

# Plastic film is good solution for a 'problem window'

1



*Have someone hold the film in place, and give it a preliminary trim with scissors. If you have to, you can tape the film across the top of the frame.*

Now that cold weather — and the wind — have made their presence known, you may have discovered that you have a window or two, and perhaps more, that let in a little more wind and chill than you like. Unfortunately, many houses suffer from that situation, especially the older ones.

The best solution to the problem is to have the windows replaced, but that's not always an option. And, occasionally, a house may have several windows that are fine, but a couple that leak. This seems to be particularly true of windows on the side of the home toward the prevailing winds, and a quick and cheap fix often will help such rooms. They may make the difference between chattering teeth and reasonable comfort.

If you find that you have a couple of windows that need help, plastic film may be a good bet for you. While no one would argue that they're aesthetically pleasing, they do help, and that's enough for many.

They're fairly simple to install, and all you need, generally, is a pair of scissors and a hair dryer.

Film kits are available in different sizes, and often need to be cut to fit. You'll need to

2



*Double-stick tape applied to the window frame holds the film in place. The white backing comes off, and the tape's invisible when the job's done.*

measure the windows you want to fix, and get a kit that's that size, or bigger. Try to install the kit when it's not too windy, because wind blowing in will "bow" the plastic, making it hard to work with. You'll need to hold the film up to the window, and cut it to an approximate fit. Then, set it aside.

There should be some double-stick tape with the kit, and you'll need to apply it around the window frame so it'll make an uninterrupted seal. Then, peel off the backing from the tape (This is often the most frustrating part), and apply the film, starting with an upper corner and working downward and toward the opposite corner. Keep things as smooth and as neat as possible.

Press the film carefully against the double-stick tape, and then break out the blow dryer, which you'll use to shrink the plastic to give it a tight fit. Follow package instructions regarding heat settings and the like, and you'll have a nice, snug window. Use your scissors, again, to trim away excess, to make a neat application.

3



*A hair dryer shrinks the film to give a tight fit.*

If you treat even a few windows in your home, you'll probably save a fair amount of money, and you're sure to improve the comfort level!



# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

## *Board meeting report*

### **Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting October 25, 1999**

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Logan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held September 27, 1999.

**Accepted** 20 new members for service.

**Canceled** 22 members no longer receiving service.

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

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$16,998.54 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

**Heard** a report from negotiations committee concerning negotiations between the Cooperative and the union.

**Advised** that as soon as the contract between the Cooperative and the union was typed it would be presented to the board for approval and signatures.

**Advised** that the SCADA system had been installed bringing the Cooperative into compliance with Y2K.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC board meeting.

**Heard** a report by Manager Wattles regarding recent Soyland board meeting.

**Advised** by Manager Wattles that the consultants had recommended further negotiations to

secure a new power supply contract.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of September 1999.

**Advised** that there were no Safety Meetings conducted in September due to unavailable AIEC staff. Jim Nevel, Manager of Regulatory Compliance of AIEC conducted a safety audit of the Cooperative and a hazard assessment questionnaire with one of the linemen.

**Resolved** that during the months when Central Standard Time was in effect the monthly board meeting would be held the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment.**

## **Post-holiday safety tips for your home**

You made it safely through the holiday without any problems — no tipped over Christmas tree, no blown fuses from too many holiday lights, and the dog didn't eat too much gift wrapping this year. However, the post-holiday period is no time to relax, safety-wise, especially if you have children.

The National Electrical Safety Foundation suggests these tips for the New Year:

When storing holiday lights, separate outdoor from indoor and label accordingly. Discard broken or faulty lights.

Store decorations away from children, pets, and water.

Make sure all electrical lights, toys and appliances bear the seal of a nationally recognized certification agency, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Don't allow your children to use electrical toys near water, and make sure they know that water and electricity never mix. Electrical toys can become a shock hazard if they are misused.

Send warranty and product registration forms to manufacturers so that they can notify you promptly in case of a recall.

Post-holiday sales are great for purchasing fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.

# Cookbook to benefit Main Street Flora

Main Street Flora has a delicious new fundraiser! "Cookin' with Main Street Flora" is an attractive compilation of three hundred recipes donated by the volunteers and friends of Main Street Flora. The cookbooks are \$10 and are available at any of the Flora banks and the Main Street Office in Old City Hall. The proceeds will go towards promotions and projects for the organization. Call 662-4781 or 662-6064 for more information.

The Main Street program in

Flora began in 1994 in answer to changing economic needs in the downtown area. The approach to community revitalization originated with the National Historic Trust and has state and national networks to assist citizens in their efforts. This volunteer-drive, non-profit organization uses historic preservation and innovation to help the downtown be a thriving center of the community.

The renovation of the historic

B&O Depot, located on the edge of downtown Flora, has become an ambitious project for Main Street Flora. A combination of federal and state grants and generous private donations have made it possible to stabilize the 1917 structure. Volunteers are excited to continue raising money and making plans to put the building back in use. Over \$1 million will be needed to restore the depot for commercial and museum space.

## Stay safe...and warm

Cold days and nights may call for some extra heat in your home. Modern conveniences such as electric blankets and portable electric heaters add a lot of comfort but can present risks if not properly used. However, with a few basic commonsense tips, you can stay safe and warm throughout the winter:

- Keep bedding, clothes, draperies, rugs, furniture or anything that may be flammable

at least three feet away from portable heaters — even those with safety guards and automatic cut-off switches.

- Don't tuck in electric blankets, or you may damage or break the insulation around the coils and create a fire hazard.
- Keep electric blankets on top of other covers, and keep pets off the blanket, too.
- Always unplug electric heaters and blankets when

they're not in use. Never leave these appliances unattended.

- Portable heaters and electric blankets, or any other appliance that produces heat, should not be used with extension cords. Make sure to plug them directly into a wall outlet.

*Source: National Electrical Safety Foundation*

## PUT A LITTLE SECURITY IN YOUR NIGHT



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

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

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

# Snowmobilers, beware of hidden dangers

*Snowmobiling is a very popular winter sport,  
but snow cover can conceal dangers.*



**M**ore than one-half of the serious snowmobile injuries involve collisions with automobiles, other snowmobiles, trains and fixed objects such as trees, fences, utility poles and guy wires. Guy wires can be especially difficult to see against a background of bright snow or during dawn or dusk hours. Watch for downed power lines, too. Your snowmobile could be wrecked if it crosses a downed line, and your life could be in danger if the line is energized.

If you see a downed power line, mark the location, then notify local authorities or the electric suppliers in the area.

Your local electric cooperative urges you to drive defensively to keep your snowmobiling experience fun and safe.

# A primer on HOME heating systems

It's the middle of winter, and your home heating system is: a) worn out and barely going to make it until spring; b) inefficient; c) inadequate and you're freezing. You figure that with your tax refund next spring you'll be able to do something about your system.

## ELECTRIC HEATING

Electric heating systems may be resistance heating systems or heat pumps. Electric resistance heating works by converting electric current directly into heat. Electric heat pumps, however, operate on a completely different principle. They use electricity to move heat from one location to another, much in the same way that a refrigerator's cooling system moves heat from inside the box to outside the box.

A heat pump does the same thing for a house and can be reversed so that heat is moved into the house in the winter and out in the summer. As a result, because heat pumps use electricity to move heat rather than to generate it, they can deliver more energy to a home than they consume.

## PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS

A programmable thermostat can reduce your heating cooling bills by up to 30 percent. It's simple: you can program the thermostat to higher or lower levels (depending on the time of year) when you are not home, so you don't waste energy.

But you don't feel comfortable calling a contractor or retailer because you don't know anything about heating systems beyond where yours is located. Before you call the experts, take a few minutes and review some basics about home heating systems.

## SIZING YOUR HEATING SYSTEM

Many existing systems are oversized — sometimes by a factor of two or three. Oversized systems do not operate at peak efficiency and can cost more to purchase, operate and maintain.

To be most efficient, your heating system should be able to keep your home at 70 degrees Fahrenheit on the coldest day of the year. In addition, your new system should not exceed your peak hourly heating demand by more than 25 percent.

## GAS AND OIL HEATING SYSTEMS

Gas and oil heating systems may be furnaces or boilers. Furnaces heat air that is circulated throughout the house by ducts. Boilers heat water or steam that circulates through pipes to radiators or baseboards. Some hot water systems circulate water through plastic tubing in the floor, called radiant floor heating.

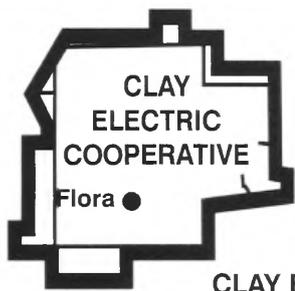


For more information about home heating systems, call your local electric cooperative. Your friends there will be happy to provide you with information and suggest ways that you can maximize energy efficiency — and save money, too.

*Source: Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology*

## ZONING

This means dividing your home into areas with common heating and cooling requirements, with each zone being controlled by its own thermostat. Zoning can make your home more comfortable and save you money. You can heat or cool different portions of your house depending on whether you are using them.



# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

## *Board meeting report*

### **Minutes of board of trustees special meeting — Nov. 8, 1999**

All trustees were present, also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd. **Held** discussions with an official of Ameren Energy about power supply.

**Adjournment.**

### **Minutes of board of trustees meeting — Nov. 22, 1999**

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

**Invocation** by Trustee Poehler.

**Approved** minutes of regular meeting held Oct. 25, 1999.

**Accepted** 20 new members for service.

**Canceled** 12 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** financial, maintenance and outage report for October 1999.

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$14,139.74.

**Approved** a refund of capital credits to the estate of Frances V. Zieman.

**Approved** contracts for service for Darren and Cindy Bailey and Robert and Sue Britton.

**Approved** union contracts.

**Approved** an amendment to 401K plan per union contract.

**Heard** a report of a recent AIEC meeting by Trustee Logan.

**Heard** a report of a recent Soyland meeting.

**Heard** a report of power supply negotiations.

**Accepted** a check list for October 1999.

**Authorized** to retain the firm of Spiegle and McDiarmid as FERC counsel.

**Adjournment.**

### **Minutes of board of trustees special meeting — Dec. 9, 1999**

All trustees were present in person, with exception of Kevin Logan who was present by conference telephone, and with the exception of Frank Czyzewski and Danny Schnepper, who were absent; also, present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

**Approved** and **accepted** an Electric Service Agreement between Clay and Ameren Energy.

**Approved** a letter of credit from NRUCFC for the Electric Service Agreement.

**Approved** an Intermediate Term Loan with NRUCFC to finance the buyout from Soyland Power Cooperative.

**Adjournment.**

## **Rent a high-pressure sodium security light**

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

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

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



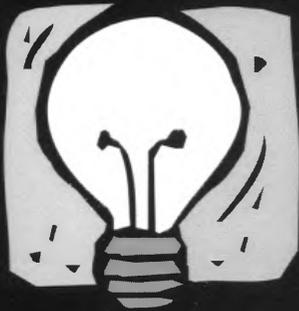
With the growth of telecommuting, more Americans are setting up shop at home and equipping their home offices with computers, fax machines, modems and other office equipment. However, many homes — especially older ones — are not really equipped for all these heavy-duty electronics. Look carefully around your home office for these hazards:

- Insufficient outlets. Don't resort to a tangle of extension cords to hook up all your equipment. Use a safety-rated power strip or surge suppressor to connect
- Ungrounded outlets. Many older homes may not have three-prong outlets to ensure that your equipment is safely grounded. Make sure to have an electrician come in and install grounded outlets where they're needed. Do not cut off the third prong to make the plug fit!
- Don't overload the circuits. Check your breaker or fuse box to determine which outlets are on the same circuit, and be sure

that all the equipment you have on a single circuit draws no more than 1,500 watts.

- In a lightning storm, unplug your computer directly from the wall outlet. Also, unplug and unhook your modem.
- If you lose power while working on your computer, turn the computer off. When the power comes back on, a voltage spike could damage your equipment.

**Source:** *National Electrical Safety Foundation*



## Long live the light bulb

You think your light bulbs burn out too soon? Well, Thomas Edison's had to be changed every two days! Today there are fluorescent light bulbs that will last 23 years.

