. Dirt and dust collect on the coils, which are usually located on the back of the fridge, but are sometimes on the bottom. That makes the machine work harder, and that costs you. Cleaning the coils at least once a year should improve your refrigerator's efficiency by up to 30 percent. To clean them, unplug the refrigerator, then brush or vacuum the coils (You'll probably need to move it out from the wall to do this). When you move it back, be sure to leave some space behind and around it so air can circulate around the coils.

Check the door seals, or gaskets. They can deteriorate over time and decrease the unit's performance. You can check this by closing the door on a dollar bill and trying to pull it out. If it comes out easily, your fridge will benefit from a new gasket. While they aren't cheap, they'll help. Call your repairman or the dealer you bought your fridge from, if you decide to have the seal replaced.

Check the temperature setting. Ideally, your fridge should maintain a temperature of

about 38 degrees F. to 40 degrees F: the freezer should be between 0 degrees F. and 10 degrees F. Thermometers to check the temperature are available from hardware and kitchen supply stores. Put the thermometer in the center of the unit so it doesn't touch any food, and leave it for about 15 minutes. If necessary, adjust the temperature by turning the thermostat dial.

Defrost regularly if your machine is a manual-defrost model. If you don't, ice builds up and makes your compressor work more. Don't let ice build up thicker than one-quarter inch. Be sure to unplug before defrosting.

Check your power-saver switch. Many refrigerators built during the last few years have the capability to prevent moisture from building up on the outside of the refrigerator during humid weather. They do this by supplying heat to areas around the freezer door where moisture is most likely to collect. A switch inside the fridge usually activates this option. With the switch off, your refrigerator will not have to draw the extra current needed to supply this heat. In times of especially high heat and humidity, you may need to turn the switch back on.

Check the condensation drain. These are usually found on self-defrosting refrigerators, and if it's clogged, ice will build up on the coils, and your fridge will have to work harder. Check the drain occasionally and make sure it's clear.

If you have an old refrigerator or freezer in the garage, keep in mind that it's probably costing you a bundle to run it. Unless your garage is cooled, the unit will have to work harder than it would if it were in the house, and that costs you. And, while we often tend to brush off the "experts'" advice as ivory tower stuff, they're probably right when they recommend that you have one large refrigerator-freezer—inside—rather than two modest -sized units in different places. That's a judgment call you may want to take a good look at.

At any rate, follow these suggestions, and you'll save a little on your electricity bill. Every little bit helps.

You, your neighbors... our cooperative



He's selling soft drinks to you at the town festival. She's sitting next to you at the school basketball game. Another one waves from the front step as you head to work. Yet another is buying a candy bar so your daughter's marching band can make that spring trip.

They're all around you. They are part of your electric cooperative, bringing the best possible electric service to homes, farms and businesses. They work in the office, or they are out on the power poles, or they are like you — a fellow member-owner. And, they are part of your community.

The "cooperative" kind of utility isn't some faceless office in a faraway city. It's you and the people you see at the grocery store or the local dance. It's you and your neighbors getting together to make your community a better place to live.

October is Cooperative Month



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

All Trustees were present, also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

Invocation was given by President Henson.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held June 28, 1999.

Accepted 11 new members for service.

Canceled 11 members no longer receiving service.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of June, 1999 presented by Manager Wattles.

Approved list of work orders totaling \$15,486.36 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Heard a report of recent AIEC Board meeting from Trustee Cammon.

Approved a refund of capital credits to the estate of deceased member Fletcher Stanley pursuant to cooperative policy.

Approved one purchase of power contract.

Reviewed amendments to the by-laws and

Resolved that the proposed amendments be presented to the members for approval at the upcoming annual meeting of members, September 9, 1999.

Heard a report from Manager Wattles concerning Y2K compliance.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of June, 1999.

Reviewed nominating committee reports.

Discussed recent activities at Soyland.

Heard a report of recent Soyland board meeting and strategy session.

Discussed further this Cooperative's decision to withdraw from Soyland.

Advised by Manager Wattles that he should receive the Cooperative's consultant report by July 28.

Reconvened this meeting until July 28, 1999 at 6 p.m. at the Cooperative office.

