

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

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 leads 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, weather-stripping, 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.

Visiting committee



Recently, we came across some old issues of the JAMUP. We would like to share with you some of the articles that appeared in the first issue, printed November 1940. We thought you would enjoy reading some of these articles, we certainly did.

Tuesday, October 22, 1940, the office personnel decided to visit some of the members along the line and give a report of what we actually saw. As we want to become better acquainted with our members we plan to visit a different member each month.

Tuesday we visited Hogendobler Brothers of Villa Ridge. When we drove up just at twilight we were met by three

dogs and did not know whether to venture out of the car or not. However, we hardly had time to consider this point as the yard was flooded with light which we soon discovered was coming from a yard light mounted on the gable of the house. **William L. Oliver**

Mr. and Mrs. Hogendobler and Ken came out to greet us. They were very enthusiastic about the lights and showed

us how they had wired the house, two barns, a garage and chicken house. Mr. Hogendobler has a radio installed in his cattle barn to make his chores more pleasant and to prevent missing some of his favorite programs while working.

Mr. Hogendobler then showed us the well and told of his plans for the new water system which he says will be his next addition of electrical equipment.

While we were in the house Mrs. Hogendobler told us how much she would hate to give up the new 7-foot Crosley refrigerator, and Ken, who is only five years old, says he likes the lights upstairs best of all because he doesn't have to use a flashlight now when he goes upstairs, and he thinks just pushing a button is much easier than lighting the lamp and carrying it from room to room.

We really enjoyed our short visit with the Hogendoblers and recommend their friendly hospitality. We are looking forward to our second member visit next month.

Co-op employees in November 1940 were:

George W. Endicott
R. H. Holcomb
Leo Holcomb
Roy Miller
Delbert Penrod
Robert Modglin

W. C. Huff
John J. Hartline
Elmer W. Koonce
Gerry Ford
Roy N. Baggott

Welcome new members (November 1940)

H. Vincent
Golighlly Tilden
Orris Mosby
Lester Rhoades
Linnie Ferril
Lester Martin
Ed Dexter
Earnest Duschal
W. M. Davidson
L. R. Madden

Arlie Nefzger
Susan White
Ernest Glasco
Harold Stoner
M. P. Mathis
Albert Kinder
Gilbert Warren
William Scott
Mt. Pleasant School

This month's recipe is a favorite of Mr. Russ Holcomb's, our head maintenance man. Mrs. Holcomb sent this recipe for the cake after we tasted it at the Co-op Board Fish Fry in September 1940. We hope you will find her Sour Cream Devil's Food Cake as delicious as we did.

Sour Cream Devil's Food Cake

2 cups brown sugar	2 cups flour (sifted)	4 tablespoons cocoa
1 1/2 cups sour cream	1 teaspoon baking powder	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 eggs	1 teaspoon soda	

Add cream and sugar. Beat until lumps are removed. Add eggs whole, beat until whites are smooth. Sift dry ingredients together three times. Add to egg and sugar mixture. Beat until smooth. Bake in 2 layer pan 20 minutes at 350 F. Put layers together with mocha filling.

Mocha Filling

2 cups confectioner's sugar	4 tablespoons strong boiling hot coffee	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 tablespoons cocoa		
4 tablespoons butter		

To sugar, cocoa and butter add hot coffee slowly, beating to make mixture smooth and creamy. Spread between layers.

Letter from a satisfied member

Metropolis, ILL.
October 31, 1940

So. ILL. Electric Coop.
Dongola, ILL.

Dear Sirs:

Am enclosing card received today. Have had lights for three weeks now and have burned 20 kwh to date, October 31. **Richard Darrell Malone**

I must certainly compliment your splendid cooperation and promptness as the wiring contractor only finished wiring at 3 o'clock one afternoon and by noon hour of the next day we were already hooked up to R.E.A.

A Satisfied Member,

Mr. Carl H. Eickholz

Things you should know about your co-op

T. A. Hoffman, Dongola, Illinois, was the first member to have a meter installed at his home.

H. L. Huff, Dongola, Illinois, was the first member to be hooked up after the line was energized last March (1940).

"The average farm family without electricity walks about 1,750 miles yearly for 73,000 gallons of water and uses up 63 working days. These estimates are the result of a Farm housing survey made several years ago."

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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

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Area phone outage information

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8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.,
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or Call Dongola Office 618-827-3555

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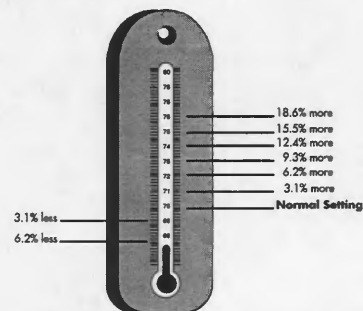
A couple of degrees equals a bunch of dollars!!

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

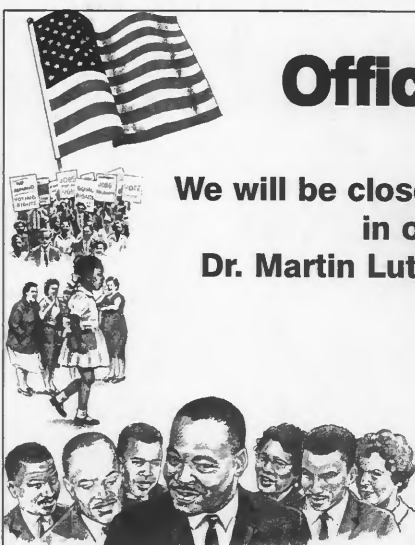
Membership prize

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

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

Office closing

We will be closed Monday, Jan. 18, 1999
in observance of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.



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1999 Youth to Washington Essay Contest

The Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) Board of Directors is once again offering an essay contest to students attending a high school in the SIEC service area. The grand prize to be that one boy and one girl will win week-long, all-expenses-paid tours of Washington, D.C., June 18-25, 1999. The tour winners and twelve finalists will also win tours of Springfield on April 21, 1999.

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

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

In Springfield for "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day," the students will meet legislators and tour the



The week of June 12-19, 1998, was a memorable one for four area youths. They spent a week exploring Washington, D.C., meeting with Illinois congressional leaders and learning about government during the annual Youth to Washington tour, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois. Bryant Hileman of Karnak, Warren Jackson of Villa Ridge, Amber Moreland of Cobden and Kristy Ulrich of Grand Chain represented Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola. They met with former Congressman Glenn Poshard on Capitol Hill and were among 62 rural youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, students also explored Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia and a number of other historical sites. Pictured are (l-r): Jackson, Ulrich, former Congressman Poshard, Moreland and Hileman.

State Capitol complex and historic Springfield sites.

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

Students attending Anna-Jonesboro, Century, Cobden, Dongola, Egyptian, Goreville, Joppa, Meridian, Metropolis, Shawnee or Vienna high schools, may enter the essay

contest. The title for this year's composition is "How Deregulation Will Affect Electric Cooperatives." A representative of SIEC will visit your school during the next few months to explain the contest rules and furnish research materials.

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

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The Consumer comes first

by Glenn English

As I've said before, "the devil is in the details." An ad I saw in a Washington, D.C., newspaper recently reminded me of how true this old adage is. The ad, by Southern California Edison, makes the claim that residential and small business consumers are now saving millions of dollars on their electric rates as a result of electric utility deregulation in California.

The facts don't support this claim. The 10 percent rate reduction in California had nothing to do with market forces. The deregulation law itself mandated the reduction that was financed by the sale of billions of dollars of state bonds. To further complicate things, the same law allowed utilities to add "extra" charges to consumer bills that may wipe out the savings or even increase their bills. The extra charges were included to pay off the stranded costs of utilities in California.

At the same time, the deferred taxes (taxes collected but not paid) that for-profit utilities like Southern California Edison have been collecting from ratepayers for years remain in their bank accounts earning interest. Southern California Edison alone has nearly \$1.5 billion in taxpayer money that it will likely keep forever.

The ad also claims that the future looks brighter than ever. Brighter, that is, if you are a large industrial user of electricity or a big power monopoly, not an average Californian. The big power monopolies say competition is the way to lower prices. They've been spending untold millions to get laws changed to open the retail side

of our industry to competition.

But for competition to work it requires competitors. Enron's pullout of the California residential market (after spending millions there); the failure of many power marketing ventures; price spikes and reliability problems are all warning signs that we need to move ahead with caution. Enron's pullout is a clear sign: power marketers don't believe competition for the residential market will amount to much of an opportunity.

The jury is still out on whether or not a deregulated utility market will save residential consumers' money. It could force them to pay higher rates in order to finance high-stakes bidding wars between big power monopolies for large users of energy.

In the meantime, while other utilities are maximizing profits by dumping consumers overboard, electric cooperatives are working hard to enable any consumer anywhere to participate in our cooperative enterprise.

This is the best way we can work together for positive change in the market place. Already, nearly 40,000 agricultural businesses in California have banded together to form a new cooperative. Nearly 500,000 consumers now have the opportunity to be part of a new electric co-op in New York City. Consumers are uniting to expand or create new co-ops in Montana and Oregon as well.

Glenn English is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Take precautions when using supplemental heaters

As we move into fall, when the weather often changes from somewhat warm to downright chilly and back again, many of us are faced with the choice of freezing or turning on the furnace. Often, because it's really not that cold, we're reluctant to turn up the thermostat and incur the costs of being warm all through the house.

Often, it's not necessary. Sometimes a carefully placed portable supplemental space heater will provide just the needed additional warmth, without breaking the bank. So if you're in the kitchen enjoying the thrill of washing dishes and begin to feel a trifle chilly, all you need to do is bring in a little space heater.

Afterward, if you want to watch TV in the family room, you can pick up your little heater and move it there to create your own cozy little nook.

Naturally, your electric co-op hopes you'll use a portable electric heater because, overall, they're safer and more convenient than the other kinds. Even so, you must be careful with them. While they don't have an open flame, they do have hot surfaces. **George Myers**

And while they don't rely on volatile liquid or gas fuels that may spill or get out of control, they do use electricity, which packs considerable punch when not used properly.

One of their major advan-

tages, though, is that they do not give off carbon monoxide, and they don't require venting to make them safe.

Be sure to use your portable electric heater only for temporary heating of limited space only.

Be sure not to place them in heavily traveled areas, or in places where children may touch them. Don't use an extension cord with an electric heater if you can possibly avoid it. Most cords you'll find around the home aren't adequate.