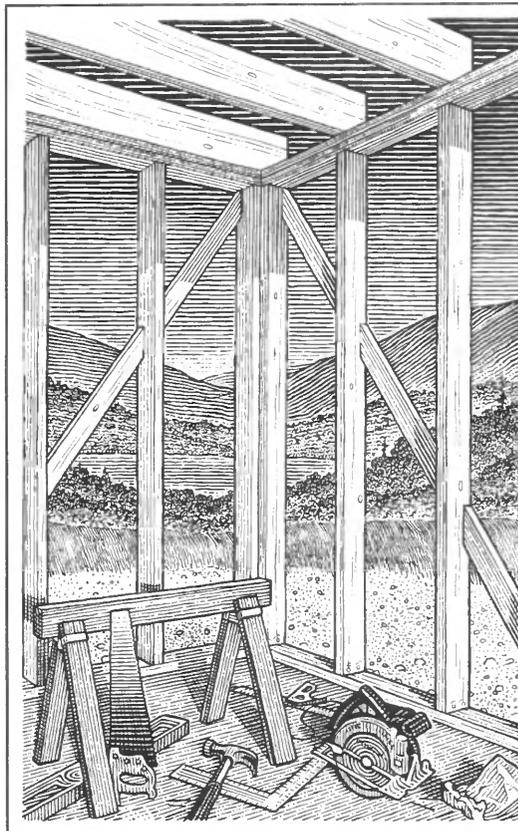
Unfortunately, the ordinary incandescent light bulb hasn't progressed as much as halogen and fluorescent light bulbs. The lowly incandescent has only increased its life span 150 percent since 1910. Today's fluorescent bulb can last 416 percent longer than the one you installed in 1989. Install fluorescent bulbs. They'll cost less to operate, too.

## Are you eligible for an electric heat rate?

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

### Is your home total electric?

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



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



# ***It's family, it's community, it's rural America.***

No matter which Main Street you cross in rural America, you always sense that it has a

special quality. It's not just the smog-free air. Nor is it the way the ham tastes richer in your mouth at the local diner. It's not even the way sunlight penetrates beyond the

buildings to dance on the flower beds in front of the town hall. No, you can definitely tell you are on Main Street, U.S.A. by the way people share a sense of community and family. It's the way people look you in the eye and ask about your day. It's community. It's rural America.

*It's family,*



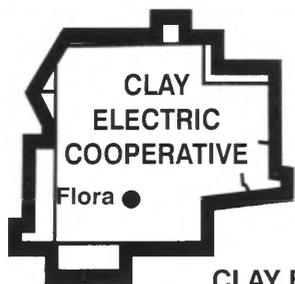
*it's community,*



***We're your hometown  
electric cooperative,  
proud to take part in  
making your community  
a better place to live.***



*It's rural America.*



# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

## Board meeting report

### Special board of trustees meeting held Dec. 15, 1999

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

**Resolved** that the Coopera-

tive be authorized to apply for credit in accordance with the terms and conditions through the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

**Authorized** Manager Wattles to execute the network transmission contract with Ameren Services Co.

**Adjournment.**

### Minutes of board of trustees meeting Dec. 27, 1999

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Rudolphi.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held Nov. 22, 1999 and the special meetings held Nov. 8, Dec. 9 and Dec. 15, 1999.

**Accepted** 19 new members for service.

**Canceled** 21 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** the financial, maintenance and outage report

for the month of November 1999 presented by Manager Wattles.

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$16,401.51 and authorized Manager Wattles to submit the same to RUS for reimbursement.

**Approved** purchase of power contracts for two members pursuant to Cooperative policy.

**Approved** write-offs total \$908.00.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC board meeting.

**Heard** a report by Manager Wattles and Trustee Dunigan re-

garding recent Soyland board meeting.

**Advised** by Manager Wattles that the Soyland buyout process had been conducted on Dec. 23, 1999.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of November 1999.

**Advised** of up-coming NRECA director's course in Springfield.

**Approved** payment to an employee of unused vacation.

**Discussed** up-coming NRECA annual meeting plans.

**Adjournment.**

## Rent a high-pressure sodium security light

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

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

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



# MAKE SURE YOU USE ENERGY WISELY



When you plug an appliance or flip a light switch, you are making a conscious decision to purchase electricity, but it's not like buying gas for your car. Unlike gas, you can't fill up a tank with electricity. And you pay for electricity before you use it, not after you use it, so it's easy to forget about its cost until the bill arrives. That's why the first step toward efficient energy use is to be aware of how and where you use electricity.

While turning off the lights and TV in an empty room will help, it's actually the appliances we never have to turn on and off that use the most energy. Furnaces, air conditioners, hot water heaters, refrigerators and freezers all work without the flip of a switch, and if they are inefficient, you could be throwing money away every month.

For advice on how to make more efficient use of electricity in your home, call your local electric cooperative. We think electricity is a wonderful bargain, but we don't think you should buy more than you need.



**Electric Cooperatives of Illinois**

**Helping you use energy efficiently**

# Energy tips for HOMEOWNERS

## Look for lost energy dollars in attic, basement

**C**rawling around your attic or basement may not be your idea of a world-class way to spend your free time, but a simple check of these areas may help you save real money on your energy bills. And while you're at it, remember to check any crawl spaces and the foundation of your home. Here are some places to scout out some savings:

**Attic:** Remember that vents must be left open to allow moisture to escape from the attic. Therefore, adequate ceiling insulation is a must. Examine the insulation carefully. How much and what type of insulation do you have? Make written notes. If you need to talk to energy experts at your co-op about im-

provements, you can tell them what is currently installed.

**Basement:** When the basement is used for purposes other than storage, the walls and windows should be insulated. If the basement is used only for storage, the ductwork and the floor above should be insulated and the basement left unheated.

**Crawl space vents:** Vents should be closed during the winter unless the furnace is in the crawl space or there is a moisture problem. If you cannot close the vents, you may be able to install insulating panels. Leave the vents closed during the summer if there is no moisture problem.

**Basement foundations:** A warm basement space provides warmer floors above. Most basements are primarily heated by the heat lost from the furnace and ductwork. Heat lost from the basement is just as expensive as heat lost from an upstairs room. To reduce heat loss, install storm windows, caulk the sill joint and insulate the basement walls.

**Mobile home and manufactured housing foundations:** Insulated skirting should be installed to reduce airflow and raise the temperature below the structure.

Don't wait for winter winds to blow the dollars out of your wallet. Call your electric cooperative today to find out how you can take advantage of these and other energy-saving ideas for your home.

## More efficient lighting LOWERS electric bills

**I**ncreasing your lighting efficiency is one of the easiest ways to decrease your energy bills. For example, if you replace 25 percent of your lights in high-use areas with fluorescents, you can cut your lighting costs bill by about 50 percent. Remember to review your indoor lighting, and if applicable, your outdoor lighting as well, and always look for the Energy Star® label when shopping for lighting projects. The U.S. Department of Energy offers these money-saving tips for your home or office:

• **Indoor lighting:** Use linear fluorescent and energy-effi-

cient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in fixtures to provide high-quality and high-efficiency lighting. Fluorescent lamps are much more efficient than incandescent bulbs and last six to 10 times longer. Although fluorescent and compact fluorescent lamps are more expensive than incandescent bulbs, they pay for themselves by saving energy over their lifetime.

• **Outdoor lighting:** Many home and business owners use outdoor lighting for decoration and security. When shopping for outdoor lights, you will find a variety of products, from

low-voltage pathway lighting to high-pressure sodium, motion-detector floodlights. Some stores also carry lights powered by small photovoltaic (PV) modules that convert sunlight directly into electricity. Consider PV-powered lights for areas that are not close to an existing power supply line. Would you like more information on how to cut your electric bill? Contact your local electric cooperative for more information. They'll be glad to help you find new ways to light your home or business and save energy.

# Why do electric bills go up in the winter?

It's a good question. Even if you do not use electric heat, you may notice that your bills are higher during the colder months. Several factors can contribute to those higher bills, including:

- \* Warm baths feel great on cold days — and heating extra water can increase your consumption and your electric bill. Be sure your water heater is properly insulated if it is in an unheated space, and have it checked for leaks.
- \* Winter brings holidays, which often mean additional cooking

and baking, and those bright holiday lights, all of which can raise your usage of electricity.

- \* Shorter days and longer nights mean lights stay on longer both inside and out.
- \* Most heating systems use electricity for some functions, such as operating the fan, and many run almost continuously when it is very cold.
- \* You may be using space heaters in garages, basements or other unheated spaces.

- \* That electric blanket or heating pad that feels so cozy on cold nights can cost another dollar or so to operate.
- \* You may be using engine block heaters on your cars or equipment.
- \* Most consumers use the clothes dryer more often in winter.

Even if your bills are higher during winter, electricity remains one of the best values around! Just think of the many conveniences that electricity provides!

## Tampering with your electric service is illegal and dangerous

Throughout the nation many people have come to believe that cheating the power company is okay. They believe that since you cannot see the electricity it is fine to steal it. Some have come up with ingenious ways to reduce the accurate operation of a utility meter. Every method of tampering with wires, meters, or other service equipment, which belong to a utility, is a crime. Not only is tampering with an electric service a crime, but it can be extremely dangerous.

The electric utility industry is concerned about this problem, not only from a lost revenue standpoint, but from the stand-

point of safety. The electric service equipment is designed to be operated and maintained by qualified personnel who are trained to work on energized electric equipment. Tampering with any part of an electric service will expose an individual to live electrical parts. Contact with these parts can cause serious injury. The electric wires, meters, and other equipment that comprise an electric service are the property of the electric utility.

Criminal law places stiff penalties on tampering and current diversion. Tampering with components of an electric service leaves

a specific trail of evidence that is quickly identified by trained personnel.

The cooperative is concerned about trends in the utility industry which indicate tampering is on the rise. Clay Electric Co-operative is comprised of members who also are the owners of the cooperative. Any theft of electricity is a crime against you and your fellow members. The costs associated with theft of electricity is passed on to other members as part of the cost of doing business. The penalty in Illinois for utility meter tampering is up to six months in jail and a possible \$500 fine.

## Get the most for your money

In a day when it seems that a dollar buys less and less, the men and women at Clay Electric Co-operative are doing what they can to make sure you get the most out of every dollar you spend with them.

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

Whether it's a tip on installing energy-efficient lighting in your home, insulating your water heater, or just changing the filters in your heat pump, Clay Electric wants to help you get the best deal you can on the electricity you buy.

That's what makes energy conservation a partnership between you and us. While you work at home to keep your power bill as low as possible, we're working to put the latest technology in place to better manage the system that brings the power to you. This new technology adds to the savings we can pass on to you.

Another important part of Clay Electric's commitment to you is safety education. Electricity is such a normal part of your life that it is easy to forget it can be dangerous if improperly used. We remind you—often—to play it safe by installing child safety plugs in unused outlets, being careful when using electric tools near water, or having underground cables marked prior to digging around your home. Electric co-ops also provide important informa-

tion to local schools to help teach children about electrical safety.

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

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

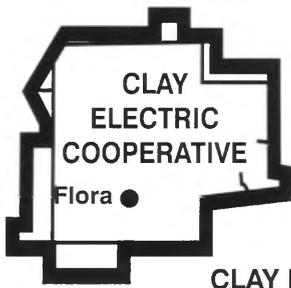
Old Route 50 West

P.O. Box 517

Flora, Illinois 62839

(618) 662-2171

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

## *Board meeting report*

### **Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting January 24, 2000**

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Czyzewski.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held December 27, 1999.

**Accepted** six new members for service.

**Canceled** eight members no longer receiving service.

**Heard** a presentation by Manager of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, James Riddle, concerning advantages and disadvantages of Rural

Utility Service (RUS) buyout.

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

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$6,863.25.

**Approved** year 2000 budget, in the form presented, with the option of RUS buyout included.

**Heard** a report by Manager Wattles regarding power supply arrangements with AMEREN Energy Services.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC

board meeting.

**Approved** the resolution to buyout of Rural Utility Service (RUS).

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of December 1999.

**Reviewed** plans of upcoming NRECA annual meeting.

**Reviewed** Itron quote for automatic meter reading equipment with no affirmative action being taken.

**Approved** that the Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. be held September 14, 2000.

Adjournment.