Minutes of Reconvened Board of Trustees Meeting July 28, 1999

All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Logan. Also present were General Manager Wattles, Cooperative Attorney Todd and by means of speakerphone Cooperative Engineer Jack Gaines.

Discussed with Engineer Gaines the Cooperative notice in June to withdraw from Soyland and the notification from Soyland of the need for us to sign a contract for purchase of power if it was our intention to rescind our previous notice to withdraw and purchase power from Soyland. Following discussion, the action of the Board taken in June to withdraw from Soyland was reaffirmed and Manager Wattles was directed to notify Soyland that we would not be signing a contract with them.

Adjournment.

October is cooperative month

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

The day you joined your electric cooperative, you became a member of a unique organization. An electric cooperative is different.

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

Your electric cooperative is committed to providing the best possible service at

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

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



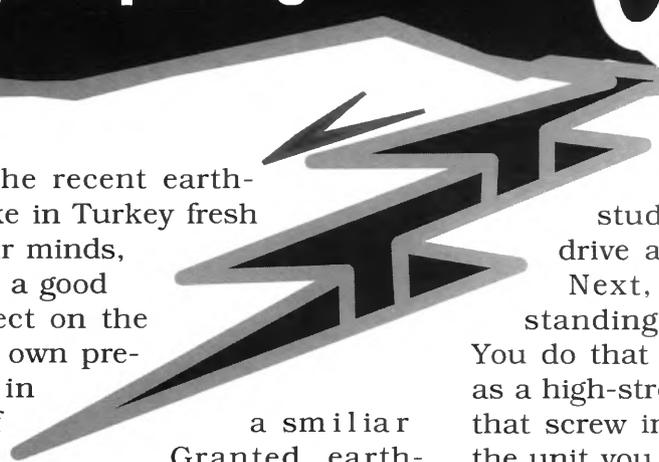
Building a new home?



Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our geothermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

Disaster prepared: Don't let a leave you quaking

QUAKE



With the recent earthquake in Turkey fresh in our minds, now may be a good time to reflect on the state of our own preparedness in the event of a familiar disaster. Granted, earthquakes are few and far between in this part of the country, but southern Illinois is situated on or near the New Madrid fault, and a damaging tremor can't be ruled out completely.

That fissure hasn't done any serious acting up in a long time, but the last time it did it was a real spectacle. As heavily populated as our area is now, even a minor tremor on the fault could cause serious property damage. And, there are other forms of disaster that can cause problems.

The idea behind these guidelines is to offer you some quick, inexpensive tips that will enable you to reduce the damage to your property if a moderate quake or tornado were to hit. They involve little chores that even the all-thumbs handyman can accomplish, and that can be done at very little expense. Please note that they are simple steps designed to help you minimize property damage, and will not save your life if your house is blown away or if it collapses on you.

Elementary quake preparations are fairly simple. You need to secure your water heater so it won't fall over. To do that, you need a strip of plumber's tape, which is available at hardware stores and home centers. It's a metal strip about three-quarters of an inch wide, with nail holes about every inch. You need to nail one end of the strip to a stud behind your water heater, run the strip around the

unit and nail it to another stud. It's not enough to simply drive a nail into drywall!

Next, you should secure free-standing bookshelves and the like. You do that by using a heavy line, such as a high-strength fishing line, and hooks that screw into the wall and the back of the unit you need to anchor. Affix a hook into the bookshelf, another in the wall (be sure it's screwed into a stud), and tie the two together.

No matter what the problem is, whether it's Y2K, a tornado or an earthquake, it's important to know where your electrical main switch is so you can turn off all power if you have to. If you have natural gas or propane, you need to know where that shutoff is, and you'll really need one of the special wrenches it takes to shut them off.

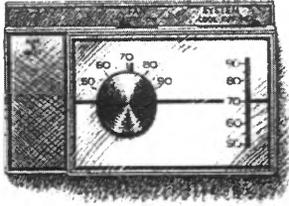
Have a supply of bottled water on hand, and fill your bathtub so you'll have water to flush toilets with. Keep some canned foods that can be eaten cold, if necessary. While many soups and stews are palatable cold, they're much better warmed, so you may want a small camp stove and some spare fuel. A battery-powered radio would come in handy for weather reports. Whatever you do, don't forget a manually operated can opener.