Don't conceal the cord under a rug to get it out of sight or prevent tripping. Extension cords wear quickly under a rug, and can become a shock or fire hazard before you know it.

While most portable space heaters built in the last few years have good, solid bases to prevent tipping, older ones may not, and you need to be very careful with them. Newer models also have built-in switches to shut them off automatically if they tip over, and that's a desirable safety feature.

If you decide to use a portable kerosene heater, keep in mind that you need to provide adequate ventilation, which usually means cracking a window to let in fresh air and the cold. Use only 1K kerosene, and no other kind of fuel. Adjust the burner to the manufacturer's specifications, and don't refuel a hot heater.

Many recommend that you refuel kerosene heaters outdoors.

It's tempting to bring in gas camping heaters and the like, and that's downright unsafe. In addition to the dangers of contact burns, the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning is as great as it is with kerosene heaters, and there's also the problem of tipping.

If you plan to use any supplemental heater besides electric ones, you'd be wise to buy a carbon monoxide detector in addition to your smoke detector, and make sure both are properly installed and working.

No matter what kind of portable heater you use, there are some basic safety precautions YOU should take to avoid becoming a statistic. First, you should keep children and pets away from portable heaters, and avoid using them overnight in a room where you're sleeping.

Keep heaters at least three feet away from bedding, drapes, furniture and other combustibles, and always follow the manufacturer's instructions in installing, operating, and maintaining your heater.

Properly used, portable space heaters can help you stay comfortable while keeping your costs within reason. If you have questions about the safe use of portable electric heaters, contact your friends at your local co-op. They'll be glad to help.

Membership prize

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

Youth to Washington Contest Rules

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Dongola, IL 62926

1. Who may enter contest:

Any student 15 to 17 years-old (except members of immediate family of any board member or employee of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative) enrolled in any high school in the area served by this cooperative.

2. Basis of selecting contestants:

Contestants will be selected by writing an essay of not less than 600 words and not exceeding 1,000 words.

3. Form of entry:

Essay should be typed, on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, double-spaced, one side only.

4. Mailing essays:

Essays must be postmarked or received in the office of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative by March 10, 1999.

5. Judging:

Judging will be completed by April 7, 1999. No less than three judges will be used to score the written essays. Cooperative personnel will act as advisers to the judges on accuracy of facts. All identification is removed from the essays before judging.

6. Point system:

The following point system will be used:
Knowledge of the subject 40 percent
Originality of paper 30 percent
Composition (organization,
word choice, spelling) 30 percent

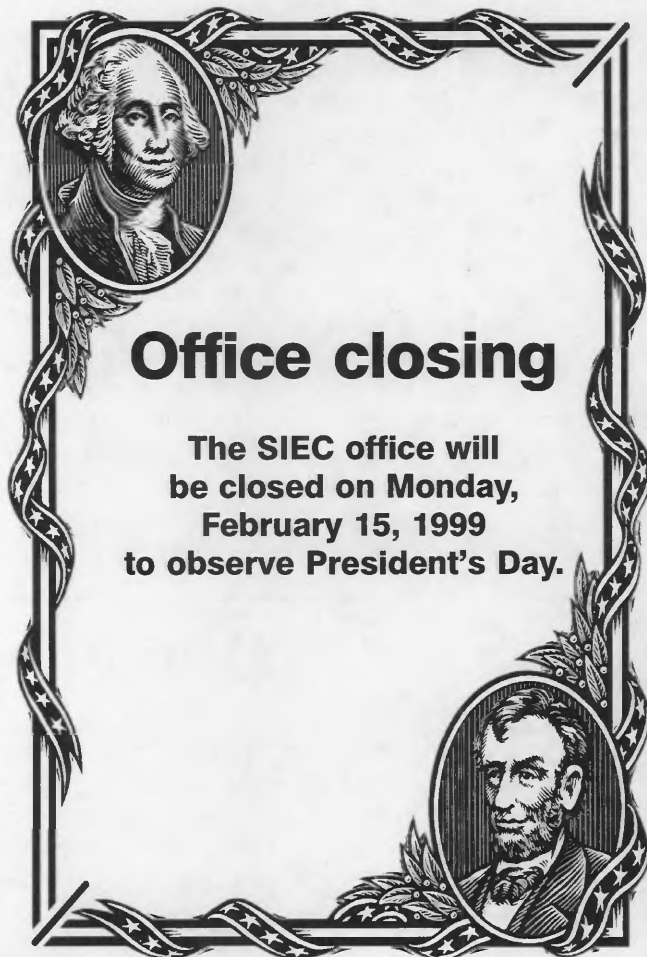
Youth to Washington Essay Contest

I would like to enter the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative essay contest. Please furnish the research materials to:

Signature

Mailing address

**Mail to: Southern Illinois Electric
Cooperative, P.O. Box 100,
Dongola, IL 62926.**

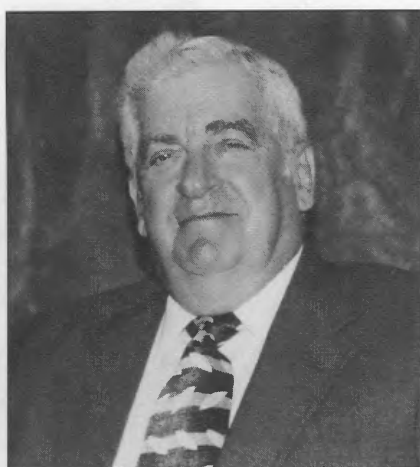


JAMUP

43

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Bob J. Ury

“Bob Ury, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Director, passes away.”

Bob J. Ury, Director of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, died Jan. 19, 1999 at the St. Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He was 68 years old. Bob had served on the SIEC board since 1980.

In addition to his wife, Mary Helen of Jonesboro, he is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Scott and Carolyn Ury of Anna and David and Alice Ury of Jonesboro; one daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Gregg Choate of Jonesboro; four grandchildren; two sisters; nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Jan. 22 at the Hileman & Parr Funeral Home in Jonesboro, with burial in St. John's Cemetery.

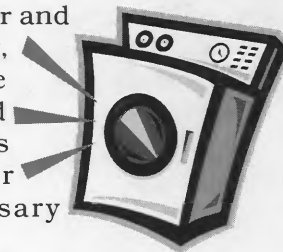
Ann says check your dryer vents!

Ann Landers had some great advice for her readers in an October column on the hazard of lint buildup in clothes dryers vents. It may sound trivial, but the article says that clothes dryers start more residential fires than any other appliance. A lint screen traps only 75 percent of the lint, and if it builds up in the dryer vent the motor works harder and can overheat,

igniting the lint. Blocking the airflow also reduces the efficiency of the dryer, requiring more time to dry clothes properly.

Problems can be caused by clogged lint screen compartments, disconnected dryer vent hoses, smashed or kinked hoses, building defects, blocked or improper exhaust hoods, or even bird nests in the dryer

vent. Flexible plastic vent tubes are not a good choice, while smooth aluminum duct is best for unobstructed airflow. Check your dryer and vent now, before clogged lint causes another unnecessary fire!



Illinois co-ops will merge

Members of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative and Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative voted on Nov. 10 to create a new organization to be known as Corn Belt Energy Corporation. Corn

Belt had about 16,700 consumers, with its headquarters in Bloomington. Illinois Valley was based in Princeton and served 6,000 consumers. Jeff Reeves, president/CEO of Corn Belt

Energy Corporation, and Kris Christensen, formerly Illinois Valley's president/CEO is senior vice president. Four directors of IVEC joined the 11 Corn Belt directors on the new board.

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SIEC plans for the Year 2000

All across the country, companies are busy attacking the Year 2000 computer bug and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is no exception.

The Year 2000 problem, also known as Y2K or the millennium bug, may manifest itself when millions of electronic devices contained in all kinds of equipment, from the simplest to the most sophisticated, may not recognize the new century.

The Y2K problem involves the way computers and other electronic devices may handle two-digit date codes in the Year 2000 and beyond. A computer calculating the age of someone born in 1975 in the year 2000 would subtract 1975 from 2000. No problem. But some older computers store the information using only the last two digits; for example, 75. When the computer tries to subtract 75 from 00, well, that is where the trouble begins.

It's a world of "what ifs," a global problem that has industry, government, even ordinary citizens, working to identify and fix or replace anything that might fail because of the Y2K date glitch. **It's a McPeak**

SIEC is taking any and all prudent steps to help keep the lights on come January 1, 2000. It is our top priority as part of our ongoing commitment to our members to provide reliable electric service. We have a comprehensive checklist of steps toward "Y2K readiness." These steps have been to inventory, assess or prioritize, test, repair or replace, retest and plan for contingencies. Our plan involves not only equipment necessary to keep the lights on, but also constant communication with other businesses that are part of the supply chain for electric power, as well as the utility's customer.

Although no one can make 100-percent guarantees as to

what will happen when the new century arrives, we are doing everything we can to be ready and to minimize disruptions. Much of SIEC's distribution system is mechanical, not electronic, and may be less sensitive to Year 2000 anomalies, meaning there are few digital controls and relatively few embedded chips. We have received confirmation from our power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), of their ongoing efforts to assure that there is not a power supply problem due to Y2K.

However, we are not isolated. We are very aware of the interconnected nature of power supply and delivery. We are connected to SIPC, which supplies us with the "juice." SIPC, in turn, is connected to the regional electricity grid; and there are many supply and delivery points all along the line, from the manufacturer of our bucket trucks to the sophisticated equipment at the power generating station. Still, it all comes around to the member at the end of the line, whether it's a home or a business. It's a critical structure whose reliability we're working very diligently to sustain.

Customers should be reassured at a very basic level by remembering that electric utilities, probably more than most businesses, were born and bred to cope with emergency situations. The Year 2000 bug is certainly different than a storm outage, but it is comparable to us in that we are in the habit of dealing with the unexpected.

On the national front, work to achieve Year 2000 readiness by electric cooperatives is on par with the rest of the electric industry. They are on schedule as recommended in an official progress report that the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) provided to the

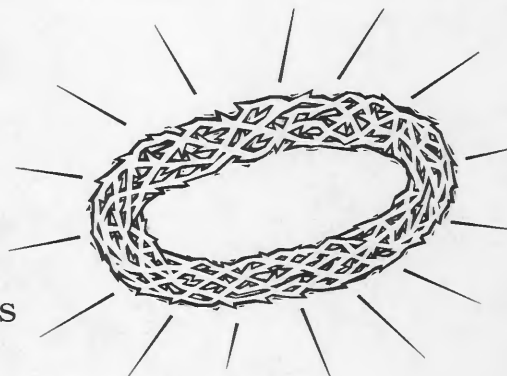
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in September of 1998. NERC, which is the official coordinator of Year 2000 readiness, risk assessment and contingency planning for the electric utility industry, will continue to provide quarterly updates on electric utility readiness to the DOE.