## **FACTS**

### **about America's electric co-ops**

America's 960 electric cooperatives serve 30 million people in 46 states. Of these, 900 are distribution co-ops and 60 are generation and transmission (G&T) co-ops, which are owned collectively by their member distribution systems. The 900 distribution co-ops are:

- Private, independent electric utility businesses.
- Incorporated under the laws of the states in which they operate.
- Established to provide at-

cost electric service.

- Owned by the consumers they serve.
- Governed by a board of directors elected from the membership, which sets policies and procedures that are implemented by the cooperatives' professional staff.

If you have questions about your electric cooperative, give us a call. As a member-customer, you're one of the owners.

# Don't let Spring zap your children!

Spring is a time of mixed emotions. For many, it's a time of hope that the cold will finally go away for good. For others, it's a time of hope and renewal. For parents, it offers an opportunity to get out and throw a few baseballs to the children, or to watch them play outside. For children, it means summer vacation's coming soon.

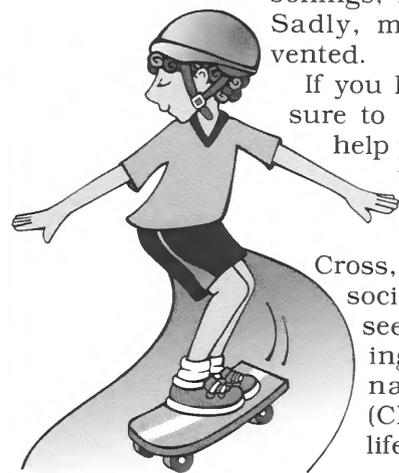
But there's another side to spring, too. For emergency room doctors and nurses, spring is a busy season, with many of the patients being children.

Surprisingly, there are almost twice as many childhood injuries in the warm spring months as winter.

During the spring and summer months, children are at increased risk because most, especially the younger ones, tend to forget the safety rules they learned the previous year. They're more likely to get hurt in collisions involving cars, bikes or pedestrians. There are also more drownings, poisonings, falls and chokings. Sadly, most could be prevented.

If you have youngsters, be sure to take precautions to help protect them during the warm months.

Check with your local Red Cross, American Heart Association or hospital to see if you can get training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). It could save a life.



Children often put themselves at risk on the streets. Be sure to remind yours about the dangers of crossing streets. Remind them to stop at the side of the road before crossing, and to look both ways.

When driving, always be careful to buckle up your children, and remember that the front passenger's seat is no place for a small child. Remember that children are required by law to be either in a child safety seat or buckled in with a seat belt. Proper use of such devices, while often frustrating to children, can save lives. When using child seats, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully!

Bicycle helmets are hot and uncomfortable, and some children think they're "uncool." But they prevent serious injury and save lives. Since head injuries are the most common kind of bike-related

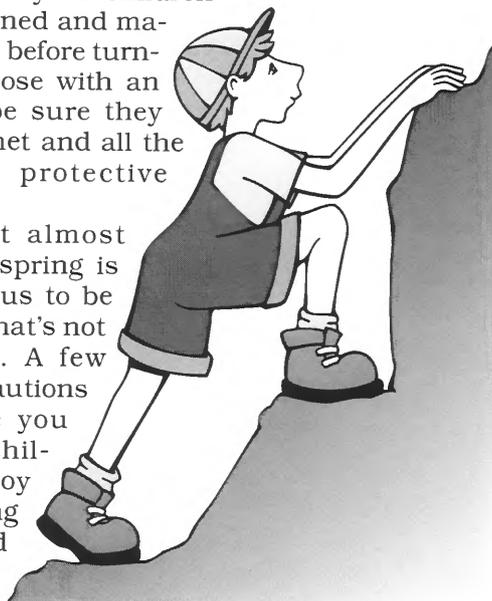
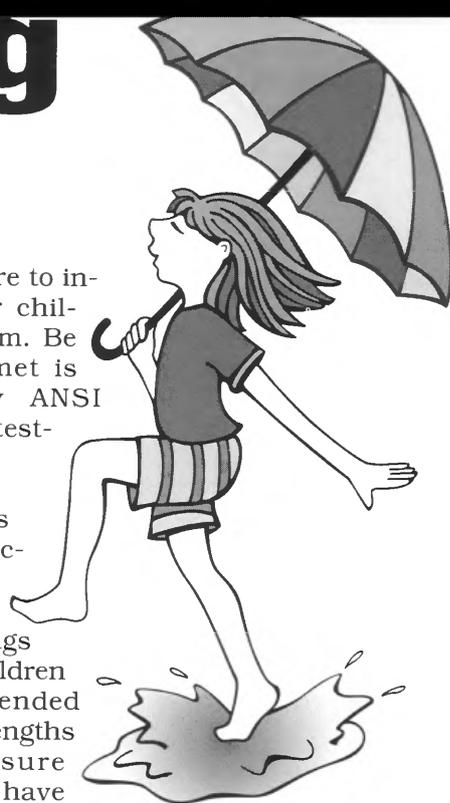
trauma, be sure to insist that your children wear them. Be sure the helmet is approved by ANSI and/or other testing agencies.

Warmer weather brings about lots of activity around water, and many drownings occur when children are left unattended for very short lengths of time. Be sure your children have swimming lessons, and then keep in mind that they're still not completely safe around water. Many water-related accidents happen because children who know how to swim overestimate their abilities. Keep an eye on your children at all times when they're near water.

Keep poisonous substances away from children. Nearly two-thirds of all calls to poison control centers concern children who are under five years old, and 90 percent of such poisonings take place at home. Cleaners, medicines, paints and insect sprays are the products most often ingested by children. Be sure to store such items in out-of-reach cabinets with childproof locks.

With warm weather, children are more likely to be involved with all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and children and ATVs can be a dangerous combination. Be sure your children are well trained and mature enough before turning them loose with an ATV, and be sure they wear a helmet and all the necessary protective clothing.

While it almost seems like spring is too dangerous to be enjoyable, that's not really true. A few simple precautions will enable you and your children to enjoy the warming weather and still be safe.



# Call your co-op for lightning protection tips

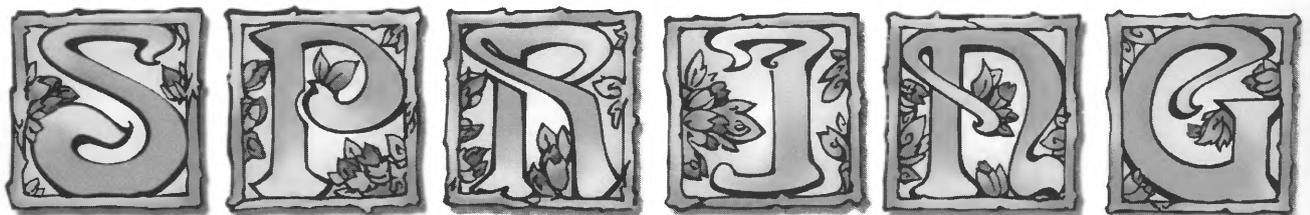


April showers may bring May flowers, but what else do April showers bring? You guessed it – thunderstorms. Yes, it's already time to gear up for stormy weather. To protect your home, possessions and family, take precautions now to prepare for those wayward bolts of lightning.

Do all your major appliances have surge protectors? Do the lightning rods on your home and barns have good connections to the ground? Have you and your family gone over lightning safety for the coming spring and summer? Here are some tips to follow:

- In case of severe storms, stay inside a building or metal vehicle.
- Do not use the telephone, except in the case of an emergency.
- If outdoors, do not stand near utility poles or under large trees.
- Avoid high areas such as hills and tall structures.
- Stay away from metal equipment, wire fences, metal pipes and similar objects that might conduct lightning.

Protect yourself and your home from lightning. Just one bolt could spoil your whole day.

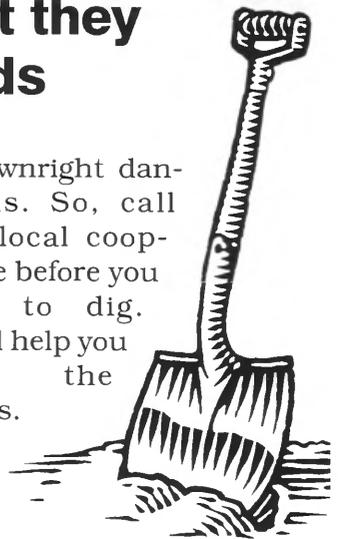


## Some people are shocked by what they find when they dig in their yards

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

may be only a few earthworms or the ballpoint pen you lost a few years ago. On the other hand, it could be a buried utility line, like 220 volts of electricity. Or you may chop right into the cable TV line just in time for your favorite program. All of which would be unpleasant and some of which could

be downright dangerous. So, call your local cooperative before you start to dig. They'll help you avoid the shocks.



## What the well dressed line crews will be wearing this year

Co-op line crews have a lot of respect for electricity. So they use common sense when dealing with it. Like wearing protective gloves, boots and safety glasses. Not very fashionable; but very practical. While we won't insist you follow our fashion lead, we do encourage you to use the

same common sense in dealing with electricity. Unplug any appliance before working with it. Never use a higher wattage bulb than called for. Turn off all circuit breakers before changing a wall outlet or switch. It's even smart to unplug a lamp before changing the bulb. You see, we don't

care about the latest fashions, we know that safety and common sense never go out of style.

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West  
P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

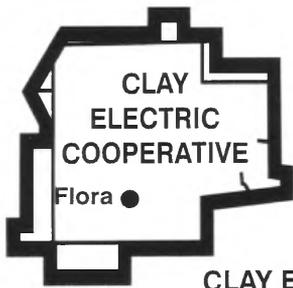
## PUT A LITTLE SECURITY IN YOUR NIGHT



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

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

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



# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

## Board meeting report

### Minutes of board of trustees meeting held Feb. 28, 2000

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Burkett.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held Jan. 24, 2000.

**Accepted** nine new members for service.

**Canceled** nine members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of January 2000 presented by Manager Wattles.

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$12,412.67.

**Heard** a presentation by Shelly Allen on behalf of ServPro and authorized Manager Wattles to implement a disaster recovery plan with ServPro at no cost to the

Cooperative.

**Appointed** Trustee Czyzewski as delegate and Trustee Schnepfer as alternate to the NRECA annual meeting.

**Appointed** Trustee Logan as delegate to the CFC annual meeting.

**Appointed** Manager Wattles as delegate and Trustee Rudolphi as alternate to the ICWCG annual meeting.

**Approved** the cafeteria benefit plan as discussed and written at this meeting.

**Heard** a report by Manager Wattles regarding power supply.

**Ratified** the actions of Manager Wattles regarding the Transmission Agreement.

**Discussed and approved** the amortization of the Soyland buy-out.

**Discussed** the need for bylaw amendments to enable the buy-out from Rural Utilities Service.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Henson concerning recent AIEC

board meeting.

**Advised** that there could be no early retirement of capital credits for deceased members because of ratios not currently being met per RUS & CFC mortgage requirements.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of January 2000.

**Advised** of up coming NRECA course being offered.

**Declined** a request from a member for release of electrical service.

**Declined** the request to sponsor a race car at Clay County Speedway.

**Approved** placing a message in next month's bill encouraging Cooperative members to comply with census requests.

**Advised** of upcoming Legislative conference.

**Approved** a salary compensation to a cooperative employee.

**Adjournment.**

## Building a new home?

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

## Office closing

Your cooperative office will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. The cooperative office will open for normal business hours on Tuesday, May 30.

Remember: To report outages after hours, weekends and holidays, please call (800) 582-9012.



## Is your kite worth your life?

Whether you're young or old, kiting holds that unmistakable mystique. Kites can be flown in any shape and size and come in a myriad of colors. And it's so exciting to see your children's faces when the kite is finally launched. But what happens when their beautiful kite becomes entangled in power lines or trees? Even though you can't stand to watch them cry, do yourself and your family a favor, and just buy a new one. While you may think that kite is one-of-a-kind, remember that your life is too, and it's worth more than any kite could ever be.

**For more information on kite safety,  
call your local electric cooperative.**



# Five steps to summer energy efficiency

Many years ago, we all heated our homes in the winter, and didn't bother to cool them in the summer, except by running the occasional fan and opening doors and windows. Under those conditions, "tightness" in a home didn't matter during the warmer months, since doors and windows were frequently open.