Don't forget blankets and/or sleeping bags. Always keep candles, matches and a flashlight handy, and spare batteries, too. Remember that battery-powered lanterns are safer than coal oil lamps or those that use fossil fuels.

With any luck, you shouldn't have to go through the things we've outlined here. But if you do, you'll be pleased that you took our simple precautions. They take little effort and even less expense, and they can help a lot.

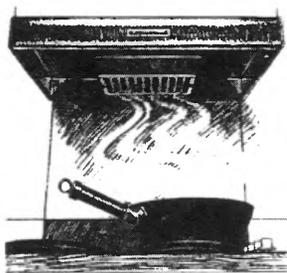
5 FREE

QUICK-AND-EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY IN YOUR HOME THIS WINTER



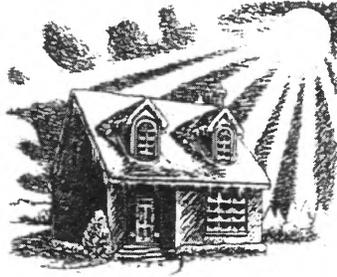
1 Use your thermostat like the gas pedal in your car.

When you're driving your car, you know what happens when you constantly speed up and slow down — or run at high speeds for an extended period: You waste gas. The same thing happens when you frequently change the temperature setting on your thermostat: You waste electricity. So set your thermostat and forget it, once in the morning and once at night. Or install an automatic setback thermostat to handle the settings for you.



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

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



3 Take advantage of the sun.

Contrary to what some people think, you don't need a sophisticated solar heating system to take advantage of the sun's warmth during winter. Just watch the sun's movement across your home to see which windows get plenty of sunlight — and open the blinds, shades and draperies on those windows to let the sun shine in to supplement your home's heating system.



4 Close the door on wasted energy.

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

If you fixed all the energy wasters in your home, you probably could save a considerable amount of your energy bill every year. Of course, every home is different — but imagine the impact five- or ten-percent savings could have! Best of all, none of the ideas shown here will cost you anything but a little time — so why not get started right now?



5 Close your fireplace damper.

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



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting — August 23, 1999

All Trustees were present; also present were General Manager Wattles, Cooperative Attorney Todd, and Joe Firlit of Soyland.

- **Invocation** was given by Trustee Cammon.
- **Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held July 26.
- **Accepted** 15 new members for service.
- **Canceled** 24 members no longer receiving service.
- **Approved** the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of July 1999, presented by Manager Wattles.
- **Approved** list of work orders totaling \$24,166.07 and **Authorized** Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.
- **Heard** a presentation by Joe Firlit regarding Soyland.
- **Heard** a report by Manager Wattles and Trustee Dunigan regarding recent Soyland board meeting.
- **Heard** a report of recent AIEC Board meeting from Trustee Cammon.
- **Resolved** that this Cooperative establish a line of credit and **Authorize** borrowing from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation as presented at this meeting.
- **Discussed** final arrangements for the annual meeting of members of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- **Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of July 1999.
- **Resolved** that a special meeting of the board be held on Wednesday, August 25 at 7 p.m. to discuss Soyland buy-out with Attorney Gary Barnhart.

Adjournment.

Minutes of Special Board of Trustees Meeting — Aug. 25, 1999

All Trustees were present; also present were General Manager Wattles, Cooperative Attorney Todd and Attorney Gary Barnhart.

- **Heard** a presentation by Attorney Gary Barnhart regarding Soyland buy-out policy and a review of the information forwarded to the Cooperative by Soyland. Following the presentation and a discussion thereof.
- **Directed** Manager Wattles and Secretary Dunigan to execute the Withdrawal Agreement and the Confidentiality Agreements in the form presented by Soyland and forward the same to Soyland instanter.

Adjournment.