More than 90 percent of the nation's cooperative electric utilities, including SIEC, participated in the survey that contributed to the first report. The cooperative's responses to the survey indicate that 75 percent of the cooperative distribution utilities will achieve overall readiness for transition to the

Year 2000 by June 1999, as NERC has recommended. The balance of the co-op systems has plans underway and will be surveyed further to track their progress in inventory, assessment, and remediation of electric operations into the Year 2000.

Notice of closing

Our offices will be closed on
Friday, April 2,
in observance of Good Friday.
We will resume normal business hours
on Monday April 5.



Keep objects off electric co-op poles

When Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative line crews climb utility poles, they depend on having solid structures underfoot. However, this is not always the case. **Levi Schlenker**

SIEC strives to keep poles as safe as possible, but some aspects of maintaining unscathed poles are out of the co-op's control. For example, when people attach signs, posters and recreational equipment such as basketball rims, it can create serious hazards for line personnel.

Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples and barbed wire all present eminent dangers for

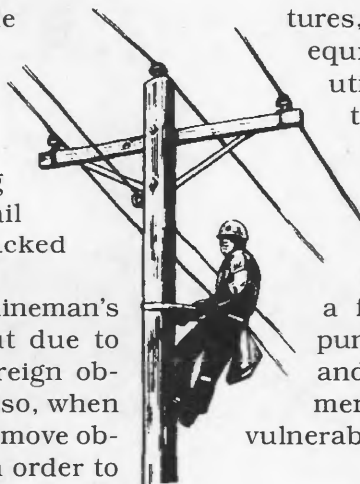
co-op line crews, who climb poles all hours of the day and night and in the worst of conditions. If a lineman's hooks cut out while he is climbing, his descent down could become much more severe if an arm or leg catches into a nail or other object tacked onto the pole.

Additionally, a lineman's hooks can cut out due to contact with a foreign object on the pole. Also, when linemen have to remove objects from poles in order to

climb during an outage, this makes power restoration that much longer.

SIEC suggests that fixtures, other than co-op equipment or another utility's joint-use attachment, should not be affixed to the co-op's poles.

For example, sharp objects not only compound a fall, but also can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution.

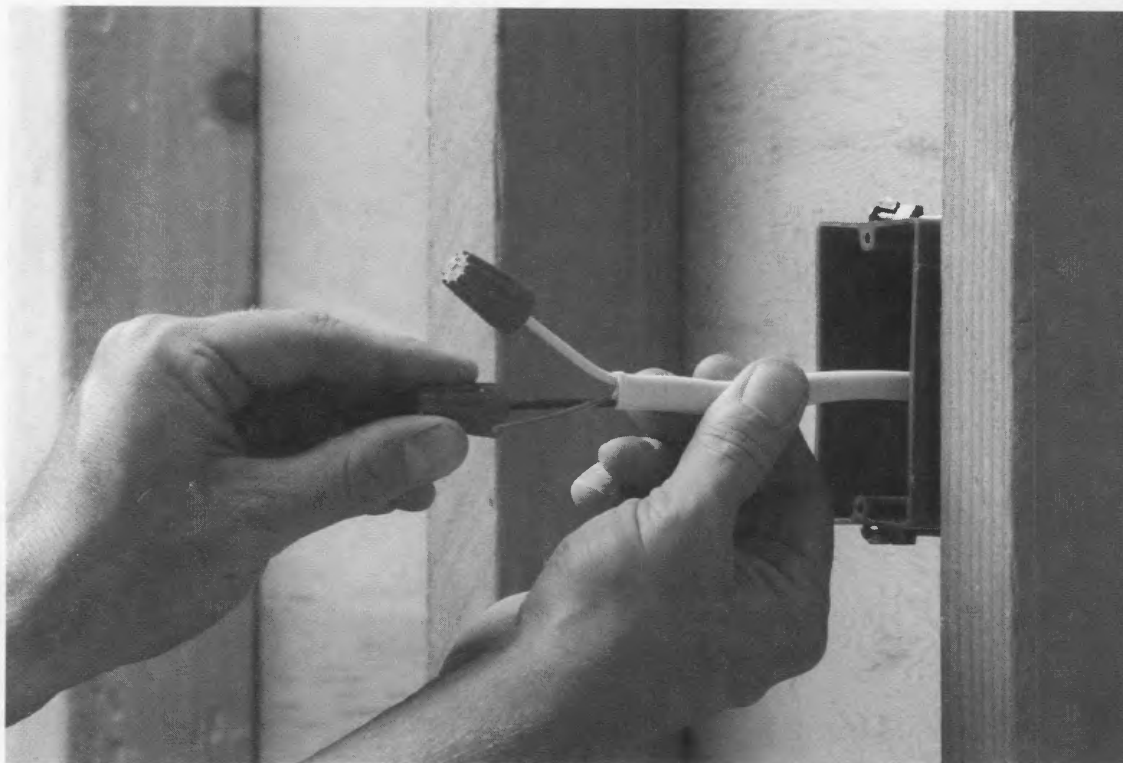


Membership prize

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

WIRING PROBLEM WARNINGS



You can often spot wiring problems if you watch for the following signals. If they occur have a qualified electrician check the wiring.

- Do fuses blow or breakers often trip?
- Do lights dim or does the TV picture shrink when appliances switch on?
- Is the switch box warm to the touch?
- Do you have trouble with faltering motors?
- Have you added new appliances?

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT HOUSE FIRES

Check the circuit panel for signs of overheating — discoloration and melting of insulation. Tightening screws in the fuse box can prevent flickering and excessive heating of terminals.

Make sure appliance cords are kept in good condition. If an appliance makes a funny noise, does not work, or has a burnt smell — unplug it immediately. Malfunctioning appliances at the very least increase your electric bill, at the worst they can cause a fire.

Be extremely careful with all portable heaters. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Give someone you love a fire extinguisher for a gift and buy one for yourself.

JAMUP

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published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Eddleman honored for 36 years

Recently SIEC Board President, G. Robert Inman, presented Janet Eddleman, retired Assistant Engineer, a commemorative retirement plaque. The plaque read in part, "Presented to Janet P. Eddleman, an employee of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, from 1962 to 1998. In recognition and appreciation of 36 years of loyal, conscientious and dedicated service to the members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. Presented by the Board of Directors of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois."

Lorn R. Honey



SIEC Board President G. Robert Inman presents a plaque to Janet Eddleman, retired assistant engineer. During the presentation, Inman remarked that those of us at SIEC wish Janet and her family the very best of health and good luck in the future.

1999 Youth to Washington tour

In June of each year, the electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois and across the United States sponsor groups of young people to Washington, D.C. on the Youth to Washington program. During a full week in

the nation's capital, these students get an up-close look at democracy in action and get to meet with their congressional delegation and staff.

Past participants will tell you it is the trip of a lifetime. It's an experience they never will forget, full of fun, new friends, non-stop touring and yes; they actually learn something too. Most come back with an even deeper respect for our country, our form of government and their opportunities.

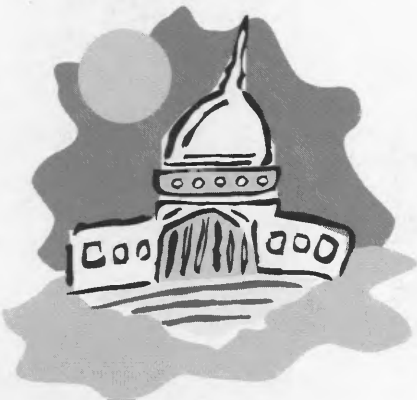
Since 1957, hundreds of future leaders have been introduced to government and the legislative process through this program. Many alumni of the program have gone on to leadership

positions in our communities and government. Two current members of the Illinois General Assembly, State Representatives Tom Ryder and Art Tenhouse, are past members of the tour.

The Youth to Washington tour is recognized as one of the best youth tours of Washington, D.C. The tour is well organized with good chaperones. Participants will see monuments and memorials and visit historical places.

Warren Jackson of Villa Ridge, Bryant Hileman of Karnak, Kristy Ulrich of Grand Chain and Amber Moreland of Cobden attended and had a great learning experience.

For more information, contact the cooperative office.



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How SIEC gets the lights back on

When Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative experiences multiple power outages, its goal is to restore service to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest amount of time. Your cooperative begins at the power source and works out to the individual services along the system. Dangerous problems, such as downed power lines, are attended to as soon as possible.

The following are service restoration priority procedures:

1. Transmission lines

— These are high voltage lines that move bulk electricity from a generating plant to a substation or between substations.

2. Substations — Substations are electrical facilities that contain equipment for switching or regulating the voltage of electricity. These lower the amount of electrical voltage from transmission lines so that the electricity can be transmitted through distribution lines.

3. Main distribution lines — These are the 7,200-volt lines that you see along roadways.

4. Tap lines — Tap lines are electric feeder lines with limited capacity that run from a main distribution line and serve small numbers of consumers.

5. Individual service — This is the line that runs

from the pole transformer to the customer's electric meter. Priority is always given to members on life support systems for restoration of individual service.

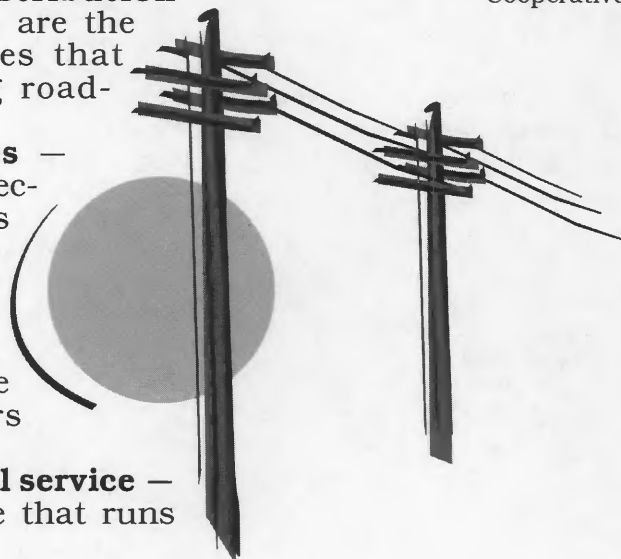
Electric utility facilities are constructed with protective devices such as fuses and circuit breakers. These confine the outage to specific areas, limiting the number of consumers affected by the power interruption.