Things are different now. While we want to keep heat in and cold out during the winter, those of us who use air-conditioners need to keep cool in and heat out during the sweltering months of summer. These tips will help you corral that cool air you've paid for, and keep the heat outside, where it belongs.

## 1 Insulate doors and windows

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

Install storm or double-pane windows to cut this energy drain in half. Add storm doors to create the same insulation effect there.

## 2 Caulk and weatherstrip

After insulating your doors and windows, don't forget to caulk and weatherstrip those little nooks and crannies that will let heat in. Nearly 40 percent of your monthly heating and cooling bill could be going out through cracks due to poorly caulked and weatherstripped doors and windows.

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

## 3 Water heater

In the average American house, water heating is the second largest energy user. Save water and the energy needed to keep it hot by maintaining an energy-efficient water heating system and conserving hot water.

Start with the heating tank itself:

- Get the right-size water heater. Keeping more hot water on hand than you need can waste energy.

- You can save about 6 percent of your water heating energy costs, for each 10 degrees you can lower the temperature on your water heater.

- If the sides of your water heater feel warm to the touch, you may be able to save money and energy by adding insulation. Wrap a water heater blanket around the water heater, especially if it's located in an unheated area of your home.

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

Low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators reduce water flow, saving both water and energy. Aerated showerheads and faucets mix air with water to maintain pressure, and low-flow showerheads pulse the water flow. These simple devices are easily installed and can reduce the amount of water and energy used by 50 percent.

## 4 Seal ducts

The ducts that carry cooled air from your air conditioner to each room of your home may have leaks. Doing a checkup here can help you save as much as 10-15 percent on your cooling bill. All ductwork should be sealed at the joints to prevent leakage. Ducts located in the unconditioned areas of your home (attics and crawlspaces) should be insulated.

## 5 Use a set-back thermostat

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

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

For more information on how you can save energy, call your electric cooperative.

# Budget billing offered

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

The next budget billing year will be for the period of June 2000 through May 2001.

Budget billing accounts will be reviewed in October 2000 and February 2001 and at this time your account will be reviewed to either increase or decrease your budget amount based on your actual usage.

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

The applicant may cancel the agreement at

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

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

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

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

## It's Electrical Safety Month!

May is Electrical Safety Month. We invite you to mark your calendar for this special observance, and to take a quick electrical safety tour of your home, to check out some of the basics for using electricity as safely as possible.

- Plug in portable appliances only when you intend to use them. Disconnect them when not in use.
- Keep all electrical appliances a safe distance from water; don't use power tools when standing in wet areas.
- To avoid overloads, limit the number of ap-

## Are showers a weekend phenomenon?

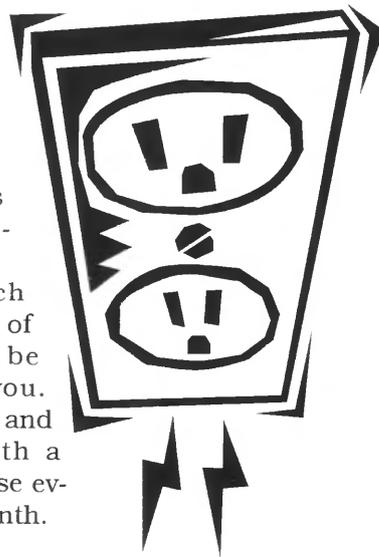
The old saying — that a clear, sunny day after two rainy ones must be a Monday — is not far off the mark. Meteorologists from Arizona State University have found that Saturdays tend to be the rainiest days of the week, with Sundays above average, while Mondays are the least rainy.

They believe air pollution is responsible for the deviations from the averages. Weekday traffic and factory operations send particles into the air that, over a five-day period, build up, and induce rain by Saturday. By Monday, the skies have had a chance to clear after two days of reduced pollution, making for a lesser likelihood of rain.

pliances plugged into one outlet. Overloading could damage the appliances or cause a fire.

- Never touch plumbing or other metal objects and an electric appliance at the same time.
- Use extension cords and appliances that have a seal of approval from a major testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

There's much more you can do, of course, and we'll be happy to advise you. Simply contact us, and we'll help you with a checklist you can use every day of every month.



### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West  
P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171

Office hours:  
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

## Board meeting report

### Students tour capital, meet legislators



High school students from across Illinois met their state legislators in Springfield during "Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day" on Wednesday, April 12. The tour was an opportunity for the students to learn more about the co-ops' democratic business model, as well as their state government. During their trip to the capitol, the students met with Secretary of State Jesse White. Three area students representing Clay Electric Co-operative, met with Sen. Bill O'Daniel at the State Capitol. Nearly 300 students and chaperones also toured the Illinois Supreme Court, the State Capitol, Lincoln's Tomb, and the Executive Mansion. Representing Clay Electric Co-operative, were, from left: Jennifer Walker of North Clay High School, Kellie Duke of Flora High School, Sen. O'Daniel, Devon Martin of Clay City High School and Doug Hockman, chaperone.

### Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting March 27, 2000

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Pierson.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held February 28, 2000.

**Accepted** seven new members for service.

**Canceled** eight members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** the financial, main-

tenance and outage report for the month of February 2000 presented by Manager Wattles.

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$9,952.58.

**Accepted** the 1999 audit in the form presented.

**Heard** a report by Manager Wattles concerning the cooperative power supply contract.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC board meeting.

**Accepted** the disbursement

list for the month of February 2000.

**Advised** of safety report and were told of two near misses following discussion.

**Directed** Manager Wattles to notify all area law enforcement and fire protection agencies and personnel that the cooperative must be advised at all times on incidents involving cooperative lines.

**Scheduled** a meeting of the Policy Committee to review cooperative policies.

**Adjournment.**



## **Cooperative commitment — you can count on it**

Integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community — strong principles on which electric cooperatives were founded more than half a century ago. While investor-owned utilities are concerned with profit margins, electric cooperatives are committed to providing their members with the best local service possible.

Co-ops aren't closing local offices and service centers in Illinois. Instead, they are right where they've always been, providing personal service from people you know and trust.

***Electric cooperatives —  
we're here for our members!***

# Use light, but cut costs by lighting wisely

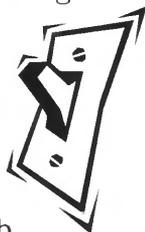
Light is wonderful! During winter, when days are short, many people suffer from "the winter blues." They're caused partly by the shortness of the days and partly by the weakness of the light during daytime hours.

But as wonderful as it is, artificial light is relatively expensive. About 15 percent of the electricity used in the average home goes for lighting.

Here are some suggestions to help you reduce your real "light bill."

## Indoor lighting

- Turn off lights in any room not being used.
- Light-zone your home. Concentrate lighting in reading and working areas and where it's needed for safety (in stairwells, for example).
- Reduce overall lighting in non-working areas by removing one bulb out of three in multiple light fixtures. Replace it with a burned-out bulb for safety. Replace other bulbs throughout the house with bulbs of the next lower wattage.
- Consider installing solid state dimmers or high-low switches when replacing light switches, so you can reduce lighting intensity in a room and save energy.
- Use one large bulb instead of several small ones in areas where you need bright light.
- Use compact fluorescents when you can: They're far more energy-efficient than incandescent lights. These lights can fit into many incandescent lamp sockets and provide the same quality of light. Compact fluorescent lamps are three to four times more efficient than conventional bulbs and last 10 times as long. For several years, they were very expensive, but many electric co-ops and building supply stores offer them on sale at very reasonable prices.
- Consider fluorescent lighting for the kitchen sink and countertop areas. These lights, set under kitchen cabinets or over counters, are pleasant and energy-efficient.
- Fluorescent lighting also is effective for makeup and grooming areas. Use 20-watt deluxe warm white lamps in these areas.
- Need new lamps? Consider the advantages of those with three-way switches. They make it



easy to keep lighting levels low when intense light is not needed. Use the "high" switch for reading or other activities that require brighter light.



- Turn three-way bulbs to the lowest lighting level when watching TV. You'll reduce glare and save energy.
- Use low-wattage night light bulbs. These come in 4-watt and 7-watt sizes, and the smaller one may work well for you.
- Try 50-watt reflector floodlights in directional lamps (such as pole or spot lamps). These floodlights provide about the same amount of light as the standard 100-watt bulbs at half the wattage.
- Try 25-watt reflector flood bulbs in high-intensity portable lamps. They provide about the same amount of light but use less energy than the 40-watt bulbs that normally come with these lamps.
- Keep all lamps and lighting fixtures clean.
- You can save on lighting costs through decorating. Light colors for walls, rugs, draperies and upholstery reflect light and reduce the amount of artificial light needed.

## Outdoor lighting

- Have decorative outdoor gas lamps turned off, unless they're essential for safety. By turning off one gas lamp, you might save from \$40 to \$50 a year in gas costs. If you need an exterior light, you might consider replacing your gas model with an electric unit.
- Use outdoor lights only when they're needed. One way to make sure they're off during the daylight hours is to put them on a photocell unit or timer.
- Consider installing solar-powered pathway lamps or high-efficiency sodium lamps for outdoor security lighting. They are available at many local hardware stores and building suppliers.

## Old Faithful: Your electric meter

Did you know your electric meter is actually a motor? Its speed varies with the amount of electricity passing through it. The disc you see inside the meter is set in motion by an electric field created by the passage of current; the movement is transferred to a shaft which turns the indicators to record the amount of electricity your family uses.

Now that you know how your meter works, have you ever wondered if it works cor-

rectly? Sometimes customers call us because their electric bill was higher than they expected, and their first guess is that the electric meter is running too fast.

Even though electric meters are exposed to all kinds of weather and dirt, they are among the most accurate of devices. They're much more accurate than the thermostats that control your oven and refrigerator, or even the gasoline pumps where you fill up your car.

In most cases, if a meter does become inaccurate, it runs slightly slow, from age or dirt, and that means you may get a little free electricity.

You can help Clay Electric Co-operative's line crews by keeping your meter accessible so we are able to get to it without fighting trees, bushes, muddy flower beds, a new room built around it, animals or even a locked gate. This will certainly make working for you a little easier.

## Automatic withdrawal payments

We have received inquiries about automatic withdrawal payments, so Clay Electric Co-operative is surveying members to see if there is enough interest to develop the program for automatic withdrawal of your monthly payment for your electric bill.

If you would sign up for automatic withdrawal, your electric bill would be paid directly from your bank account to Clay Electric, each and every month, on time, whether you were at home or away on vacation. You would still receive a bill stub in-

dicating your electric usage but your payment would be made directly from your account.

If you are interested, please call the office at (618) 662-2171 or enclose a note when you make your next payment.