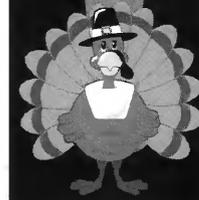
Alan Wattles, left, manager of Clay Electric Co-operative, congratulates Danny Schnepfer of Louisville on his election to the board of directors of the co-op. Looking on are, third from left, Loren Dunigan of Clay City and Richard Rudolphi of Noble. Schnepfer was elected to his first term, while Dunigan and Rudolphi were re-elected. The election was held at the 55th annual meeting of Clay Electric Co-operative, held Thursday, Sept. 9, at Charley Brown Park in Flora.

Outage charges

Outages cannot always be prevented! We try to keep trees trimmed, and lines, poles and hardware maintained to prevent outages, but, sometimes animals, cars or storms cause them.

To prevent labor and overtime charges, check your breakers before calling in an outage. You may have a main breaker under your meter and you may also have a breaker box inside your home. **Always check these breakers before calling in an outage.**

**CLOSING
DATES**



We will be closed on the following dates in November:

Thursday, Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 12.

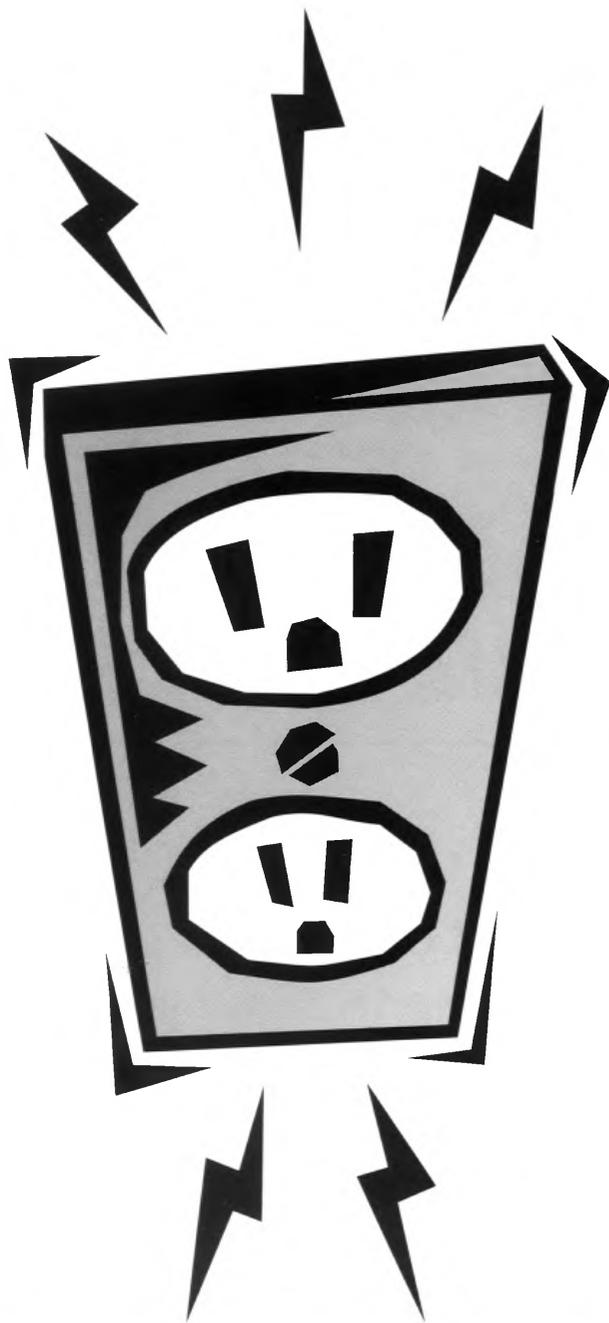
Thursday and Friday Nov. 25 & 26 for Thanksgiving. We will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 29.

Building a new home?



Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our geothermal rebates, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

Gauge your home's "HOUSEPOWER."



Are you blowing fuses frequently? Are your circuit breakers tripping a lot? Do any of your appliances operate more slowly than they should? Do your lights dim when other appliances and equipment are in use?

You probably have low "housepower" if you experience any of these problems in your home. You may think it's related to the service you receive from your electric cooperative, but the problem can usually be traced to the wiring in your home.

The wiring in your house determines how much electricity you can safely use in your home. Low "housepower" is a signal that your home doesn't have adequate wiring to meet your family's electric needs.