For example, if a tree falls on a tap line, only that line would be without service. Other consumers served from the main distribution line would still have service, although their lights may blink momentarily.

If you have questions about how your electric co-op restores service after a storm or other outage, please call your co-op. Remember: you are a member-consumer and it is your electric utility.

Elmer P. Bittick

Source: Delaware Electric
Cooperative



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 hot. 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. 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 house wiring. 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, and 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.

Billy Smock, Sr.

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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

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!

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

It's that time of year when people begin poking trees, shrubs, fence posts, mailboxes; you dig a hole from a foot to several feet deep. They don't know what you are going to dig into. The ballpoint pen you lost a few years ago. On the line, like 220 volts of electricity. Or you're watching your favorite program. All of which could be downright dangerous. So, they'll help you avoid the shocks.



digging all kinds of holes in the ground. New name it. All require some digging, and a problem these days is that you don't realize it may only be a few earthworms or the other hand, it could be a buried utility may chop right into the cable TV line just in which would be unpleasant and some of call your local utility before you start to dig.

JAMUP

43

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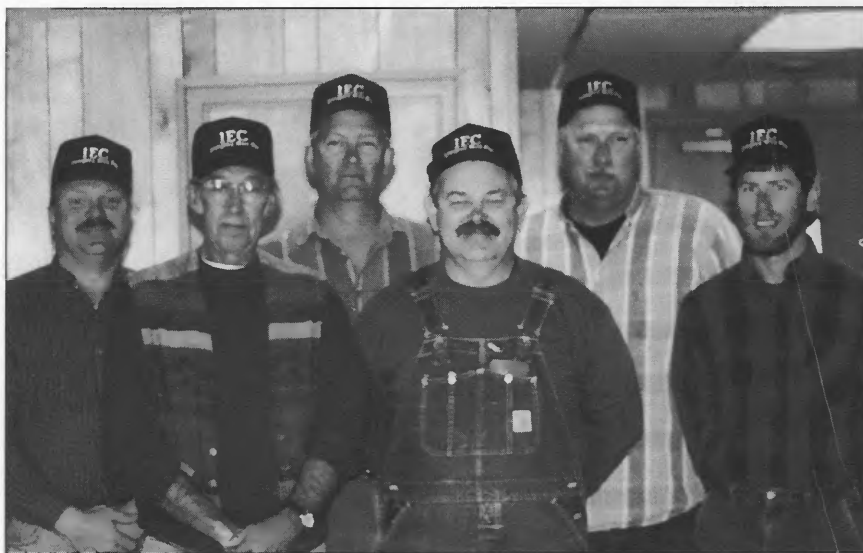
published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

SIEC lineman aid neighboring cooperatives

Major damage was sustained by Egyptian Electric Cooperative in Steeleville, starting early Saturday, Jan. 2. SIEC Line Superintendent Ken Corzine sent an emergency work crew consisting of Foreman Larry Lingle, Lineman LaRue Parr, Lineman Bob Fisher and Lineman Stanley Treat to Steeleville to help restore power to it's members. Egyptian Electric Cooperative Manager, Harry Kuhn, estimated that 3,000-4,000 members were out of service at one time. Service was fully restored by 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 4. **Robert L. Roy**

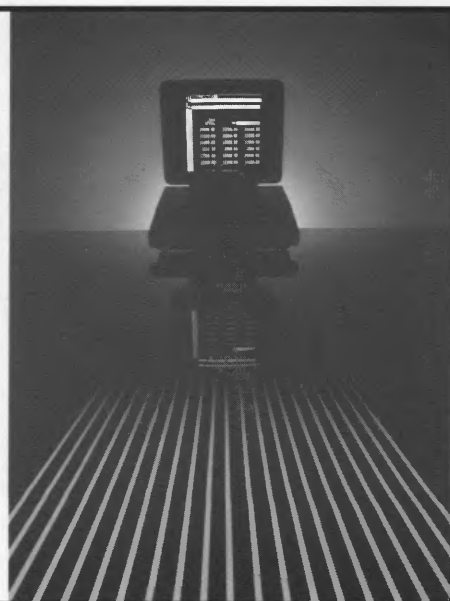
Meanwhile, Line Superintendent Corzine had also dispatched Foreman Robin Ramage and Lineman Larry Joe Keller to SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Eldorado, to help their crews restore power to it's members. The same ice storm had struck all ten of the counties served by SouthEastern. SEIEC Manager, Mick Cummins said they had some 5,000 members without service.

All six of SIEC's linemen received commendations for a job well done and were recognized for their efforts in restoring electric service to our neighboring co-ops.



As part of the Illinois Electric Cooperative Emergency Work Plan, SIEC employees who assisted with restoring electric service at Egyptian Electric Cooperative, Steeleville and SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative are (l to r): Robin Ramage, crew foreman; Bob Fisher, lineman; LaRue Parr, lineman; Larry Joe Keller, lineman; Larry Lingle, crew foreman; and Stanley Treat, lineman.

Visit our
website at
siec.org



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Recently two crews from SIEC helped to install Emergency Warning Sirens for the Wolf Lake Fire Protection District in Ware, Illinois. Helping with that installation was Steve Hoffman, apprentice lineman; LaRue Parr, lineman; Larry Lingle, crew foreman; and Dennis Abercrombie, lineman. Not shown in the photo, operating the boom on the truck was Lineman Stanley Treat.



Office closing

Our 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.

Use that standby generator safely!

For most of us, a standby generator can be a nice thing to have in case the power goes off. For some people, such as those dependent on life-support equipment, such a generator is essential.

Whether you really need a generator, or if you simply want to be prepared for the unexpected, it's important to keep it in good working order and use it safely to get the maximum benefit from your investment.

• Know your generator! Read all the information on installation, safety and maintenance, and follow instructions regarding maintenance and testing.

• When you need to use the generator, first turn off the main power switch or breaker in your home.

• Use it wisely. Don't overload the generator. It should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment. Overloading it will cause wear and tear and could present fire and safety hazards.

• Plug appliances directly into generator itself. Don't try to wire your home's electrical system into the generator. The generator could feed power back into utility lines as power crews work to restore your electric service, putting those workers' lives at risk!

• Take care when fueling your generator! Never try to refuel the unit while it's operating. Avoid spilling gasoline or other fuels on hot components.

Provide adequate ventilation and air cooling for the generator to prevent overheating and the accumulation of toxic exhaust fumes.

If you should have any questions concerning the use of a standby generator, please call us at the cooperative. Our Southern Illinois toll free number is (800) 762-1400.

Sources: Cooperative and utility sites

Surge Protection: Electrical Safety for Your Home Electronics

Most of the time, we tend to think of electrical safety as protecting ourselves and our families from electricity-related accidents. But there's another type of safety you should consider, too: the safety of your investment in expensive electronic equipment.

Computers, modems, fax machines, home theater systems and other equipment can be damaged by power interference caused by a variety of factors from inside or outside your home. A power surge can literally destroy computers and other equipment.

Ordinary power strips don't provide adequate protection. You

need a true surge suppressor, which looks very much like a power strip but provides much greater protection. Suppressors can cost from \$20 to \$150; the best ones can handle high voltage surges and react instantly. That's an important factor if you stop to consider that many power surges last just fractions of a second. **Marty McMorrow**

To make sure you're getting the right kind of protection, look for the Underwriters Laboratories 1449 rating on a surge suppressor; this is the "gold standard." Also make sure your suppressor has an internal fuse to cut the circuit in the event of a longer surge. And

buy a suppressor with a good warranty that obligates the manufacturer to reimburse you for the costs of repairing damage or replacing equipment if the suppressor fails.

You may also want to consider a suppressor equipped with special features to protect modems, faxes or coaxial cables, since these are common points of entry for power surges. Do you have questions about electrical safety in your home or office? Call us here at the cooperative for assistance. We're always glad to help.

Source: Today's Homeowner web site

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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. **George Sturgeon**

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.

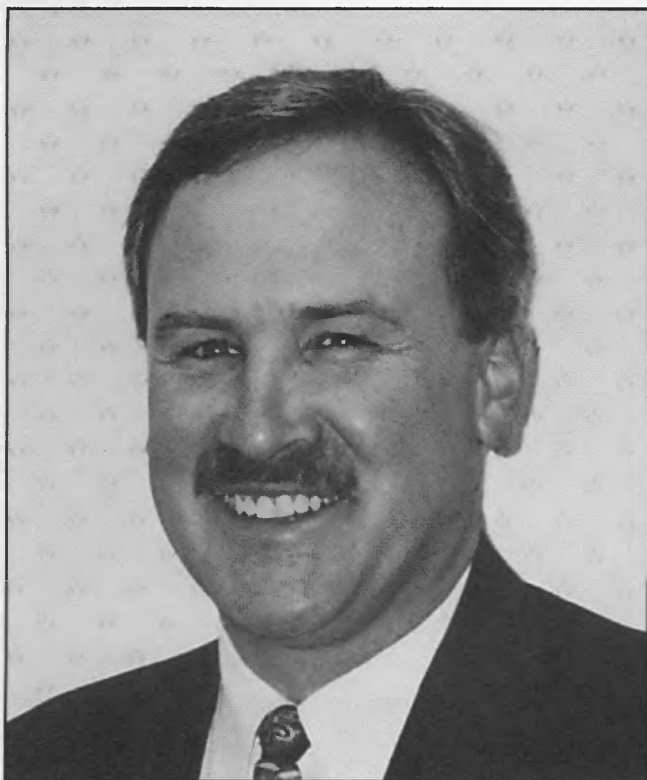
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43

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Bruce Mosby appointed director



Bruce Mosby of Jonesboro was appointed to the SIEC Board of Directors at the March 1999 meeting. He will fill, until the annual meeting in August, the unexpired term of the late Bob Ury of Union County.

Bruce is currently the President and CEO of The First State Bank of Olmsted. He has been with the bank since 1978 and is also the President and CEO of FSBO Holdings, Inc., a bank holding company.

Bruce along with his wife Cindy, have three children; a son, Brandon; a daughter, Katie; and son, Matt Chumbler, a freshman at Murray State University. Noma Helen Lancaster

David Martin resigns from co-op board



David Martin recently resigned from the Board of Directors of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. He has decided to devote more time to his family and his business. David and his wife Lillie operate Humma's Drug Store and Lillie's Hallmark card shop in Metropolis. They have two children, Westly, 14 and Gabrielle, 11.