# BUILDING A NEW HOME?



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

## CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Annual Meeting of Members  
Thursday, Sept. 14, 2000

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West  
P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171  
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



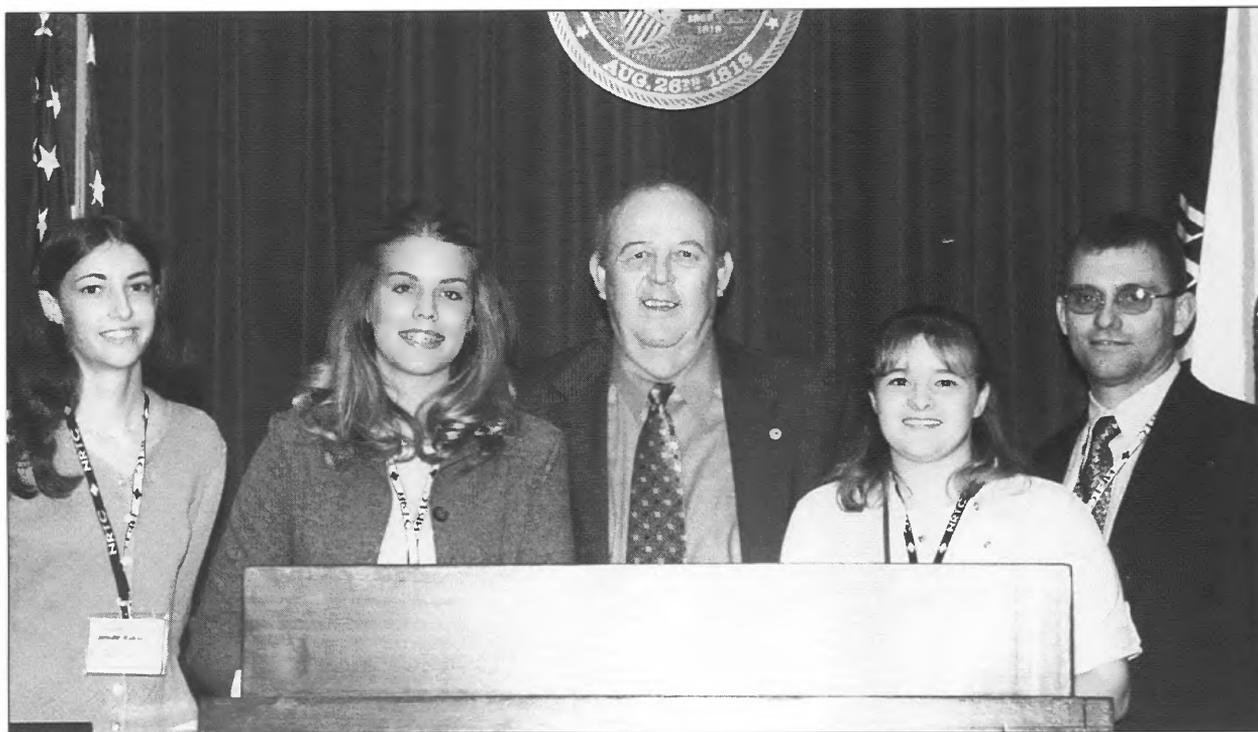
# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

## Students meet Rep. Hartke during 'Youth Day'

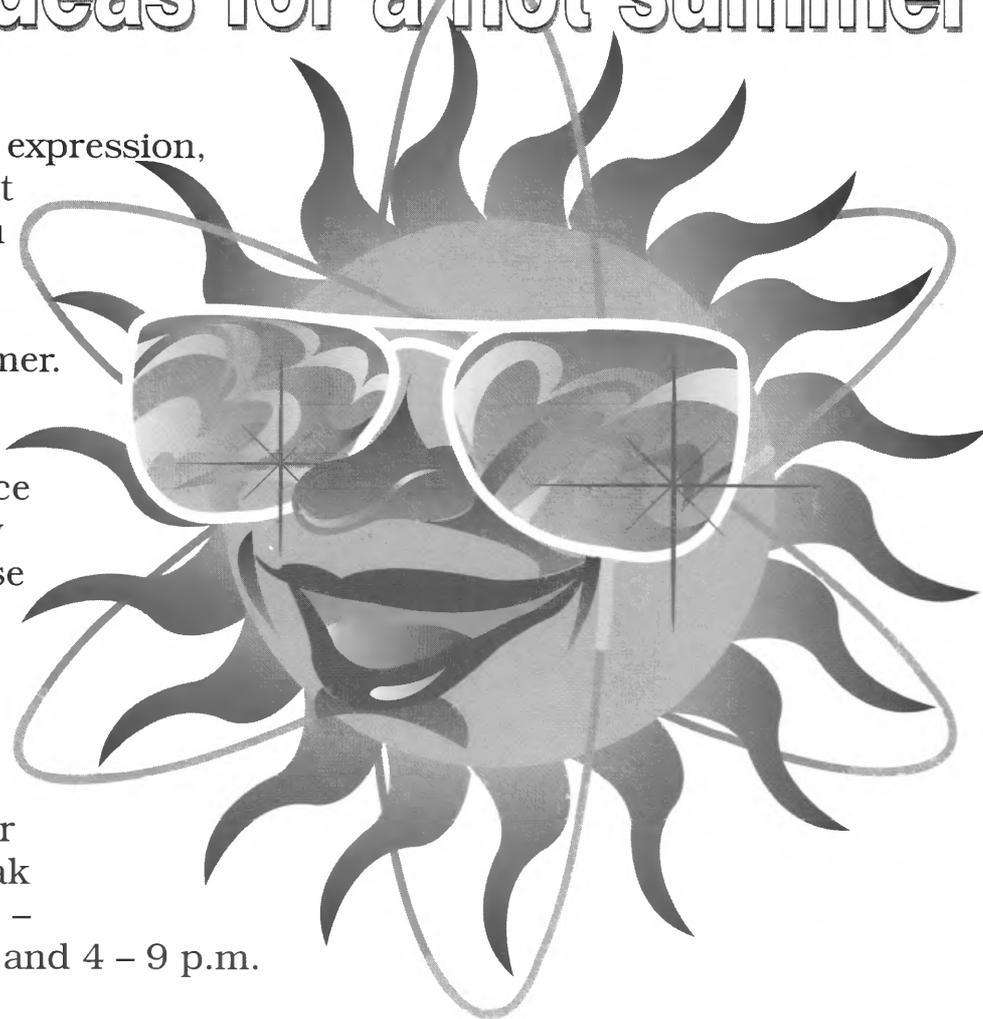


High school students from across Illinois met their state legislators in Springfield during "Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day" on Wednesday, April 12. The tour gave them an opportunity to learn more about the co-ops' democratic business model, as well as their state government. During their trip to the capital, the students met with Secretary of State Jesse White. The students who represented Clay Electric Co-operative met with Rep. Charles Hartke at the State Capitol. Nearly 300 students and chaperones also toured the Illinois Supreme Court, the State Capitol, Lincoln's Tomb, and the Executive Mansion. Representing Clay Electric were, from left: Jennifer Walker of Louisville, Kellie Duke of Flora, Rep. Hartke, Devon Martin of Clay City and Doug Hockman, chaperone.

**CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
**ANNUAL MEETING** of Members  
**Thursday, September 14, 2000**

# Cool ideas for a hot summer

You've heard the expression, "some like it hot," but you don't want it to be hot in your home this summer. You can keep your home cool and reduce electric costs by abiding by these simple rules.



- ▶ Limit the use of your air conditioner during peak load times – 6 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 9 p.m.
- ▶ On the hottest days turn your thermostat to a warmer setting.
- ▶ Limit use of dishwashers, clothing dryers, ovens and basically anything that generates heat to the coolest parts of the day.
- ▶ Use ceiling and box fans to make the most efficient use of your air conditioner.
- ▶ Make sure your entire family understands how and why to conserve electricity.

For more energy efficient tips, call your local electric cooperative.

***Electric cooperatives of Illinois...  
powerful solutions for more than 60 years***

# Take a peek at new windows when building a home or replacing windows.

*You can avoid energy-wasting window mistakes if you consider climate and solar orientation when you build or buy a home. Does the home take advantage of the sun's natural light and warmth? Has it been designed not to overheat? Does it have trees that will offer shade in the summer? Following this advice will help you keep utility bills down.*

Years ago, windows were pretty much windows. Many families had individually fitted storm windows and screens that were matched to each window and marked for that particular frame.

In the spring, homeowners would take down the storm windows and install the screens. That made it easy to get fairly comfortable by opening all the windows. The screens would keep out all the pesky critters, and the house would enjoy some ventilation. Trees often provided cooling shade.

At the first sign of winter, the screens came down and storm windows went up. For the most part, that practice has gone the way of the horse and buggy, but for many years, windows were still pretty much just a piece of glass in a wooden frame. They didn't offer much thermal efficiency.

Times have changed, and windows have taken on an entirely new dimension. You can buy windows — and sometimes have films retrofitted — that will reduce solar heat gain and cut down on the amount of ultraviolet rays that fade drapes and furniture.

Other window assemblies provide insulation, to keep heat in and cold out. These days, you should consider using double-pane-insulating glass throughout the house. Consider windows with low-emissivity (low-E) coatings and gas fills in new construction, or when you need to replace windows.

Granted, these windows are not cheap, but they will pay for themselves over time. Doug Rye, noted architect and energy consultant, says in his workshops, "These things

don't cost you money — they *make* you money!"

It'd probably be more truthful to say that they cost money, but that they pay it back quickly, and go on to save money for years to come.

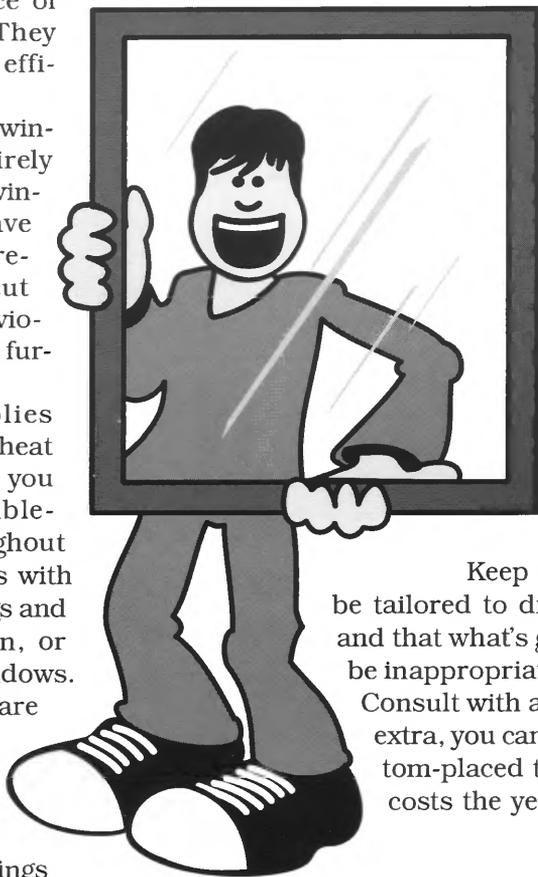
They also improve comfort and reduce condensation. Installing a low-E coated double glass unit with gas fill, instead of standard double glazing, will improve the insulating value of the glass area by 40 to 50 percent. A low-E coating is a virtually invisible metal or metallic oxide layer on the glass that reflects heat back into the home during cold weather and back to the outdoors when it's warm.

Be sure to invest in good window frames. Wood and vinyl frames give the best insulating value. Consider solar heat gain from windows.

Glazings are available to control the amount of incoming solar radiation.

There are two more important factors to consider when trying to cut cooling costs. First, choose windows that you can open, so you can use natural or fan-assisted ventilation in moderate weather. Secondly, if it's at all possible, plant a deciduous tree that will shade the window during the summer, but will not block warming sunshine during the winter.

Keep in mind that windows can be tailored to different sides of the house, and that what's good for the south side may be inappropriate for the north or east side. Consult with an expert and for just a little extra, you can have windows that are custom-placed to increase comfort and cut costs the year' round.



# Board meeting report

## Minutes of board of trustees meeting held April 24, 2000

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Henson.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held March 27, 2000.

**Accepted** 15 new members for service.

**Canceled** nine members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of March 2000 presented by Manager Wattles.

**Approved** list of work or-

ders totaling \$6,012.59.

**Authorized** participation in the Cooperative Finance Corporation System Integrity Fund.

**Authorized** participation in the Illinois "JULIE" call before you dig program.

**Approved** three agreements for purchase of power.

**Approved** amendments to various policies in the form presented.

**Approved** the proposal from Federated Insurance Company for the Cooperative's insurance.

**Heard** a report by Manager Wattles concerning the Cooperative power supply contract.

**Authorized** Manager Wattles to take necessary action in accordance with the recommendations of the Cooperative's FERC council.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC board meeting.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of March 2000.

**Approved** Purchasing Committee recommendation to seek bids on two pick-up trucks.

**Authorized** amendments to the SelectRE Pension Plan.

**Adjournment.**

## Notice

The following changes of fees were approved by the Board of Directors of Clay Electric Cooperative at the April 24, 2000 meeting.

Collection fee .....	\$25.00
Reconnect fee for non-payment (during office hours) .....	\$30.00
Reconnect fee for non-payment (after office hours) .....	\$60.00
Reconnect fee for non-payment (Sundays or holidays) .....	\$75.00
Returned check fee .....	\$15.00
Meter testing fee (requested by member) .....	\$25.00
Disconnect fee for members going on vacation .....	\$15.00
Reconnect fee for members on vacation .....	\$25.00

Fees for any outages on member's side will be charged actual costs, including labor, mileage and 10 percent overhead charges.

