

# EGYPTIAN

"Providing electric service to Southern Illinois"

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Messenger

### LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE

Hopefully, you read last month's article that was devoted to the long distance phone service that we are offering through Southern Services, LLC. As part of the promotional process, we are making two direct mailings, so you will probably have received at least one by the time you read this article.

I do want to encourage you to consider this service and an ad/application blank is included in this section. Our investigations have found this offer to be one of the best deals around and I personally have been using this service since early summer. It works great and is just what it's advertised to be. I have had a personal 800 # for several years, but having one through PowerNet Global is a much better deal. Prior to having PowerNet Global, I had to pay a monthly charge and 15 cents per minute. Now I pay no monthly charge and I am billed at the same rate as regular long distance. On top of that, it is billed in six-second increments with an 18 second minimum. When we are out of town, I can call our answering machine to check for messages and it only costs a few cents. If you are out of your local area often and need to call home or have children away at school, a personal 800 # is the way to go and it doesn't cost you anything extra.

### SOUTHERN SERVICES, LLC

In case you missed previous articles, I am going to take this opportunity to again explain what Southern Services, LLC, is and why we created it. Southern Services, LLC, is a limited liability partnership made up of the six members of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. Those six members are Clinton County Electric, Monroe County Electric, Tri-County Electric, SouthEastern Illinois Electric, Southern Illinois Electric and Egyptian Electric. Together, the six electric cooperatives cover a large portion of southern Illinois.

The six cooperatives have been studying the possibility of offering services other than electricity to our members and we have concluded that we could be more effective and efficient if we did it as group. Our first venture is the long dis-



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK

BY HARRY KUHN

tance telephone service, but we anticipate offering other services in the future. With those goals in mind, we will be taking every opportunity we can to acquaint our memberships with the Southern Services, LLC, name so that when you see the name, you will know that you are dealing with your local electric cooperative.

An example of something we believe we can do together better than separately is distributed generation. There is a lot of interest and research going on with regard to fuel cells and microturbines and at some point, they will make economic sense in certain situations. In all likelihood, it will be a slow process and it will be quite sometime before either technology is in widespread use. During the growing process, it makes a lot more sense to have a couple of qualified technicians working out of one company, as opposed to six cooperatives trying to duplicate that effort. The initial volume won't be great enough to support efforts at each cooperative, and that is where Southern Services, LLC, fits in. We can do these things more efficiently through one company and since the LLC is owned by the six cooperatives, any financial benefits will eventually flow back to the six owners.

### DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

When I use the term *distributed generation*, I am referring to a customer having an electrical generating unit on site and not receiving power from a central station power plant. In the past that would probably have been some kind of diesel or gas-fueled generator, but fuel cells are getting the most attention at the moment. Fuel cells are quiet to operate and the only byproducts are heat and water, so they are one of the most environmentally friendly forms of generation.

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There are several companies working on fuel cells and one electric cooperative in this state has a unit on Alpha test. A Beta test unit is scheduled for next year. The purpose of the test is, of course, to see how they work and if they can handle the load characteristics of a given application. Few, if any, loads operate at a constant level so a fuel cell will have to be able to handle and follow load swings instantaneously under all temperatures and weather extremes. In addition to the unit in Illinois, they are testing units in other states to determine how they will function under all weather conditions and at different altitudes. Mountain states may find that their units operate differently than units in the plain states.

What are the economics today? In order to support the chemical reaction to create electricity, fuel cells need a source of hydrogen and the most logical supply of hydrogen would be natural gas or propane. Based on current costs of those fuels and the cost to operate a fuel cell, we calculate that electricity from a fuel cell would cost 12 to 14 cents per kilowatt-hour, not including the cost of the fuel cell itself. Fuel cells are 23% to 34% efficient if you are only generating electricity, but come up to 76% efficiency if you have a way to utilize the waste heat for water and space heating. As fuel cells come into mass production and improvements are made, these costs will come down somewhat. Today, however, probably most people will not want to

trade their 7-cent central station power for 12 to 14-cent fuel cell power.