David was first elected to the Board in August 1989. During his tenure on the board, he served as a Director on the Southern Illinois Power Cooperative Board for six years. At SIPC, he served as Chairman of the Board from March 1997 until March 1999.

David was considered a progressive leader

(Continued on pg. 18b)

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(Continued from 18a)

and was well respected by his colleagues throughout the state. His leadership will be

greatly missed at SIEC and SIPC.
Carla A. Vaughn

David's position on the Board remains vacant. Persons interested in the position should contact members of the nominating committee. The names of the people serving

on the nominating committee appear elsewhere in this month's JAMUP. Anyone interested may also contact General Manager Larry Lovell for additional information.

Essay judges determine winners

Essay judges met at SIEC headquarters April 6 to finalize the results of the "Youth to Washington" essay contest. Judges serving on this year's panel were, from left to right:

Carolyn Holm, English instructor,
Shawnee Community College, Ullin

Tracy Prather, Accountant,
Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, Marion

Dr. Art Alkman, retired professor
from the Curriculum and Instruction
Department, SIU, Carbondale.



Left to Right - Carolyn Holm, Tracy Prather and Dr. Art Aikman

1999 essay contest winners

Two area youths will be among 70 outstanding high school students who will take part in a weeklong tour of Washington, D.C. this summer.

Melissa Carney and Wyatt Churillo, both students at Dongola Unit School, Dongola, were selected as winners of SIEC's 1999 Youth to Washington Essay Contest by a panel of judges on April 6.

Adams Kohn, from Century High School and Sonia Windhorst, from Massac County High School were chosen as first runner-ups. Second runner-ups were Andrew Riepe, from Massac County High School and Sara Brooks, from Dongola High School.

Amanda King, Century High School; Virgil Ray Bremer,

Cole Hutchings, Dana Wells, Eric Rodgers and Shannon Harris all of Massac County High School, were chosen as honorable mentions.

Melissa and Wyatt, along with Mary Gail Inman, "Miss Southern Illinois Electric Co-operative 1998", will join some 1,300 winners from all over the United States when they tour Washington, D.C. to see their government in action. The tour will run from June 18 to 25, and will include historic sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums and the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, just to name a few.

On April 21, the winners, runner-ups, and honorable

mentions joined more than 300 students who participated in "Youth Day" in Springfield. There the students took the opportunity to visit with their local representatives in state government as well as visit many historical sites in Springfield. This year's trip also included a meeting with Secretary of State, Jesse White. The group was also able to meet with Senator Jim Rea and Senator David Luechtefeld at the State Capitol.

The day-long trip and various activities were sponsored by SIEC and other Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives, and is coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. Kenneth Omar Phelps



Left to Right - Wyatt Churillo, Essay Winner; Mary Gail Inman, "Miss SIEC 1998"; Robert Inman, SIEC Board President; Melissa Carney, Essay Winner

1999 nominating committee to meet June 17

Members to serve on the 1998-1999 nominating committee were appointed by Guy Casper, president of the board of directors, at the 1998 annual meeting of the members held Aug. 6, 1998. The committee will meet at the cooperative headquarters, 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South, Dongola, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, to consider nominees for election to the board of directors at the 1999 meeting of the members.

The following committee members were appointed to the 1998-1999 nominating committee to represent their respective counties:

Alexander County delegate, Jack Thomas, P.O. Box 68, Miller City, IL 62962; and alternate, Richard Walker, 1 East Cape Terrace, McClure, IL 62957.

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

Massac County delegate, Lynn Walquist, 4951 Jonesboro Road, Karnak, IL 62956; and alternate, Larry Sommer, 4B Westland Drive, Metropolis, IL 62960.

Pulaski County delegate, Robert Heisner, RR 1 Box 10, Grand Chain, IL 62941; and alternate, George Holhubner, P.O. Box 321, Olmsted, IL 62970.

Union County delegate, P. L. Parr, RR 1 Box 173, Buncombe, IL 62912; and alternate, Paul Rich, 780 Lingle Creek Road, Jonesboro, IL 62952.

The by-laws of the cooperative provide the nominations to the board of directors may be made by: (1) nominating committee, (2) petition received not less than 25 days prior to the actual meeting, signed by 15 or more active members, or (3) an active member from the floor at the annual meeting. The three-year terms of directors are expired alternately so that each year elections are held for a portion of the board. At the 1999 annual meeting elections will be held for a director from each of these three counties: Massac, Alexander and Johnson. There will also be an election for unexpired terms in Union and Massac counties.

Membership prize

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

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

— Visit our website at siec.org —

JAMUP

43

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

1998 margins allocated to members

Margins from 1998 in the amount of \$1,138,422.48 have been allocated to members who received electric service from SIEC during 1998. The factor used for allocation is .04411605. To calculate your specific allocation, multiply your electric bill (less state taxes) in dollars times the factor above. This is the amount of capital credits earned and credited to your patronage capital account.

For example, if you paid \$1,000 for electricity during 1998, you would multiply that amount by the factor of .04411605, which would yield a credit to your patronage capital account of \$44.12. This amount is available for refunding in future years when the board of directors determines that financial conditions permit its return.

To collect capital credits —

you must have electric service in your name. Please remember: To receive capital credits you must be a member and have electric service in your name. If your service is in someone else's name, capital credits will be assigned to that person. If your service is in the name of a deceased person, it would be helpful if you would contact the cooperative and have the service changed to your name.



Office closing

The office of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, July 5, in

observance of Independence Day.

Have a safe holiday!



Membership prize

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Darrell G. Miller

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

IT'S COMING AND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT - - - -

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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

Board of Directors

President	G. Robert Inman	Pulaski County
Vice Pres.	Larry Fisher	Massac County
Sec.-treas.	Barbara Pitts	Union County
	Dale Taake	Pulaski County
	Raymond C. Snell	Alexander County
	Richard D. Moss	Alexander County
	Guy Casper	Johnson County
	Bruce Mosby	Union County

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



Area phone outage information

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and schedule of hours

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or Call Dongola Office 618-827-3555

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

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618-827-3555 Dongola office

Southern Illino



Grand prize

Shawne

Registration begins at 5 p.m.

Each member registers
Food and



Robert Inman



Officers reports

Mis
Mary Gail Inman, (far right)
operative. Mariah Dale (left)
up and Miss Congeniality

plan to attend

Electric Cooperatives's

60th

Early Bird
prizes

Annual Meeting

Registration
prizes

August 5, 1999

At

Community College — Ullin

Attendance prizes

Meeting begins at 7 p.m.

will receive one \$10 credit on electric bill
verages available in cafeteria



Beauty Pageant
8 Miss Southern Illinois Electric Co-
winner up; and Sarah Sullivan, 1st runner



Fortress Quartet 6-7 p.m.

Election of Directors

Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Beauty pageant rules and entry form

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is seeking entrants for the beauty pageant held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the members, **August 5, 1999** at Shawnee College, Ullin, IL.

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

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

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

THIRD PRIZE: \$75 cash and a gift.

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

MISS CONGENIALITY: Trophy to winner chosen by contestants.

Contestants will be judged as follows:

Interview-40%

general knowledge-10%

achievements-10%

vocabulary-10%

voice-10%

Swimsuit-30%

beauty-10%

poise-10%

posture-10%

Evening Gown-30%

beauty-10%

charm-10%

grace-10%

Beauty Pageant Entry

Residency Affidavit

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

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

Print Name _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____

Street/Route _____

City/State/Zip _____ Cust. No. _____

Parents _____ Line Location _____

Sign _____ Phone _____

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

The future of electric cooperatives

This is one of two winning essays in the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Youth to Washington essay contest. This essay was written by Melissa Carney, Dongola Unit School.

Today's cooperative reflects the essential nature of Americans, the democratic spirit. Because rural Americans wished equality in their lifestyles, electric cooperatives were used as the vehicle to "light up" the countryside.

These democratically controlled organizations allowed rural Americans to advance into a world of light, machines, and progress. As in the past, today the electric cooperative will continue to use this community-based unity to endure the restructuring in industry and competition in the marketplace.

Cooperatives have been an essential and efficient way to provide goods and services for people at an affordable cost. Services may range from babysitting, food, and housing, marketing to insurance. And, for years they have benefited many through meeting these basic needs with a not-for-profit philosophy.

Of all these cooperatives, the electric cooperative presents the greatest story of determination and success on the part of a people. Rural electrification has had a tremendous impact upon the economy. Efficiency on the farm started a chain reaction for commercial and industrial growth. New products, new businesses, new life generated jobs, security and wealth in country communities.

The change occurred in rural areas as a result of people working together to jointly fulfill basic needs, and change must occur in order to have and to maintain progress. The future of the electric cooperative will lie with its ability to compete successfully, to maintain dependable service and to win customer loyalty.

To compete successfully, the cooperative must be able to provide services at a cost comparable or below that of other utilities and to diversify services to meet the needs of the consumers. Since the electric cooperative is a consumer-owned and not-for-profit business, cost efficient services have never been a problem in the past. Deregulation may increase competition in the market, yet profit-centered businesses will continue to have money making as their primary goal. Therefore, cost of service should not be a problem for the electric cooperative.

As stated before, progress and change are essential to the future of any business. It must continue to meet the demands of its patrons to be successful. This diversity can come in many forms. Appliance sales, group insurance, satellite service, and low interest loans are just a few.

Because cooperatives are community-based and run by the consumers in their areas, they have first hand knowledge of the



Left to right: Melissa Carney, Dongola High School accepts an award from SIEC Board President, G. Robert Inman.

many desires for new offerings. These cooperatives must become aggressive in establishing new business opportunities, in strengthening their bond with existing members, and in bringing in additional revenue by supplying new products and services. Diversification will lead to continued success.

Providing dependable service has been a challenging job for the nation's rural electric systems. Cooperatives receive only three percent of the revenue, yet they maintain 33 percent of the total distribution lines serving consumers in Illinois.

However, electric cooperatives have overcome this handicap in the past and maintained service that is efficient and reliable. To do any less would not have been in the best interest of the member-owners of the electric cooperatives. Electric cooperatives' primary goal is to give to the community, not to take from the community. This is the legacy of their success.

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618-827-3555 P.O. Box 100
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618-827-3555 Dongola office

By competing and maintaining excellent service, the electric cooperative seeks to ensure customer loyalty. Without this loyalty, the cooperative will be only another company wishing to stay alive in a competitive market.