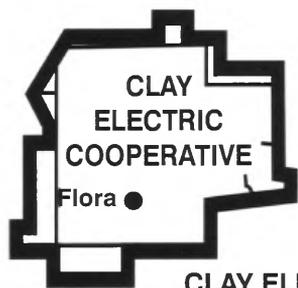
## BUILDING A NEW HOME?



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

## CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

Old Route 50 West • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

## *Board meeting report*

### **Minutes of board of trustees meeting held May 22, 2000**

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Dunigan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held April 24, 2000.

**Accepted** 12 new members for service.

**Canceled** seven members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of April, 2000 presented by Manager Wattles.

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$23,660.41.

**Heard** a presentation by Dan Baxter of Communications Consultants regarding phone services with no affirmative action being taken.

**Heard** a presentation by Don Rhodes of RTA regarding security alarm systems with no affirmative action being taken.

**Authorized** payment of dues to NRECA.

**Approved** the recommendation of the purchasing committee to purchase a used pickup truck.

**Approved** three agreements for purchase of power in the form as presented to the meeting.

**Appointed** the following nominating committees:

District II: Howard Heiden, Terry Birch, Jack McGee, Sherman Frazier, Tom Brooks, Lester Stortzum, Glen Hall, Gary Little.

District VI: Rosetta Hanks, Terry McKnelly, Rosalie Wildbur, Howard Colclasure, Rick Payne, William Krutsinger, Georgia Yuetten,

Virginia Ruckman, Janet Allen.

District VIII: Bud Martin, Gerald Herring, Bill Seelman, James Stanford, Mike Plumlee, Mike Hockman, William Humphrey, Louise VanDyke, Gene Burgess, Joe Russell, Brad Briscoe.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC board meeting.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of April, 2000.

**Reviewed** the safety policy.

**Ratified** safety policy in its present form with same to remain in full force and effect with no changes.

**Approved** contribution to the "Relay For Life."

**Advised** of upcoming Region V meeting

**Adjournment**

## **Clay Electric Co-Operative, Inc.**

### **ANNUAL MEETING of Members**

**Will be held Thursday, September 14, 2000**

**Registration and meal begins at 6 p.m. • Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.**

# Breathe easy and save money too — change your A/C filter

While it seems mildly disgusting, dirty filters in any forced-air HVAC (heating/ventilation/air-conditioning) system actually do get more dirt out of the air than clean filters. As the filter gets dirty, the dirt blocks new dirt coming through.

But a dirtier filter isn't better for your furnace. The dirtier the filter, the harder your equipment has to work to force air through it. This lost efficiency increases the time the equipment must work, raising your energy bills and reducing equipment life.

Continuing to use a dirty filter can reduce air flow, causing equipment to overheat, then quit altogether. Sometimes systems will restart if you just change the filter. If not, your repair person is just a phone call and a check-book away.

Filtering air also raises its quality for those breathing it. While furnace filters may not meet the needs of those with asthma or other lung diseases, they can definitely remove bothersome lint and cut down on the need to dust. You should be aware, however, that breathability is generally best if air is filtered continuously; if your blower has a "low" setting, leaving it on all the time results in the best air quality.

## Types of Filters

The most common "el-cheap-o" furnace filter is a one-inch pad of adhesive-coated fiberglass in those neon pinks, blues, and greens you've grown to love in your teenager's hair. Your furnace thinks these filters are great, as they get rid of the dog hair, sawdust and other large particles that reduce mechanical efficiency.

Your lungs, however, have other ideas. Your lungs are affected by smaller particulates and pollen that standard filters don't trap.

3M to the rescue! These "Fiber for Every Occasion" folks have developed several additional types of materials that, while still fitting in the one-inch filter slot typical of most household equipment, do a better job of air cleaning.

"Passive electric" filters, for instance, use fibers that pick up a static charge as the air passes through. The charge attracts and holds fine particles. Different types of fibers - polypropylene, polyolefin - can improve cleaning, as can pleating, which adds additional material to the filter while keeping thickness to an inch. Look for filters in these categories that can get rid of as much as 97 percent of pollen and 35 percent of dust.

Some can even be washed and re-used.

Other filters use thin metal plates. Some work similarly to the passive-electric fiber filters. Others draw additional electricity to create opposite charges on two successive plates. Dirt gets charged while passing through the first plate, causing it to stick to the plate with the opposite charge. These filters frequently generate ozone, which some models reduce through use of an additional carbon filter.

Metal filters are "permanent" - a real advantage for those in cramped condos with limited storage space. But you have to clean them frequently. They can also be relatively expensive, so do a back-of-the-envelope comparison on costs before you buy. If your system is new, a permanent filter will probably save a few dollars in the long run. But if you have a 12-year-

old heat pump with a 15 - to 17-year expected life, you may want to stick with disposable filters, as chances are the size needed for the current equipment isn't going to fit replacement equipment down the line.

Manufacturers recommend changing filters every month or two when the equipment is in use. Look for two different types of ratings on your furnace filters:

- "Arrestance" is used for larger particles. Standard and static-charge filters generally rate around 75 percent effectiveness on this scale. Pleated polyolefin filters generally get a 90 percent arrestance effectiveness rating or higher.
- The "Dust Spot Efficiency" standard measures a filter's ability to remove fine particles - between 0.3 and 6 microns in size. This standard puts anything under 30 percent in the "low efficiency" category. Garden-variety filters are usually around 10 percent. Pleated filters vary widely - from 20 to 55 percent. In general, it takes a separate filtering system to get into the 90 percent range on this test.

Both these measures come from a standard developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), and the labeling on filters doesn't always make it clear which ASHRAE standard is being used. Check carefully.

You may also have seen a filter measurement standard called "thermal DOP." It's used only to measure very high-performance filters that normally can't be used with standard furnaces.

Source: Charlotte LeGates, *Energy.com*



**Just try to breathe through this disgusting mess. This ugly looking filter should have been changed months ago.**

# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY FAIR

The local  
county

fair is in  
town. Will



you attend this year? The county fair is

more than just cotton candy and a queen contest. It's good wholesome fun for your community.

Sit back and remember the fairs of your yesteryear. Remember the sense of pride you felt when the lambs you'd slaved over all year won first place? Remember how you felt when your dad put you in the seat of the antique tractor? Or how about when your mom's apple pie won a ribbon in the fair bake-off? The fairs of today are somewhat different, but people still go to the fair to see the livestock, ride the newest rides and eat a myriad of goodies. This type of fun needs to be around when

your children's children come along. Think about it, shouldn't you support your county fair?



# Why you need surge protection for your home

You have invested a great deal of money in all the electricity — using equipment in your home. Computers, TVs, stereos, refrigerators, washers, clothes dryers and more — none of this equipment is cheap, so you take good care of these items.

But are you protecting your equipment from power surges? If you do not have surge protection, consider getting it. Today's electronic equipment and appliances are very sensitive — digital clocks, for example. And remember that anything you plug in can be damaged, and in worst-case scenarios, destroyed by a power surge. A power surge is a brief, unpre-

dictable increase in voltage that can enter your home through the power, telephone or cable television lines. They can occur at any time and in any locale.

Your electric co-op is always working to maintain a high-quality supply of power to your home. However, there are several things that can cause power surges in the very best of electric utility systems. The most common one is lightning, but there are other causes of power surges. These include an object coming in contact with a power line as well as electric-powered equipment suddenly starting or taking extra power.

Power surge protection puts up guards in two places: 1) where electricity enters your home and 2) inside your home where equipment is connected to electricity through outlets. A meter-based surge protector protects your home from power surges at the entry point, which is where your home and equipment are most vulnerable. Plug-in devices for surge protection inside the home protect your equipment at the outlet stage.

Don't wait for a power surge to hit your home. Call your electric co-op today for information about power surge protection — they will be happy to help.

## Get ready for **LABOR DAY!**

Play ball, have a picnic, go swimming, march in a parade, take pictures of the kids. In other words, have fun. To help "make your day", here are some reminders:



- When you cook outdoors, keep away from bushes and dry grass; avoid the wind.
- Make sure someone is always in charge of the grill, barbecue, or campfire.
- Don't use kerosene or gasoline in place of charcoal lighter fluid.
- Appoint an adult or responsible teenager to oversee the children's fun and games, especially swimming.
- And, of course, don't drink and drive.

A good holiday is a safe holiday, and we hope you and your family have a wonderful Labor Day celebration.

**Our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>  
in observance of the holiday.**

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171  
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS

## Walker tours Washington, D.C.

An area youth, Jennifer Walker of Louisville, spent the week of June 16-23 exploring Washington D.C. She met with Illinois congressional leaders and learned about government during the annual "Youth to Washington" tour. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives. Walker represented Clay Electric Cooperative. She met with Congressman David Phelps on Capitol Hill and was among 55 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, students also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Supreme Court, the Smithsonian



Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia and a number of other historical sites. Pictured are (l-r): Walker and Congressman Phelps.

## Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting June 26, 2000

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Dunigan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held May 22, 2000.

**Accepted** 25 new members for service.

**Canceled** 19 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of May, 2000 presented by Manager Wattles.

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$32,932.56.

**Approved** payment of Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives dues for 2000/2001.

**Approved** three agreements for purchase of power in the form as presented to the meeting.

**Approved** write-offs for the month of June.

**Appointed** Trustee Logan as

director and voting delegate and Trustee Henson as alternate director and alternate voting delegate to the AIEC Annual Meeting.

**Were** advised of upcoming FERC meeting.

**Authorized** Manager Wattles to negotiate an agreement with Ameren Services upon advice of FERC council.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC board meeting.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of May, 2000.

**Advised** of no safety comments.

**Advised** of upcoming Region V meeting.

**Approved and Authorized** the execution of a mutual aid agreement in the form presented.

**Approved** the purchase of attendance gifts for annual meeting.

**Authorized** Manager Wattles

to negotiate an agreement with Communication Consultants and PowerNet Global for telecommunication services for Cooperative members.

**Heard** a report by Manager Wattles regarding recent changes at FIRSTAR bank.

**Authorized** Manager Wattles to negotiate with other local banks to report to the board concerning those banks proposals for service.

**Reviewed and Discussed** the potential Soyland buy-out costs with no affirmative action being taken.

**Adjournment.**

### CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Annual Meeting of Members

Thursday, September 14, 2000  
Registration and Meal at 6:00 p.m.  
Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Entertainment by Bible Grove Opry

# Don't let a finished basement finish you

## Tips for keeping your basement dry:

When it rains, it pours, and sewers and drains can back up, filling your basement with foul smelling water and sewage. And, insurance policies may not protect homeowners or renters from damage due to sewer or drain backups (check with your insurance agent).

Since no one wants to experience the mess, inconvenience and out-of-pocket expenses that come with a sewer or drain backup, preventing losses from occurring is the best solution. Make sure your drainage system is working properly:

Gutter downspouts should extend far enough away from the foundation of the house so that water is carried away from basement walls.

Your yard should be graded to slope away from the house so surface water is drained away.

If your gutters connect to storm sewers, keep drain lines clear. Anti-backflow devices reduce the chances of basement flooding. Several types of devices are available. Check-valve devices allow water and sewage to flow away from the drain, preventing water and sewage from backing up into the drain. Gate-valve devices operate like a gate, closing and shutting off the flow of water and sewage. Valves are manually or automatically operated.

Sump pump systems assist in keeping unwanted water out of your home. There are several types, including single sump pump and dual-level systems. A

battery or generator can be used to power the pump in case of a power failure. Remember to test your system monthly.

Sometimes water still gets in. Items stored in basement areas should be shelved or kept off the floor. Furniture should be on casters or shims and arranged away from floor drains. If you have a finished basement, be aware of the dollars you have at stake if a sewer or drain loss occurs.

Check with your local building code department, water utility or a qualified plumber for more information on steps you can take to reduce the chance of water damage to your home.

*Source: State Farm Insurance*

## Keep your cool in the kitchen

Cooking during the summer can be a challenge: Who wants to stand over a hot stove on a hot day? Summer is a great time of year to grill outdoors and keep that heat out of your house. Microwaves, crock pots, toaster ovens and other appliances are great choices for summer cooking, too. They release little or no

heat into the air, and they use electricity very efficiently.