While it might not be immediately feasible for individuals to pay for a fuel cell, it will probably be more attractive to us. If we can avoid building a long line extension to serve a customer and provide the service with an on-site fuel cell, the economics look a lot different and that is where we see the application for fuel cells initially. There are also some places that fuel cells will make sense environmentally as opposed to building an overhead line. There will also be some individuals that will be willing to pay more for electricity from a fuel cell because of the very low environmental impact.

Whatever develops down the road, we plan to stay on top of the industry and through Southern Services, LLC, we plan to be a provider. If fuel cells are indeed in our future, we plan to either own, sell, or lease them and provide the maintenance for them. We are also looking to position ourselves to provide the fuel for them. Fuel cells do require maintenance every year and major overhauls every five years or so, and we plan to be in that business if the market develops. One way or another, we plan to be your energy supplier of choice. Not much new has happened in the electric utility in the past 100 years, but technology is going to change the way we do business in the future. I don't see power plants going away anytime soon, but perhaps there won't be as many new plants being built in the future if some of the new technology proves feasible.

## Free wood chips

**E**gyptian Electric Cooperative is currently trimming trees in the area and has an abundance of wood chips, available for the asking. These chips have a variety of uses, but need to "rest" before being deposited around certain acidity-sensitive plants. We need to be able to tip the bed of a sizable truck at your site. A full load is approximately 3 cubic yards.

To receive free wood chips, please call our Egyptian Electric Cooperative office in Murphysboro at 684-2143, ext. 14, with your name, address, telephone number, and a brief description of how many loads you'd like to have and the specific location of where you want the pile of chips placed.



# OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed Monday, January 15, 2001, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.

## Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

1005 West Broadway • P.O.Box 38 • Steeleville, Illinois 62288  
(618) 965-3434 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

## Remembering Harold and Jane Dycus

**H**arold and Jane Dycus of Carbondale died tragically in an automobile accident November 22. At 3 p.m., their car was struck nearly head-on by a grain truck on Route 51, south of Carbondale.

Harold, 67, became a Director of Egyptian Electric Cooperative in 1976. Among many offices, he served as Egyptian Board President and as Board Chairman of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative.

Harold had a long history of leadership in the Illinois electric cooperative program and on the national level. From 1991-1997, he was the District 5 Director on the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation Board and was Board Vice President in 1996.

He also served on the Board of the Rural Telecommunications Finance Cooperative and the Alliance for Cooperative Energy Services Power Marketing (ACES), on which he served as Secretary.

In addition to his involvement in electric cooperatives, Harold and his wife, Jane, were both involved in many activities and organizations throughout the Carbondale area since 1962.

Jane taught psychology, sociology and American history at Carbondale Community High School from 1973 until her retirement in 1995. During this time she was recognized for many achievements, such as Outstanding Teacher, CCHS Lifesavers Program, Organizer of Senior Fest and a wealth of others.



Harold was a certified public accountant and founder of the CPA firm of Dycus, Bradley and Draves in Carbondale in 1973.

Harold and Jane were married on August 9, 1958, and raised three daughters and one son. They are survived by: Dana Dycus Handley and her husband Scott of Louisville, KY; Colleen Dycus Hancock and her husband Hunter of Sausalito, CA; Christy Dycus Lyell and her husband Douglas of Nashville, TN;

Darrin Curry Dycus and his wife Rebecca of Oklahoma City, OK; and grandchildren Kiley Handley, Bryn Handley and Hunter Hancock.

Harold is also survived by one brother, Jerry Dycus and his wife Carol and family of Sullivan, IL; and two sisters, Mary Dycus Ryan and her husband Ed and family of Ottawa, IL, and Marjorie Schultz and her husband Ervin and family of Ashley, IL.

Rev. Katherine Graves of the First Christian Church of Carbondale spoke of Harold and Jane to over 700 people at the memorial service held December 2. Memorials may be made to the First Christian Church of Carbondale, Carbondale Public Library, Carbondale Junior Sports Program, Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship fund or IEC Memorial Scholarship fund. A permanent foundation in Harold and Jane's honor is being planned by the family.