Educating consumers on the value of a cooperative and the different principles, which are the driving force, is necessary for continued success. When people truly understand that cooperatives are vital economic and social institutions, they will become and remain loyal. **Darrell Kalls**

Customer satisfaction and loyalty are different components. Satisfaction can be bought; loyalty must be earned. Electric cooperatives have earned this

loyalty through community-based service of owner-members.

As in the past, the future of the electric cooperative can be a bright one. If the cooperative competes aggressively through diversification of services and products, if it maintains affordable, reliable service, and if it promotes loyalty, success can be achieved. How can it fail? The electric cooperative is this nation's number one success story. Why? The cooperative is comprised of people who care about their homes and their communities. They are people who dare to dream and dare to work for the economic and social well being of their neighborhoods.

Students encouraged to apply for 2000 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative General Manager/Executive Vice President Larry Lovell has announced that for the fifth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award \$1,000 academic scholarships to high school seniors. The three scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Because of the scholarship program's success, an extra scholarship was added this year for children of cooperative members.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. Two of the three scholarships will be awarded to the child of an electric cooperative member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2000.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric

cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Lovell. "Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay which demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

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

1998-1999 Uncashed checks and returned checks

Checks issued to the following were returned because of no forwarding address. If your name is listed below, please call the cooperative office with your current address and we will issue a new check to you. When you call, please ask for Loraine, Ext. 217. Our Illinois only toll free number is (800) 762-1400.

Allen, Marion
P.O. Box 101
Belknap, IL 62908

Bennett, Phillip W.
Box 225 Elm Drive
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Billingsley, Darwin Eugene
2005 Hummingbird Rd.
Buncombe, IL 62912

Boaz, Donald E.
803 Sneed Rd.
Carbondale, IL 62901

Cain, Ronald
P.O. Box 247
Tamms, IL 62988

Casey, Carroll L.
65 Christian Chapel Rd.
Anna, IL 62906

Dillow, Steven E.
1115 Casper Church Rd.
Cobden, IL 62920

Dyer, June
1205 Mt. Mission Rd.
Metropolis, IL 62960

Etherton, Tonya A.
6416 Walnut Ridge Rd.
Grantsburg, IL 62943

Ford, Sharon Irene
305 SW Second St.
RR 1 Box 303
Atlanta, IL 61723

Goetz, Helen T.
P.O. Box 52
Wolf Lake, IL 62998

Hayden, William R.
4201 St. Clair Ave.
Washington Park, IL 62203

Hoffner, Bon
P.O. Box 70
Dongola, IL 62926

Hopper, Ruth Ann
P.O. Box 262
Metropolis, IL 62960

Howell, Marvin G.
9995 Lick Creek Rd.
Buncombe, IL 62912

Insko, Robert E.
28 N. Bankson Rd.
Pulaski, IL 62976

Knupp, Delbert Ellis
P.O. Box 64
Wolk Lake, IL 62998

Levan, Bill
8840 State Rt. 3N
Wolf Lake, IL 62998

Main, Warren J.
500 E. 7th Street
Metropolis, IL 62960

Main, Warren Joseph
500 E. 7th Street
Metropolis, IL 62960

Main, Warren Joseph
500 E. 7th Street
Metropolis, IL 62960

Martin's Sharp-all Shop
RR 1 Box 86
Anna, IL 62906

Moreland, Ray Dean
1920 St. Johns Rd.
Anna, IL 62906

Morgan, Russell F.
860 N. Lick Creek Rd.
Buncombe, IL 62912

Neely, Sharon Lee
6731 Neely Quint Ln.
Grantsburg, IL 62943

Otterbein Cemetery Trustees
c/o Inez Johnston
P.O. Box 572
Brookport, IL 62910

Pecord, Jerry A.
RR 1 Box 3
Miller City, IL 62962

Pretkel, Christine
3125 S. Rocky Comfort Rd.
Makanda, IL 62958

Roberta, Dawn M.
2141 3rd Ave.
Terre Haute, In 47080

Russell, Engene
360 Russell Ln.
Anna, IL 62908

Membership prize

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

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

Russell, Lonnie
2850 Oak Grove Rd.
Vienna, IL 62995

Sams, Jason
RR 1 Box 90
Thebes, IL 62990

Schierbaum, Frank
1470 Anna Bell Rd.
Cypress, IL 62923

Schneider, Joe
551 Rolling Hills Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Seaman, Francious
507 E. Williams
Trailer #6
Anna, IL 62906

Showmaker, Edward J.
1980 Body Barn Rd.
Anna, IL 62906

Sielbeck, Lannes
c/o Mrs. Frances Harper
3504 Richmond
Waterford, MI 46328

Sleezer, James R.
c/o Mike Sleezer
2776 Little Rock Rd.
Plano, IL 60545

Smith Jr., Sellie Sherman
P.O. Box 141
Unity, IL 62993

Stratemeyer, Eugene
6120 Waldo Church Rd.
Metropolis, IL 62960

Tharp, Pamela R.
RR 1 Box 303
Brookport, IL 62910

Tzama Trust
1115 Hound Dog Ridge Rd.
Vienna, IL 62995

Verble Jr., Donald W.
P.O. Box 265
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Warren, Lindell or Mary
P.O. Box 62
Miller City, IL 62962

Wilke, Randy
1428 Rolling Hills Rd.
Kamak, IL 62956

Abandoned property

Abandoned property as of Sept. 30, 1994 belongs to the following members. Refund checks issued to each of these members at their last known address was returned.

Bade, Barbara L.,
1400 Colorado #C
Boulder City, NV 89005

Brimm, Deborah G.
RR 1 Box 954
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Cohoon, Robert O.
RR 1 Box 55A
Karnak, IL 62956

Forrester, Della
General Delivery
Karnak, IL 62958

Gines, Carol J.
RR 1 Box 252
Grantsburg, IL 62943

Hennings, Paul & Brenda
P.O. Box 512
Lamont, CA 93241

Holman, Corey
RR 1 Box 623
Metropolis, IL 62960

Houston, Viola
RR 1 Box 58
Miller City, IL 62962

Irvin, Jott C.
P.O. Box 168
Makanda, IL 62958

Penrod, Michael S.
RR 1 Box 450B
Makanda, IL 62958

Robinson, Mildred M.
RR 3 Box 251
Vienna, IL 62995

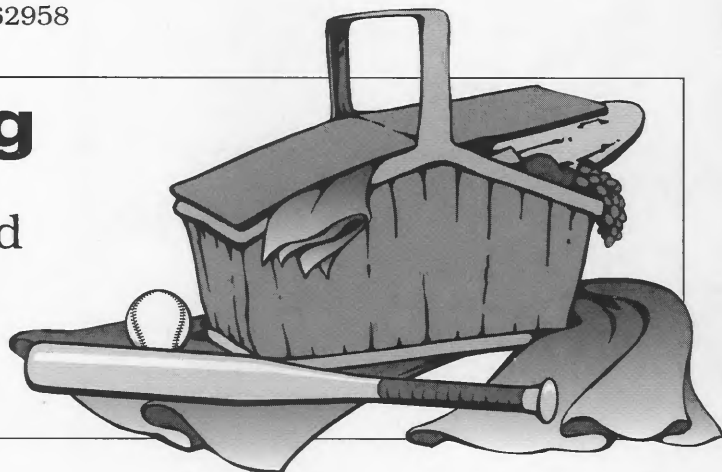
Wheeler, Michael C.
34 E. Cape Mobile Park
McClure, IL 62957

Whitney, Charles Mark
RR 2 Box 59
Dongola, IL 62926

Williams, L. M.
P.O. Box 39
Tamm, IL 62988

Office closing

The office will be closed
Monday, Sept. 6,
in observance
of Labor Day.



JAMUP

43

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published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois



Mariah Annabel Dale (center) of Dongola was chosen Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 1999. Pictured with Mariah are Sarah Ann Sullivan (left) of Anna, 1st runner-up; and Jessie Kayla Clark (right) of Jonesboro, 2nd runner-up and Miss Congeniality.

Mariah Annabel Dale, 18-year old daughter of Norman and Diane Dale of Dongola, is the new Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative for 1999. Mariah received her crown at the annual meeting of cooperative members held at Shawnee Community College, in Ullin, Aug. 5. Her other prizes included a sash, trophy, check for \$150, and all-expenses-

nor in Agriculture Economics. While in high school, Mariah enjoyed being on the yearbook staff, in the band and choir, and Science Club. She was also Class President, FFA Chapter President, Treasurer and Reporter, Section 24 FFA President and Secretary.

Athletically, Mariah played

paid-week-long trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2000.

Mariah is currently a sophomore at Shawnee College and plans to transfer to the University of Illinois where she will major in Agriculture Education and Communications. She hopes to mi-

nor in Agriculture Economics. While in high school, Mariah enjoyed being on the yearbook staff, in the band and choir, and Science Club. She was also Class President, FFA Chapter President, Treasurer and Reporter, Section 24 FFA President and Secretary.

Also during her high school career she volunteered her time to the March of Dimes, St. Jude's Bike-a-thon, TASK program, PYD program, PALS program as well as being an after school volunteer. She also in her spare time plays the piano, flute and trumpet.

The retiring Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 1998, Mary Gail Inman crowned Mariah at the end of the annual meeting. Mary Gail is currently attending Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where she is a junior in the Dental Hygienist program. **Paul Jennings**

Three new board members elected and two re-elected

At this year's 60th Annual Meeting, members of the cooperative elected three new directors to its board and re-elected two directors. The new directors: Carole Jean Kelley, Buncombe, was elected Director from Johnson County to fill a three

Wallace Williams

(Continued on page 16b)

The three new board members that were elected that night are (left to right): Scott L. Ury, Union County; Dale Faughn, Massac County being congratulated by Larry Lovell, General Manager; and Carole Jean Kelley, Union County. Not pictured but re-elected to the board were Raymond C. Snell, Alexander County and Larry Fisher, Massac County.



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(Continued from page 16a)

year term; Scott L. Ury, Anna, was elected Director from Union County to fill a two-year term; and Dale Faughn, Brookport, who was elected Director from Massac County to fill a one-year term. Also re-elected to a three-year term were Raymond C. Snell, from Alexander County and Larry Fisher from Massac County.

The nominating committee met on June 17 at the cooperative

headquarters in Dongola to nominate three directors for three-year terms and two directors for unexpired terms. Those nominated were: Raymond Snell, Alexander County; Carole Jean Kelley, Johnson County; Larry Fisher, Massac County; Lester Temke, Massac County; and Bruce Mosby, Union County.