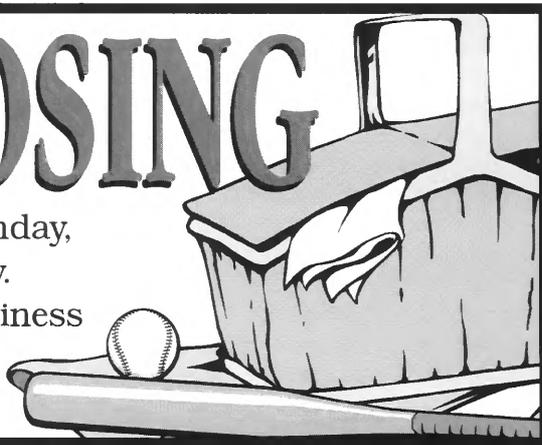
When you need to use your oven on a hot day, remember: If you are cooking a dish that takes an hour or more to cook, you don't need to preheat the oven. By avoiding preheating, you will keep from adding that extra heat to the air in your home.

If you must use the oven, use it wisely and well. Cook more than one dish at a time, and save or freeze the extra servings for later use.

While you are at it, give your electric co-op a call – they'll be glad to provide you with information on how to cut your energy bill.

# OFFICE CLOSING

Your cooperative office will be closed Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day. The office will be open for normal business hours on Tuesday, September 5. Enjoy your holiday!



## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

*Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering*  
**Business and Residential  
 long distance phone service**

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
 utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

**4.9¢      6.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

**24 hours a day — 7 days a week  
 plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- NO CODES TO DIAL

Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.

**No fees or service charge**

Clay Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.



**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or  
 Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Services Desired  Outbound  800  Travel Cards    Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
 800 Service:  New  Existing                      To Ring To: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be accessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.  
 Class 1 + LDA69EZ    800# E 69EZ    Travel T14F    Agency CLA  
 Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Saving energy on the ROAD



**Energy-wise driving and careful auto maintenance can help you save money in fuel and other vehicle costs. They also help reduce auto emissions and our dependence on undependable foreign oil sources.**

## **Maintaining your car**

Check your tires regularly. Overinflated tires will reduce rolling resistance, but can shorten tire life dramatically. On the other hand, underinflated tires will run hot, and that shortens their lives. They also use about .5 percent more fuel for each pound of tire pressure under the recommended pounds per square inch (psi).

Most modern tires should be inflated to 30-36 psi, which will give good road comfort and impact resistance. About 5 million gallons of fuel could be saved every day, if all tires were kept aired up to the manufacturer's recommended pressure.

Buy the gasoline octane and oil grade recommended in your owner's manual. Octane is not a measure of the "power" of the fuel, but is a measure of how resistant the fuel is to "pinging," or premature ignition. A higher-octane fuel than you need is not any more efficient, it's just more expensive.

If you change your oil yourself, be sure to take the used oil to your service station for recycling, or to an oil-recycling center.

Have your car tuned as needed. This is especially important with the older models.

Regular tune-ups extend engine life and improve performance, paying for themselves in fuel savings and reliability. A poorly tuned car uses from 3 to 9 percent more fuel than one that's well-tuned.

Replace filters as recommended in your owner's manual. Clogged filters waste fuel and increase wear.

Don't haul around unnecessary weight. The lighter the vehicle, the less fuel it uses. An extra 100 pounds decreases fuel economy by about 1 percent for average-sized cars.

Don't let your engine idle for more than a minute. Instead, turn it off. It takes less fuel to restart the engine than it takes to let it idle. Generally, you don't need to press the accelerator to restart the engine.

Don't overfill your tank. Stop when the pump shuts off automatically. Spilled fuel wastes your money, adds to air pollution and may damage your car's paint.

Record your car's gas mileage, and try to get more miles per gallon from your car. If you notice an abrupt decrease in mileage, you may need to see a mechanic.

Minimize daily cold starts, and limit warm-ups to 30 seconds.

Avoid stop-and-go traffic, when possible. If a route to work becomes congested, check out the possibility of going a different way, or change your departure time. Leaving for work five minutes earlier than normal can sometimes result in substantial time savings on the road.

## **Vacation tips**

Consider vacationing close to home, and discovering nearby attractions. A hotel, motel or campground nearby may provide just as much of a change from the old routine as one that's hundreds of miles away. Parents, kids and pets will all appreciate the shorter ride.

Plan your route to avoid traffic congestion during rush hours. Check local broadcasts for alternative routes to avoid traffic tie-ups that can add length, frustration and long spells of engine idling to your trip.

Rediscover the joys of old-fashioned ways of getting around, especially for short trips. Walking and bicycling are still good ways of going places without spending a lot of money.

Obey the posted speed limits. Gas mileage drops as speed increases.



# Clay Electric News

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

## Board meeting report

### Minutes of board of trustees meeting July 24, 2000

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

Prior to the regular board of Trustees meeting, a presentation was made by Chad Ogran of National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative regarding several different services his company offered

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Logan

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held June 26, 2000

**Accepted** 12 new members for service

**Canceled** 11 members no longer receiving service

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$17,201.09

**Approved** the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of June, 2000 presented by Manager Wattles

**Resolved** that article X of the Cooperative by-laws be amended and presented to the members for approval at Annual Meeting September

14, 2000

**Discussed** up-coming AIEC Annual meeting plans

**Opened** bids for the sale of a cooperative vehicle and accepted the highest bid submitted from Marcus Herman

**Heard** a report from Manager Wattles and Attorney Todd regarding negotiations concerning power supply and transmission

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC board meeting

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of June, 2000

**Advised** of upcoming visit to Ameren Energy Services

**Heard** a report by Manager Wattles regarding recent loss of a substation transformer due to lightning

**Advised** by Manager Wattles that he had been unable to meet with one local bank to determine what rates and services were offered

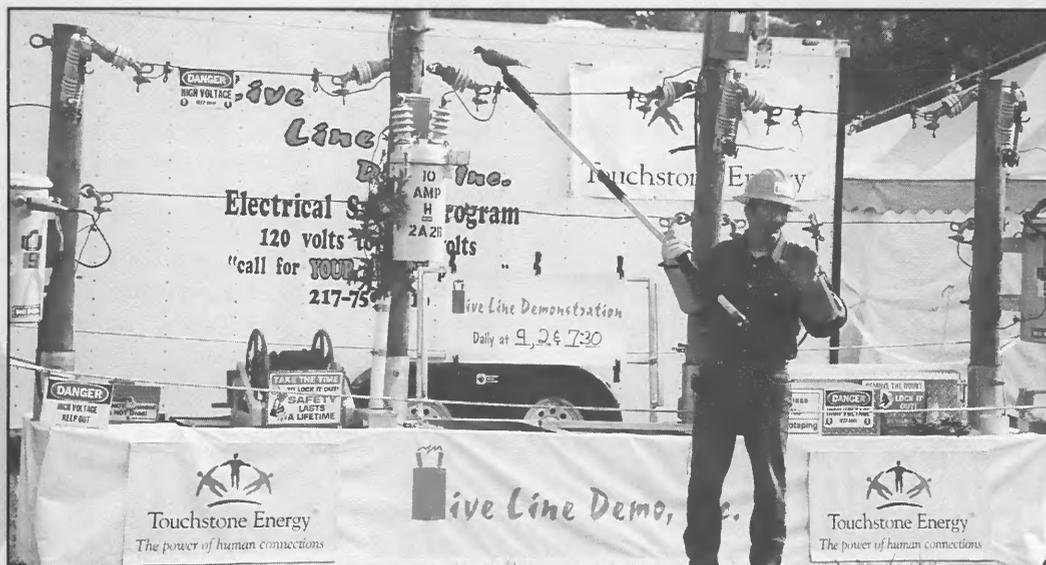
Adjournment

## Building a new home?



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

# Your Illinois Electric cooperatives are advocates of electric safety



People of all ages should understand and respect the power of 7,200 volts of electricity. That's why many electric cooperatives are educating the public about electric safety by sponsoring Kyle Finley's Live Line Demo safety program.

His display is constructed with the same poles, transformers and line hardware used by your local cooperative. And each time Kyle, a former co-op lineman, gives his program at co-op annual meetings, fire departments, schools, fairs and more, he's helping co-ops spread their electric safety message to protect you, your family and friends.

For more information about electric safety call your local electric cooperative.

***Illinois electric cooperatives —  
we care about you, our members.***

## Do you need surge protection for your computer?

**S**trange things can happen to electricity between the power plant and your home. Lightning can strike the lines, tree limbs can brush against them, and cars may hit the power poles they're strung on. All those events can cause either momentary blinks, or catastrophic failure.

If you have a home computer, you've probably experienced the frustration of having your power supply suddenly flicker or go off completely, resulting in a loss of data.

Rapid changes in the amount of electricity going into your computer can result in damaged circuitry, loss of important data and a lot of frustration. While your co-op does its best to keep your power humming through its lines without interruption, many things are beyond its control. You may need some additional protection, if you have sensitive equipment.

What can you do to protect your computer from spikes and outages? There is equipment available for home use that is designed to eliminate or filter out power surges or provide a source of backup power if your power fails. Your first choice might well be a whole-house surge protection device, and your co-op may sell and service them. Check there first.

Other devices plug into outlets in the home, to protect just those items plugged into them. It's this kind of equipment that may save your computer's fragile innards if a lightning bolt hits nearby and enters your home's wiring.

From the standpoint of protecting data, nothing beats saving your work, and saving it often.

No matter how dependable your electricity is, or your computer, or your software, it's prudent to save your work frequently. That way, you lose only the work you've done since the

last save.

Surge protection equipment has been coming down in price for several years, and a good safeguard doesn't have to cost a lot. Look for a unit that has a quick "response time," and that can handle a fairly hefty surge. The quicker the response time, and the higher the surge-dampening ability, the better the protection.

If you can't shut down your computer during periods when power interruptions are likely, such as during intense lightning storms, you may be wise to invest in an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS).

A UPS system operates with a battery backup that provides instant power to your computer if the outside voltage suddenly drops. Because the system takes over virtually instantly, your computer doesn't notice. The batteries normally supply enough power to continue operating for 15-20 minutes, but each system's reserve time will vary, depending largely on cost.

If you need a system that will just enable you to shut your machine down in an orderly fashion so you can wait out a storm, you can buy that at a fairly reasonable price.

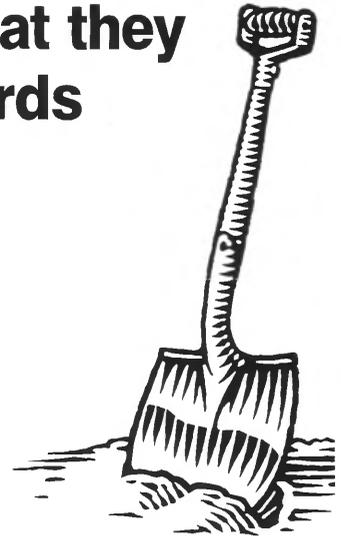
On the other hand, if you want to be able to go on working on battery power, you'll need more. That'll cost you. Like surge-protection equipment, UPS systems have been coming down in price, too. Look for one with a quick reaction time and a battery sized to meet your needs.

If you're thinking about buying a surge protector or battery backup system for your computer, be sure the equipment you choose meets your needs. If power surges and outages concern you, surge protectors and battery backup systems may be just what you need for important protection.

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

It's that time of year when many people begin doing those little end-of-summer chores. Some may require some digging, and a hole from a foot to several feet deep. The problem these days is that you don't really know what you are going to dig into. It may be only a few earthworms or the ballpoint pen you lost a few years ago. On

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



## What the well-dressed line crews will be wearing this year

Co-op line crews have a lot of respect for electricity. So they use common sense when dealing with it. Like wearing protective gloves, boots and safety glasses. Not very fashionable; but very practical. While we won't insist you follow our fashion lead, we do encourage you to use the same common sense in dealing with electricity. Un-

plug any appliance before working with it. Never use a higher wattage bulb than called for. Turn off all circuit breakers before changing a wall outlet or switch. It's even smart to unplug a lamp before changing the bulb. You see, we don't care about the latest fashions, we know that safety and common sense never go out of style.