They will be mourned by all of us at Egyptian Electric.

## Announcement!!

**E**gyptian Electric Cooperative has joined the Internet world. We now have our very own website. The name chosen, is [egyptianelectric.org](http://egyptianelectric.org) and should be on line by January 1, 2001. This site is just a beginning and will continually be under construction. Just like a proud parent, we're looking forward to your visit so we can

show off our newest addition. Next time you're surfing the net, bookmark [egyptianelectric.org](http://egyptianelectric.org) and then visit our website regularly to check on its progress. We have high hopes that this site will offer endless opportunities to our members. Accessing your account information and paying your electric bill are priorities for the near future. Looking forward to your visit!

### What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. **During office hours:** (8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday) **call the office number nearest**

**you:** Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143.

**After office hours:** — Call (800) 606-1505

**Someone is always on duty to take emergency calls after hours.**

5. **Please give your map, section and house (or locat.) number as found on your billing statement.**

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*through*

# Southern Services, LLC

*is now offering*

## Business and Residential

## Long Distance Phone Service

Billed by PowerNet Global Communications

Utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

**FREE**

**Personal  
800 NUMBER  
No Fees  
Same low rate**

**4.9 cents**

All calls in Illinois

**6.9 cents**

All calls out of state

**24 hours a day – 7 days a week – no codes to dial**

- Free to join – No monthly fees – No monthly minimum
- No term agreements – Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9 cents – 6.9 cents per minute – no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9 cents per minute (No surcharge)
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**For additional information or to enroll by phone call toll free: 1-866-266-7531  
Mail application to: Southern Services, LLC, P.O. Box 1478, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
Applications may be faxed toll free to 1-866-326-6753**

DETACH HERE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Other Services Desired:  Toll Free 800 Number  Travel Cards...Number of cards requested \_\_\_\_\_

\*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, Southern Services, LLC, 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.

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

Egyptian Electric Cooperative

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## Messenger

### Cold weather

**A**s I write this on January 2, 2001, it looks like the cold weather might finally break and temperatures will get up to normal or above normal for this time of year. The St. Louis stations are saying that we just had one of the coldest Decembers in the last one hundred years, so electric bills are going to reflect that.

By the time you read this, some of you will have already paid for the December usage. I say some of you because those accounts where we read the meter will have half of the December usage show up in the bill they receive in late January.

The meters we read automatically are read on the fifteenth of the month and those we read manually are read during that week, so bills average from the middle of one month to the middle of the next month. Thus, the bill that was mailed at the end of December does not include the last two weeks of the coldest weather. Self-billed accounts started reading on January 1, so their bills included all of the month of December.

The reason I wanted to review this with you is that it frequently happens that by the time a billed account gets a bill, the weather has moderated and the weather of a couple weeks ago is forgotten. The result is that we get a lot of phone calls from members saying that there is no way they could have used that much electricity because the weather has been nice the last couple of weeks.

Anytime a bill is much higher than expected, one needs to look at the period covered by the bill, the number of days in the billing period, the temperatures over the entire period covered by that bill, and any unusual activities that might have occurred during that period. Billed accounts on the average are billed from the 15th of one month to the 15th of the next month. Self-billed accounts read their meters beginning with the first of the month, so you need to look at the right period when trying to figure out why you used so much energy.

During the holiday period, Christmas lights may



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK

BY HARRY KUHN

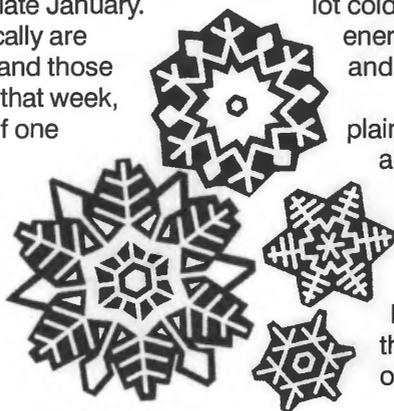
be on, the days are shorter, and more family members may be home. The extra cooking and showering may not seem like much, but it all adds up. For those of us on public water supplies, the water coming into the water heater in the middle of winter is a lot colder than in the summer and it takes more energy to heat it up for those extra showers and clothes and dish washing.