Bobby D. Williams



Left photo - From left to right are SIEC board officers: Larry Fisher, Karnak, Vice-President; Barbara Pitts, Buncombe, Secretary-Treasurer; and G. Robert Inman, Grand Chain, President.

Lower left photo - Guy Casper and his wife, Betty Jo, accept a plaque from Board President G. Robert Inman in recognition of the 33 years that Casper served on the board of directors.

Right photo - Scott L. Ury along with other family members accepted a plaque in behalf of the more than 18 years that Bob J. Ury served on the cooperative board. Bob passed away Jan. 19, 1999.



The gospel music quartet, Fortess, provided entertainment for the evening's events.



SIEC Billing Clerk, Betty Reynolds and System Engineer, John Harris, registered members to vote as well as for the door prizes.



Judges for the beauty pageant were (from left to right): Ralph Graham, Marion; Amanda Reynolds, Miss Apple Festival, Marion; Dorothy Chamness, Marion; and Dr. Arthur Aikman, Carbondale.



Guy Inman, a member of the Credentials and Electric Committee, collected ballots from members.



Contestants in eveningwear are (left to right): Samantha Jade Brewer, Brookport; Mariah Annabel Dale, Dongola; Shelby Lynn Rodgers, Olmsted; Emily Diane Hannan, Olmsted; Jessi Kayla Clark, Jonesboro; Sarah Ann Sullivan, Anna; Jeanna Raephael Licka, Buncombe; Rachel Dee Loverkamp, Brookport; Bridget Lynn Starling, Pulaski; Raegan Lee Anderson, Karnak; Rebecca Dawn Reagor, Metropolis; Sarah Elizabeth Inman, Grand Chain; and Ginger Lynn Showmaker, Anna.



SIEC General Manager Larry Lovell addressed the members who attended the 60th Annual Meeting.



Employees Barry Clark (left) and Chris Boyd helped distribute gifts to members as they registered.



Winners of the 25" Zenith color TV with remote and stand were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Pressler of Anna. Shown is Chris Bennett, Office Manager, awarding the grand prize to Mrs. Pressler.

Membership prize

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Early bird prizes

Box of Spices
Brownstown Elect.
Wm F Tripp, Anna

Sunbeam Iron
Daffron & Assoc
Beverly Licka, Buncombe

1-yr Subs to The Gazette-Democrat
The Gazette-Democrat
Jerry Carter, Buncombe

2-\$10 Cert. To Outback Steak House
in Paducah
TAS
Jasson Reichert, Ullin

13-inch TV/VCR Combo
Ledbetter, Toth & Assoc
Helen Eastwood, Belknap

Magic Chef Toaster
Earl Edmonds
Gary Little, Karnak

Kingston Screen Filter
Stiles Office Equip
Vernell Darnell, Belknap

Polaroid 35mm Camera
Kerber, Eck & Braeckel
Elco Pent Church, Jonesboro

Mr. Coffee 4-cup Coffeemaker
SIEC
Valley View Farms, Tamms

Dirt Devil 10-amp Vacuum
SIEC
Lela Casper, Anna

Ray-O-Vac Flashlight
Guy Gray Supply Co
Henry Tripp, Dongola

Black & Decker Screwdriver
SIEC
Kerry Hill, McClure

\$10.00 Gas Cert
Corzine's Service Station
LaVerne Gore, Buncombe

Credo Drill Bit Set
Oil Field Elect
Donald Canada, Karnak

Stihl Chainsaw Gift Cert
John McCarver's Repair
Charles Davis, Vienna

Arrow Hot Melt Glue Gun
Oil Field Elect
Lawrence James, Karnak

Back Pack Sprayer
Terra International
Joppa Missionary, Joppa

Dusk to Dawn Lantern
Oil Field Elect
Dale H Sielbeck, Metropolis

Woods 4-Outlet Power Strip
Oil Field Elect
Billy Schultz, Dongola

Gift Cert, Mug, Cap, Shirt
First Cellular
Janet Boyd, Cobden

Arrow Staple Gun
Oil Field Elect
Paul Rich, Jonesboro

1940 Ford Die Cast
E Blankenship & Co
Christina Hammon, Buncombe

Bernzomatic Torch Kit
Oil Field Elect
Rodney Pfaff, Villa Ridge

Teledyne Showerhead Massager
Oil Field Elect
Randall McClellan, Karnak

Windmere 16" Desk Fan
SIEC
Raymond Heinrichs, Anna

Zebco Fishing Rod & Reel
Oil Field Elect
Carl Krempaskey

Shredmaster Paper Shredder
T & I Office Equip
Steve Anderson, Karnak

Garrity Flashlight & Night Lite
Oil Field Elect
Walter Grace, Olive Branch

RCA AM/FM Cassette Player
Oil Field Elect
Lucille Theis, Dongola

Toastmaster Toaster
Diversified Elect Supply
Cecil Whitney, Jonesboro

Polaroid 35mm Camera
Oil Field Elect
George Britt, Olmsted

\$50 Savings Bond
Anna National Bank
Wilson Funeral Home, Karnak

Gift Cert, Mug, Cap, Shirt
First Cellular
Richard Stewart, Ullin

52-Wk. Sub Gazette-Democrat
Jerry Reppert
Freamont Snell, Karnak

Popular Mechanic Socket Set
Oil Field Elect
Charles Davis, Vienna

Gift Cert for Oil Change
Bob Harper Ford-Mercury
Mildred Emrick, Jonesboro

Victorinox Knife & Flashlight
North Pacific Lumber
Wilma Jane Sweitzer, Jonesboro

Westbend 6-Qt. Cooker
United Utility Supply
Warren Wiseman, Metropolis

RCA AM/FM Cassette
Oil Field Elect
Lester Korte, Belknap

Rockhill Motor Oil
IKT Service
Dale Mowery, Tamms

Garrity Flashlight & Night Lite
Oil Field Elect
Travis Bros, Belknap

Zebco Fishing Rod & Reel
Oil Field Elect
James Reynolds, Vienna

Area Rug/Wall Hanging
L & P Carpet
Wm Russell Davis, Ullin

SMC 12" Desk Fan
Fletcher-Reinhardt
Roger Pressler, Anna

Mini-Ratchet Set
Lewis Machine Co
Troy Wymer, Brookport

Workhorse Lantern
Schott Elect Distributors
George Bros Farm, Olmsted

Zenith Alarm Clock Radio
Milsoft Integrated Systems
Laura Sowell, Karnak

Dusk to Dawn Lantern
Oil Field Elect
Leonard Stratemeyer, Belknap

Shop Vac Wet/Dry Vacuum
Oil Field Elect
Howard Theis, Dongola

Ray-O-Vac Lantern
Guy Gray Supply Co
Raymond Crockett, Grantsburg

Mini-Ratchet Set
Lewis Machine Co
Henry McBride, Vienna

American Designer Mailbox
E Z Travel
Mary Lou Wright, Anna

Cortelco Telephone
Graybar Elect Supply
Jannifer Powell, Tamms

Rival Ultra Hand Blender
Oil Field Elect
Power XF, Elco

Home Trends Ceiling Fan
Milsoft Integrated Syst
Terry Green, Grand Chain

Magic Chef Mini Processor
SIEC
Carolyn Pfaff, Villa Ridge

Dirt Devil Hand Vac
SIEC
Frank Twente, Olmsted

Mini Ratchet Set
Lewis Machine Co
Charles Benefield, Thebes

Thermos 36-Qt. Cooler
Graybar Elect Supply
Norma F. Mighell, Goreville

Black & Decker Screwdriver
SIEC
Scott Ury, Anna

Motion Detector Lantern
Oil Field Elect
Dolores Bottom, Tamms

2-\$10 Cert. For Outback/
Paducah
TAS
Louise Matlock, Thebes

Black & Decker Jig Saw
SIEC
Dorris Barnhart, Jonesboro

Bremel Rotary Tool/Sander
Brown Wood Preserving Co
Everett Schnaare, Olmsted

Brita Water Filtration Pitcher
SIEC
Leo Childers, Dongola

Popular Mechanics Set
SIEC
Lawrence Burzynski, Metropolis

Mr. Coffee Coffeemaker
SIEC
Steve Korte, Belknap

Rival Hand Blender
SIEC
Walter Bittle, Jonesboro

Toro Lighting Kit
Oil Field Elect
Melvin Lessar, Tamms

Home Trends Ceiling Fan
Oil Field Elect
Clifford Kruger, Metropolis

Faberware Knife Set
SIEC
Helen Hubbard, Grand Chain

Black & Decker Toaster
SIEC
Eichhorst Bros, Ullin

Mr. Coffee Iced Tea Pot
SIEC
Vanessa Stewart, Dongola

Toro Lighting Kit
Oil Field
Robert Clark, Jonesboro

Extension Cord & Reel
C & S Testing
Lester Korte, Belknap

Grand prize

25" Color Zenith TV with
Remote/Stand
SIEC
Roger Pressler, Anna

JAMUP

43

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Left to right: Wyatt Churillo, Dongola High School, accepts an award from SIEC Board President, G. Robert Inman.

The Future of Electric Cooperatives

This is the second of two winning essays in the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Youth to Washington essay contest. This essay was written by Wyatt Churillo, Dongola Unit School.

In an age of technology, wealth, and productivity, imagining a time of struggle and hardship in rural America is difficult. The people of rural areas brought prosperity to their communities through hard work, loans, and technical assistance from the government and an agency called "the REA." When privately owned electric utilities refused to help, they organized cooperatively, secured loans and brought electric power to the country-sides. Thus, these people across America and their rural electric cooperative became a vital economic foundation. Their unity and commitment have been the source of their successes for the past 60 plus years.

Many challenges have been met and overcome during these years. As businesses and communities grew and as farmers became more productive, an increased need for electricity accrued. In addition, electric cooperatives have had to maintain more miles of lines with fewer consumers than those of investor owned utilities. Yet, they have succeeded in supplying excellent service and stand at one of the greatest success stories in American history.

There are many things electric co-ops are doing to ensure the continued success in a rapidly changing industry. Some co-ops are banding together to form

Touchstone Energy®. One of the reasons they do this is to provide state of the art technology to create cheaper prices for power. During a time called deregulation electric co-ops will be able to sell power across the country. Before co-ops could only sell power to their assigned territories. Consumers did not have a choice in the past, and deregulation will change all of that. Deregulation will be a good thing for electric co-ops because they will be able to obtain more consumers across the nation. During this time electric co-ops must be very competitive, and they need to try to provide power at the cheapest price among the market. "Co-ops," says Eastern Illini's Dave Champion, "need to think about how they want to compete in the new environment and what it is going to take for them to compete."