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West  
P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171

Office hours:  
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

## PUT A LITTLE SECURITY IN YOUR NIGHT



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

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

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

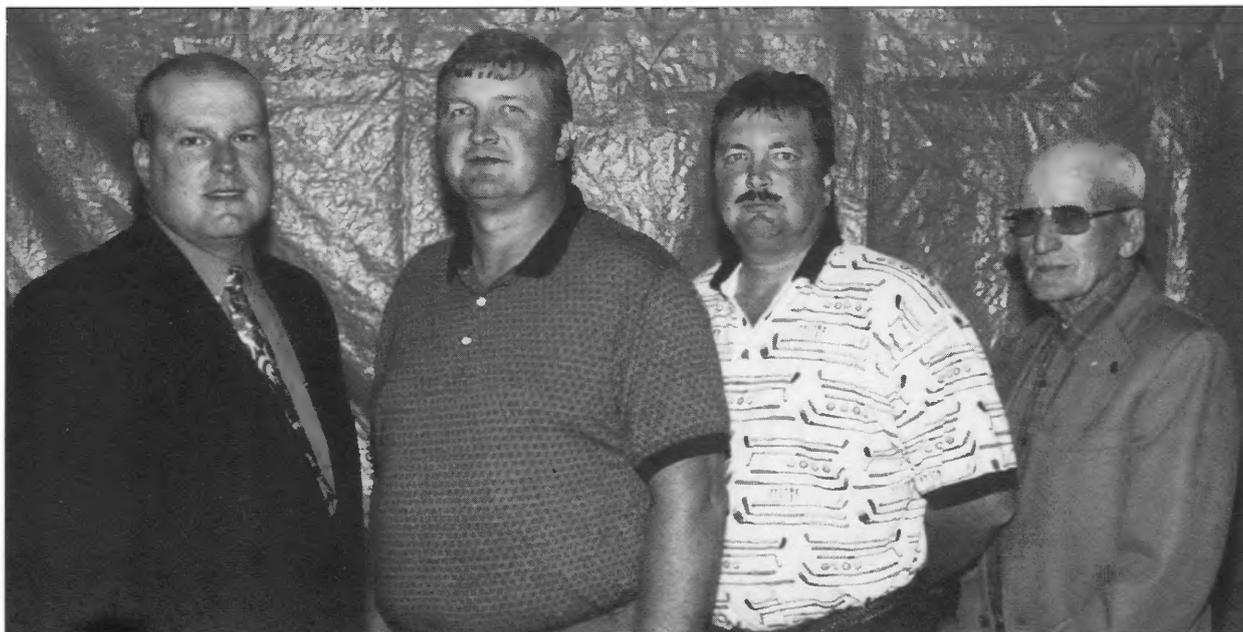


# Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-662-2171

FLORA, ILLINOIS



The three area men who were re-elected to the Clay Electric board of directors are pictured with Alan W. Wattles, manager. From left are Wattles, Frank Czyzewski of Louisville, Robert Pierson of Flora and James R. Burkett of Louisville. The election was held at the co-op's 56<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, held Thursday, September 14, at Charley Brown Park, Flora.

## Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting August 28, 2000

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Poehler.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held July 24, 2000.

**Accepted** 14 new members for service.

**Canceled** 15 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$18,642.96.

**Approved** the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of July, 2000 pre-

sented by Manager Wattles.

**Appointed** Trustee Logan as delegate and Trustee Henson as alternate delegate to the NRECA Region V meeting.

**Appointed** Trustee Logan as delegate and Trustee Henson as alternate delegate to the CFC Region meeting.

**Approved** membership in the NRTC.

**Reviewed** Policy Bulletin 200-7 with no action being taken.

**Heard** a report from Manager Wattles regarding negotiations concerning power supply and transmission.

**Heard** a report by Trustee

Logan concerning recent AIEC board meeting.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of July, 2000.

**Heard** a safety report by Manager Wattles regarding recent safety meeting held at the cooperative. The topics were bloodborne pathogens, first aid and CPR training. The training was provided by Roger Stegeman, AIEC Safety Instructor. Attending the training were 2 staff members, 7 outside employees and 2 summer help employees.

**Approved** one purchase of power agreement.

Adjournment

# Some 350 turn out for ANNUAL MEETING

Clay Electric members heard some news about power supply and rates at the organization's 56th annual meeting held Thursday, September 14, at Charley Brown Park, Fla.

They learned that Clay Electric had bought out of Soyland Power Cooperative, the power supplier that recently shifted its operations from Decatur to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. "The total cost of that decision amounted to about \$4.5 million, or our share in Soyland," said Alan Wattles, manager. In about five years, Wattles said the debt will be paid off and rates will be very competitive.

Speaking to some 350 members and guests, Wattles went on to explain that the co-op had entered into a five-year agreement with Ameren Energy Marketing to deliver power to Clay Electric until the end of the year 2004. "The board also made the decision to prepay its long-term debt to the Rural Utilities Service, formerly the Rural Electrification Administration," Wattles said.

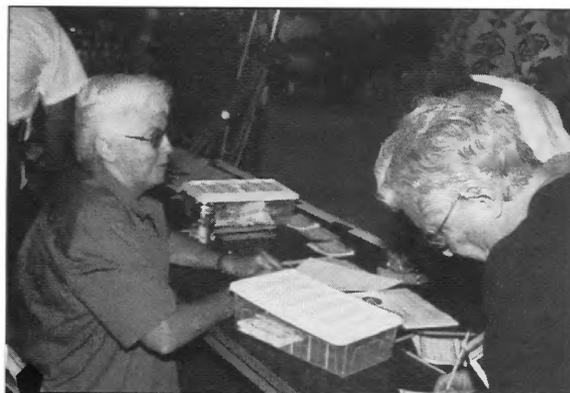
Over the years, RUS's lending rules were inflexible enough that getting loans had turned into a lengthy, complicated process. Clay Electric has instead



Clay employees Ginger Williams, left, and Karen J. Forth, register members.



After passing through the registration process, members queued up for the dinner line.



Many members took time from the dinner line to sign up for Clay Electric's excellent long-distance telephone service.

turned to the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, or CFC, for funding. CFC is a lending cooperative founded by other cooperatives to provide loans in a timely manner and at favorable rates.

"We have \$2.75 million in long-term debt with RUS, and with a discount of about 15% for prepaying, our refinancing

with CFC will only come to about \$2.34 million. That's a savings to us of \$415,000," Wattles said. The co-op will be out from under the Soyland debt sometime between 2006 and 2007, he added. "We can expect that past the current five-year contract we will be able to attain competitive pricing for our members," he said.

Wattles noted that two power-supply companies have decided to locate two peaking generation units in Clay County, within the co-op's service territory. "This will help us in negotiating favorable new power supply

contracts by having these physical assets located so near," he concluded.

During the business session, members re-elected three area men to three-year terms on the co-op's board of directors. They were Frank Czyzewski and James R. Burkett, both of Louisville, and Robert Pierson of Flora. Also during the balloting, members voted to change the bylaws to enable the board to secure financing from institutions other than the Federal Government, and to enable it to respond quickly to rapid changes



Members followed the meeting's progress by following along in the meeting booklet.



The dinner line was busy.

in the utility industry and the fluctuating interest rates.

In a written report to the membership, Loren Dunigan of Clay City, secretary-treasurer, noted that revenue from the sale of electric energy in 1999 totaled \$3,892,898 compared to \$3,909,903 for the previous year.

The total cost to the members amounted to \$4,176,875, which left a net operating loss of \$283,977. When the non-operating margins of \$42,049 are factored in, the total operating loss for the year was \$241,928. The loss will be booked and written down in future years from non-operating margins that are received, he added.

After the meeting the board met in reorganizational

session and re-elected Edwin T. Henson of Xenia president, Howard Poehler of Louisville vice president, and Loren W. Dunigan, secretary-treasurer. Other members of the board of directors are Kevin Logan of Edgewood, Richard Rudolphi of Noble and Danny W. Schnepfer of Louisville.



This is not the registration line. Since the bylaw amendment had to be accomplished by a paper vote, members who were eligible to vote in co-op elections has to register for the election.



Manager Alan Wattles spoke, telling the membership why it was necessary to revise the co-op's bylaws.



Members cast their ballots. The amendment passed overwhelmingly.



Douglas Hockman, member services director, holds the member's ticket stubs aloft while Sonya Wattles draws a name.

*Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering*  
**Business and Residential  
 long distance phone service**

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
 utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest c

**4.9¢      6.9¢**

All calls in Illinois      All calls out of state  
**24 hours a day — 7 days a week  
 plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**

**Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.**

**No fees or service charge**

Clay Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.



**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or  
 Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Services Desired:  Outbound  800  Travel Cards    Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
 800 Service:  New  Existing                      To Ring To: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.  
 Class 1 + LDA69EZ    800# E 69EZ    Travel T14F    Agency CLA  
 Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Clay Electric News

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

## Board meeting report

### Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting September 25, 2000

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

**Invocation** was given by Trustee Rudolphi.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held August 28, 2000 and the organizational meeting held September 14, 2000.

**Accepted** 18 new members for service.

**Canceled** 18 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** list of work orders totaling \$7,135.75.

**Approved** the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of August, 2000 presented by Manager Wattles.

**Approved** participation in the AIEC continuing education program.

**Discussed** the recent annual meeting of members.

**Resolved** that Policy Bulletin 200-7 be and the same is amended in the form as presented at said meeting concerning outage fees on members side.

**Resolved** that Policy Bulletin 900-4 (three phase extension) be and the same is adopted in the form as presented at said meeting.

**Heard** a report from Manager Wattles regarding negotiations concerning power supply and

transmission, following discussion,

**Authorized** Manager Wattles to enter into a settlement agreement and to execute all necessary documents, as advised by this Cooperative's FERC attorney

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of August, 2000.

**Heard** a safety report by Manager Wattles regarding recent safety meeting held at the cooperative. The topic was truck and personal grounds testing. All personal and truck grounds were tested during the safety meeting. The training was provided by Brian Anderson, AIEC Safety Instructor. Attending the training were 1 staff members, 4 outside

employees and 1 summer help employees.

**Heard** a report by Manager Wattles that on August 22, 2000, Jim Nevel, AIEC Regulatory Compliance Officer, Melvin Miracle, Manager of Operations WWCEC, and Steve Thomas, Director of Operations, TCEC, performed an on-site inspection for NRECA RE Safety Accreditation Program.

**Advised** of upcoming NRECA annual meeting.

**Approved** membership in the Clay County Farm Bureau.

**Heard** a report from Manager Wattles regarding Region V meeting and Touchstone.

**Adjournment**

## Office closing

Our office will be closed on  
Monday and Tuesday  
Dec. 25 and 26,  
in observance of the  
Christmas holiday.

We will also be closed on  
Monday, January 1 for the  
New Year's holiday.

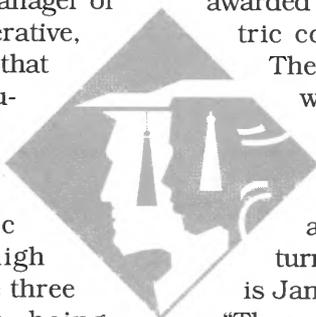
Enjoy your holidays!



# Students encouraged to apply for 2001 IEC Memorial Scholarship

Alan Wattles, manager of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc., has announced that for the sixth 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.

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, 2001.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Wattles. "CEC 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 CEC at (618) 662-2171.

## Building a new home?

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



### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171  
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



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

It has been said that the chief cause of problems is solutions — those things we do to solve one problem lead to another.

That is true of the steps we've taken over the years to combat the energy crunch.

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

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

One solution was to snug up houses. We did that by adding insulation, 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 tempta-

tion 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.

*Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering*  
**Business and Residential  
 long distance phone service**

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
 utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

**4.9¢      6.9¢**

All calls in Illinois      All calls out of state  
**24 hours a day — 7 days a week  
 plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
  - No term agreements • Major carrier
  - 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
  - Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
  - **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.**

**No fees or service charge**

Clay Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.



**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or  
 Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (      ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Services Desired:  Outbound  800  Travel Cards    Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
 800 Service:  New  Existing                      To Ring To: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.  
 Class 1 + LDA69EZ    800# E 69EZ    Travel T14F    Agency CLA

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_