When we get a lot of high bill complaints during very cold or very hot weather, a common argument is there must be something wrong with the meter because they never used that much before or it is not possible to use that much energy. Usually, when we check back into the billing history, we do find that the member did in fact use as much or more on other occasions.

New home buyers or renters may not have a billing history to check back on, but we usually find that previous owners or tenants used similar amounts. Nobody likes high bills, but residential electrical usage reflects temperatures, life style, efficiency of heating systems, and quality of construction.

As your energy supplier, we have no control over any of these factors and we are here to provide you with the energy required at the times you need it. As consumers, none of us have control over the weather, but we do have control over how we use energy and how well our homes are insulated and weather proofed.

While we can not do anything about how much energy you use, we are willing to work with you when you encounter an abnormally high bill and paying it by the due date is a real problem for you. Ignoring the problem won't make it go away, and usually we can work out terms that are mutually agreeable.



## Long distance telephone service

**Y**ou should have received a direct mailing from us with regard to the long distance telephone service we are

offering in association with Southern Services, LLC. In the cover letter, I gave you the wrong telephone number to call if you have any questions.

The correct number is on the form we mailed you, so please use that number if you have any questions or want to sign up by phone. There is an application form in this section, so please refer to it for information on the service.

As I have reported to you previously, several staff members and I have been utilizing the service since mid-summer and it is as we advertise it to be. The rates are as we state them to be, and there are no monthly minimums or monthly fixed charges. You only pay for the time you use and applicable taxes and fees as mandated by state, local and federal governments.

Please be assured that we will not be another phone company calling you at home. Our only contact with you will be through this magazine or a direct mailing. The only phone call you will receive from us will be from our agent and he will only call if there is a question about your application. We will not solicit by phone.

Southern Services, LLC, is a limited liability corporation formed by the six member electric co-

# Southern Services, LLC

operatives of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. We hope to offer other services in the years ahead and offering long distance telephone service is one way of getting you acquainted with the Southern Services name.

Southern Services contracted with Power Net Global for the telephone service through an agent of Power Net Global.

That agent processes your application and answers your calls when you call in with

a question or to sign up for the service. It is our goal for you to recognize the Southern Services, LLC, name as being your local electric cooperative when you receive future mailings or see printed ads carrying that name.



## Why do electric bills go up in the winter?

**E**ven if you do not have electric heat, several factors can contribute to higher winter bills. Warm baths on cold days feel great - and heating extra water can increase your electric consumption. Winter holidays often mean additional cooking, baking and bright holiday lights. Shorter days and longer nights mean lights stay on longer.

Most heating systems use electricity for some functions, such as operating the fan, and many run almost continuously when it's very cold. Clothes dryers are generally used more in the winter. Space heaters and electric blankets that provide additional comfort also use additional electricity to operate.



# OFFICE CLOSING

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in observance of Presidents Day.



## Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

1005 West Broadway • P.O.Box 38 • Steeleville, Illinois 62288 • (618) 965-3434  
10169 Old Highway 13 • Murphysboro, Illinois 62966 • (618) 684-2143

Office Hours: 8 am - 4 pm

[www.egyptianelectric.org](http://www.egyptianelectric.org)

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All calls in Illinois      All calls out of state

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Mail application to: Southern Services, LLC, P.O. Box 1478, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
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DETACH HERE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Other Services Desired:  Toll Free 800 Number  Travel Cards...Number of cards requested \_\_\_\_\_

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I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, Southern Services, LLC, 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.

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

Egyptian Electric Cooperative

## Youth to Washington essay contest

**A**re you a sophomore or junior in high school, like to write and love to travel? How about spending a week in Washington, D.C. at our expense? If this sounds like fun to you, then you should be a part of the national Youth to Washington essay contest sponsored locally by Egyptian Electric Cooperative. Each summer, Egyptian sends six area high school students to Washington, D.C. for a week during the national program sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

While there, you'll visit many of our national monuments, site see, make friends, take a riverboat cruise on the Potomac and meet many of our Illinois legislators. And, all this at our expense.