The future of co-ops also looks good because electric co-ops served 896,140 new consumers in 1997. The consumer growth rate, 2.9 percent, was more than three times the investor-owned utility (IOU). Also the future looks good because the kilowatt-hour sales to commercial and industrial customers rose an impressive 4.6 percent. Another good point for electric co-ops is that the wholesale power costs fell a healthy 2.2 percent, while retail rates were stable. Also, hourly rates for employees rose by an average of five percent.

In the future co-ops will provide alternative services such as propane, water, and telecommunications, just to name a few. Elec-

(Continued on page 16c)

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Cindy Aden

Cindy Aden — New Billing Coordinator

Cindy Aden was recently named Billing Coordinator at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Dongola. Her cooperative career began in 1990 when she was hired as a clerk. Cindy's responsibilities include all the billing functions associated with member's electric bills as well as overseeing the daily operations of billing clerks, Betty Reynolds and Stephanie Theis. Anytime you have a question or concern regarding your electric bill, please give Cindy, Betty or Stephanie a call. **Betty Turner**



Three area residents received their Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificates during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Region V annual meeting held September 14-16, in Des Moines, Iowa. Glenn English, second from left, CEO of NRECA, made the presentation to G. Robert Inman, left, of Grand Chain, Barbara Pitts, second from right, of Buncombe and Larry Fisher, right, of Karnak.

Office closing

SIEC will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11,
in observance of **Veteran's Day**.
The cooperative will also be closed
Thursday, Nov. 25 and Friday, Nov. 26,
for the **Thanksgiving holidays**.

(Continued from page 16a)

tric co-ops will be able to offer more products, and co-ops will be able to strengthen their core business. This can help them because they will have more products to sell to consumers.

Electric co-ops are good for a community because they provide jobs for the community, and they provided lower prices compared to the investor-owned utilities. Investor-owned utilities are different from power co-ops because, unlike co-ops, they are a profit organization. All they want to do is provide good numbers for the stockholders. Co-ops are owned by the consumers, who are their customers, unlike investor-owned utilities. The co-op holds an annual meeting in which consumers

vote for board members, thereby providing a voice for the consumer.

Electric Co-ops also are trying to update their computer systems because of the Y2k bug. This could knock out the computer system, and then people would be out of power. The co-ops are running tests and trying to see if the Y2k bug will bring them down. If the Y2k bug does knock out computers, the consumers will not be happy with their service and take their business to another organization. Senators. Robert Bennett and Christopher Dodd, the committee's chairmen say, "Our greater concern is approximately one thousand small, rural electric utilities that may not have the resources to devote to Y2k compliance." In contrast, co-op

engineers state that they expect to deliver the same reliable service in the year 2000 that they deliver now.

The future looks very good for electric co-ops because they will be able to obtain more consumers during deregulation. Co-ops will also be able to sell alternative services and really help out the community. Co-ops are also updating their computers so that the consumer will be happy with their service. If the consumer is unhappy, then he will take his business somewhere else and the co-ops will lose out. Altogether the electric co-op is poised to continue to strive to provide low cost, reliable services to not only rural America, but to consumers nationwide. **Gean Scott**

Handle harvest with care

If you are handling loose, harvested grain, it is all too easy to get trapped in the grain — or even die of suffocation. Grain handling accidents happen very quickly, and flowing grain can draw in a person in seconds. If you are in a large wagon or a grain bin, you could become completely submerged in as little as 15 seconds.

A grain surface may appear solid, but it's not — a small opening in the unloading gate gives the entire surface the quality of quicksand. When kernels are removed from the bottom, kernels directly above rush in to fill the void, creating a fluid motion. Even if the grain flow is stopped, the danger is not over. It is very difficult to

remove people from grain once they are trapped. For example, the force required to remove a person buried in grain can exceed 2,000 pounds — the same as lifting a small car.

Don't be a victim of suffocation when handling loose grain. Follow these safety tips:

- Lock out power to all types of grain-handling equipment. Disconnect power, and place locks over operating switches. This also helps discourage grain theft.
- Always use the buddy system when you are unloading or loading grain. Notify a second person of your whereabouts

at all times, so that he/she can obtain help if necessary. Ideally, have a second person on site.

- Never permit children to ride in grain wagons or enter grain storage areas.
- Apply suffocation hazard decals to all grain wagons, grain bins and storage structures. Instruct everyone who handles grain about the danger of suffocation.
- Lock access doors to grain bins; limit access to the top of grain wagons.

Source: The National Ag Safety Database / Iowa State University Extension

Membership prize

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

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

Start winterizing your home now

Fall is here, even though we may have a few more relatively warm days ahead of us before the real chill sets in. Now is the time to start planning for the cold Southern Illinois winter weather. Since many of us haven't used our furnaces since, oh, perhaps last April, this may be the best place to start.

Heating systems and humidifiers

If you have a humidifier attached to your furnace, clean and chlorinate it. Replace filters, making sure the water is turned on and the drain is clear. Make sure the humidifier is not leaking into the furnace.

Check all furnace filters to make sure they are clean. If they're not, either clean or replace them. In some systems, filters should be replaced monthly during the regular heating period. Check your owner's manual for recommended replacement time and other maintenance requirements.

If you have a wood-burning stove, check all ductwork for possible leaks. Do not vent a wood-burning stove or fireplace in the same flue as a gas, or oil burner, or space heater. Check your fireplace chimney for obstructions or creosote buildup, and clean it at least once a year. Leave the damper slightly open at all times if you have a gas log or gas starter.

Plumbing and water heaters

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

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

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

Install a temperature pressure relief valve and metal overflow line on your electric water heater. Consider insulating your

water heater to prevent unwanted heat loss.

Snow Birds

If you plan to take an extended vacation over a period of months, consider draining your entire water system and shutting the water off to your home until you return.

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

Set your thermostat at a minimum of 45 degrees to prevent freeze-up.

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

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

Randy R. Pittman

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.

Attention high school seniors!

Let us mail to you an application for an IEC Memorial Scholarship for the year 2000. Completed applications need to be in our office by Jan. 1, 2000. Call today and ask for Cathy at (800) 762-1400.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

At this time we set aside for giving thanks, we wish you and your family happiness at not only Thanksgiving but always. Happy Thanksgiving from the directors and employees of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

JAMUP

43

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published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois



*Best Wishes for Peace and Joy this
Holiday Season and a New Year of Health,
Happiness and Prosperity*

... FROM THE DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Ronald E. Osman, Attorney

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Dale E. Taake
John Bigler, Attorney

Barbara Pitts, Sec.-Treasurer
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Home, sweet energy- efficient, home

The holidays are a time for families and friends to gather near and far. Whether you are traveling out of town for Christmas or having your family into your home, there are many ways to make this an "energy efficient" holiday. Here are some great holiday tips."

Going out of town

Heating. Lower your heating thermostat to 50 degrees since you won't want to heat unoccupied areas of the house. We recommend a setting of no lower than 50 degrees due to the risk of frozen pipes in colder weather.

Water heater. If you're going to be away for more than three days, it pays to turn your water heater off. Turn your electric water heater off at the circuit-breaker panel. Remember that you'll need a few hours to heat the tank when you return.

Lighting. Install photocells or timers on lights for security and energy conservation. Photocells will turn the lights on at dusk and turn them off at dawn. Timers will turn the lights on and off at the times you choose. You can purchase timers that plug into wall outlets at most hardware stores for \$5 to \$10. Fluorescent lights use far less electricity than incandescent, but may not work on photocell devices.

Waterbed. Unplug your waterbed heater, or lower the thermostat to 70 degrees when away from home seven days or more. Like water heaters, waterbeds will take time to warm back up.

Electronic equipment. Unplug your electronic equipment such as your VCR, television, computer and others as they draw power even when not in use.

Fireplace use

- **Make sure the flue is clean and free of creosote.**
- **Burn only dry, seasoned wood.**
- **Don't burn holiday wrappings or garbage.**
- **Use a fireplace cover such as glass doors to reduce heat loss. Keep doors open during burning and closed when the fire dies down.**

Cooking and baking

- Plan your oven use to prepare as many meals and baked goods at one time as possible.
- Cook with lids on pots. (Trapped steam cooks food faster).
- Keep vent fans running to reduce moisture build-up.
- When baking, turn off the oven a few minutes before the dish is done. Let the stored heat do the rest.

Decorating

- Use strings of new miniature lights rather than old-fashioned higher wattage bulbs. They use less energy.
- Use outdoor lights after sunset only and shut them off when you retire for the night.
- Unplug lights when trees are being watered.

Kenneth L. Goodbread



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.

Office closing

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24, in observance of Christmas. The office will also be closed on Friday, Dec. 31, for New Year's holiday.

Membership prize

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

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



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 mem-

ber, 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 Cathy at (618) 827-3555 for further details.

Think of it as the gas pedal in your car

You know what happens when you constantly speed up and slow down, or run your car at high speeds. You use a lot more fuel. The same is true of your heating system thermostat. Constantly changing your temperature setting consumes more energy. Setting it on high temperatures drastically increases your electric bill. So, pick a comfortable setting – between 68 degrees and 72 degrees; set it and forget it. You'll be comfortable, and you'll get a lot more hours of heat per dollar. **Sharon K. Yon**

A gift for the environment

This holiday season, give a special gift to the environment, recycle your Christmas tree.

When the holidays end, Christmas trees do not have to wind up sharing space with overburdened landfills. Sometimes community or civic organizations provide recycling free of charge. The tree can be ground into mulch. Mulch helps soil hold water and nutrients.

Before you recycle your tree, make sure you remove all the decorations and nails that may have been used to support the tree.

If no recycle programs are available, you can recycle your Christmas tree in your own backyard. Lay the tree someplace where it will add nutrients to the soil as it decomposes. Tie orange slices to its branches or scatter bird seed on it to attract a wide variety of birds.

We can't avoid downed power lines in the winter

Winter is here. And your electric co-op is ready for it. But no matter how well we prepare; we cannot avoid downed power lines. Hours of freezing rain can snap a power line without warning. Snowbound trees can fall, taking several lines down with them. If you spot a downed power line, please **stay away** from it. Call us immediately at our emergency number (800) 762-1400. We'll repair it and restore your power as quickly as possible. Rain or shine, day or night. **Norman Charles Sloan**

Calls after hours should only report outages and emergencies: (800) 762-1400.