The remedy might not be that expensive. However, you really need to consult an experienced electrical contractor to help determine how to gain the "housepower" needed in your home.

Call your local electric cooperative today for more information. Safety precautions mean peace of mind.

Use heat tapes properly, for results, safety



This is the time of year when electric heat tapes get a real workout, to keep water pipes from freezing. And with that in mind, this is an especially good time to check your heat tapes and replace them, if necessary.

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says consumers (including residents of mobile homes) should replace uncertified heat tapes that are more than three years old with certified ones that meet recognized voluntary standards.

An electric heat tape resembles an electric cord. It may be round or flat. Some varieties have an over-all covering of light metal braid. There is an electrical plug on one end and sometimes a pod or box with a thermostat switch to control the power to the heating conductors in the tape.

Heat tapes are usually installed in crawl spaces or attics. Often, they are used on mobile homes to heat water supply pipes that come from underground up to a mobile home.

For all the benefits heat tapes offer, they can be dangerous. According to the CPSC, electric heat tapes are involved in about 2,000 fires each year, resulting in about 10 deaths and 100 injuries. CPSC urges you to help reduce this risk of fire and death by using only certified heat tapes on your pipes. One way you can tell the difference is that all new certified heat tapes will have three-prong plugs; the older uncertified ones have two-prong plugs. Currently, there are

three organizations that are certifying heat tapes to meet recognized national voluntary standards: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and Factory Mutual Research Corporation (FMRC).

Buying heat tapes that meet voluntary standards offers you and your family a degree of protection, but heat tapes also must be installed and used properly to provide the most protection against freezing pipes, as well as the highest level of safety for you and your family.

CPSC offers these safety tips for electric heat tapes:

- Inspect heat tapes each year and replace them if you notice signs of deterioration. Look for discolored surfaces (especially at the plug), charring, cuts or breaks in the insulation, or bare wires.
- When installing heat tapes, carefully observe installation instructions. Different heat tapes have different installation requirements.
- Always plug the three-prong plug into a three-prong outlet to make sure the heat tape is grounded.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) wherever heat tapes are plugged in.
- Make sure the heat tape you use is intended for use on water pipes (other tapes heat

- Do not wrap heat tape over roof, gutters, or garden soil).
 - Apply heat tape directly on the pipe to be protected, never on top of the insulation covering the pipe.
 - Keep the end cap sealed and off the ground to prevent water from getting in. Moisture can lead to a fire.
 - If heat tape has a thermostat, check instructions to see if the thermostat should be placed against the pipe and covered with insulation or if it should be left hanging and uncovered.
- Heat tapes perform a useful function, but like any electrical product, they need to be treated with care and respect. Don't create a fire hazard trying to keep your pipes from freezing. Replace uncertified heat tapes that are more than three years old. Buy heat tapes that meet voluntary standards. Install and use heat tapes properly.



Enjoy your holidays!

Our office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 23 and 24, in observance of the Christmas holiday.
We will also be closed on Friday, Dec. 31 for New Year's holiday.

Office closing



All Trustees were present; also present were General Manager Wattle and Cooper Attorney Todd.
Invocation was given by Trustee Dunigan.
Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held Aug. 23 1999, the special meeting held Aug. 25, 1999 the reorganizational meeting held Sept. 9, 1999 and the special meeting held Sept. 14, 1999.
Accepted 26 new members for service.
Canceled 20 members no longer receiving service.
Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of August 1999 presented by Manager Wattle. **Approved** list of work orders totaling \$22,967.64 and authorized Manager Wattle to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting Sept. 27, 1999

Board meeting report

Appointed the following trustees to serve on the various standing committees:
Labor Relations and Policy: Loren Dunigan, Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolph.
Budget and Retail Rates: Frank Czyzewski, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson.
Purchasing and Communications: Howard Poehler, Bob Pierson, Danny Schnepfer.
Power Supply: Edwin Henson, Howard Poehler, Loren Dunigan, Kevin Logan.
Heard a report by Manager Wattle regarding recent Soyland board meeting.
Heard a report by the Labor Committee concerning negotiations with IBEW.
Discussed the annual meeting held Sept. 9, 1999.
Accepted the disbursement list for the month of August 1999.
Renewed the Cooperative's participation in the AIEC Continued Education Program.
Approved one purchase of power contract.
Discussed upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.
Resolved that the Cooperative sell a small portion of land to adjoining property owner, Vivian O. Fitzgerald.
Appointed Trustee Logan as Director and President Henson as Alternate Director to the AIEC Board.
Heard a report from Manager Wattle concerning the progress of securing a power supplier.
Advised of recent Safety Meeting conducted in August by AIEC Safety Director Doug Drake.
Adjournment.

Clay Electric News

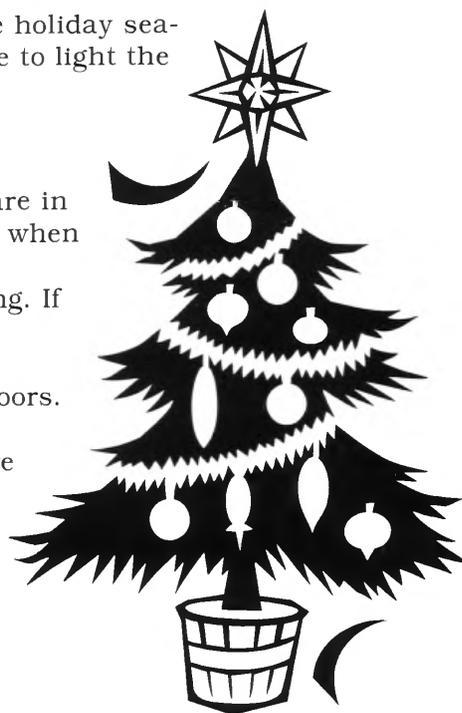


CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. 618-662-2171 FLORA, ILLINOIS

Oh, Christmas tree!!

You have decked the halls and you are ready for the holiday season, but do not forget to think safety when it comes time to light the tree.

- Make sure bulbs do not touch any branches.
- Do not use lights on a metal tree.
- Check each set of Christmas lights to be sure they are in good repair. If a cord is damaged, frayed or gets hot when in use, unplug it immediately and do not use it.
- Use three-prong, grounded electric outlets for lighting. If none is available, have one installed by a qualified electrical contractor.
- Never run an electric cord from indoors to the outdoors.
- Check for loose prongs on the plug.
- Use caution when installing outdoor lights. Be aware of overhead power lines and have someone help hold tall ladders.
- Turn off lights when you are away or sleeping at night.



IEC Memorial Scholarship forms still available

There's still time to apply for the \$1,000 IEC scholarships. Three will be given away this year, with two being given to the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative member, and the other going to the daughter or son of a cooperative employee or director. The deadline for entries is Jan. 1, 2000. See your school counselor or call Doug at (618) 662-2171 for further details.



Quick window fixes

If your windows rattle easily (and not just when the kids turn the music up loud!) you'll likely lose a lot of heated air this winter. In fact, the heat you lose through your windows can account for 10 to 25 percent of your heating costs! Take advantage of the good fall weather to prepare for colder, windy days ahead by giving your home's windows a good long look.

About that rattling — if the

windows are loose in the frame, heated air can escape. A little caulking can solve the problem inexpensively. Rope caulking comes ready to press into place, costs about \$5 per window and is easy to remove in the spring. If your window glass is very loose, you may need to reglaze them with glazing compound or putty, which is permanent. It is not a difficult task and it can really pay off.

If your windowpanes are okay but you don't have storm windows and want an extra layer of protection, try clear plastic film. It may not look like much, but that thin layer of film creates a dead air space, which is a great insulator. Kits come with film and double-sided tape, are simple to use, and the film is almost invisible after it is heated and tightened into the space with a hair dryer.

AT THE HOLIDAY SEASON...



...We see the lights of Christmas dotting the Illinois countryside as thousands of electric cooperative families spread holiday cheer. Electric cooperatives of Illinois extend best wishes and season's greetings to the more than 170,000 consumer-members who own the electric cooperatives of this state.

We wish you everything that's bright and beautiful during this holiday season...and for the coming new year.