To enter, you will need to write a 1,000 word or less essay on the topic provided by the cooperative, and submit it to EEC for the initial judging.

A panel of judges will score all essays submitted. The top ten essays will be invited to a banquet at the SIU-C Student Center. At the banquet, a new panel of judges will select the final six students.

If you are selected as one of the ten finalists, you will also have the opportunity to visit our state capitol in April as part of Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day. We'll meet our local legislative contingent and visit other Springfield sites and state monuments.

If you would like to have fantastic memories of the year 2001 to keep with you forever, this may be an opportunity you don't want to pass up. Contact the English department at your school for additional information such as essay topic, research material, entry forms and contest rules. Or, contact your nearest Cooperative office for a resource packet.

As you can see, many students have had this exciting opportunity and have many friends and memories because of it. Don't let this once in a lifetime experience pass you by.



### What to do if the power goes off

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## Messenger

### December loads

Last December turned out to be like no other month in the 63-year history of the cooperative in terms of energy usage. We all have heard that it was the coldest December in 100 years, but I did not think it was as cold as some Januarys we have had in the last twenty years. Like many of our members, I could hardly believe what our wholesale meters recorded at each sub-station.

Every year I prepare a budget for the Board of Directors and I estimate wholesale purchases on a per month basis. In coming up with an estimate, I look at historical usage for each month and then I add in estimated load growth. If we have added several large loads during the past year, I take that into consideration when estimating the next year's usage. Usually I come out pretty close on the annual total, even though I might have been off the mark on a couple of the individual months. Through the month of October, 2000, I was off by less than half of a percent and we had purchased over 220,000,000 kilowatt hours. Even though I missed November by a couple of million, my estimates were looking pretty good on an annual basis. However, in December I missed the mark by sixty three percent! I had estimated we would buy 21,000,000 kilowatt hours and we actually bought approximately 34,400,000 kilowatt hours. I believe our previous record high month was around 27,000,000, so December far exceeded any month prior to that time.

So, for those of you that thought your meter had to be wrong, I can assure you that the power flowed in record amounts on our system and it went through your meters. While we did not experience really cold below zero weather, what we had was consistently



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK

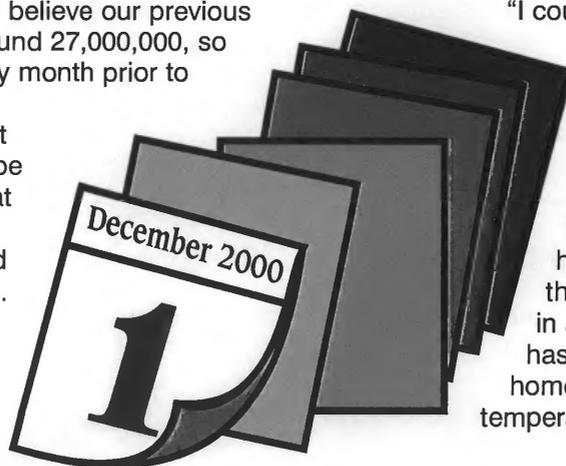
BY HARRY KUHN

cold average temperatures in the teens with very little sunshine since the first of December. That, coupled with extra usage during the holiday season for Christmas lighting and other holiday and family activities, resulted in some pretty substantial bills for many members.

With all the publicity about high gas prices, some members probably thought our bills also reflected those higher gas prices. Such was not the case. We use the same rate year around and we do not have any fuel adders in any of our rates. Southern Illinois Power Cooperative is entirely coal fired and they do pass a fuel adder along to us, but we just include it in our overall costs. If it becomes necessary to recover increased fuel costs from the members, we do it as part of a general rate increase. Since 9000 of our members read their own meters and we send billing packets once a year, there is no practical way to pass along a monthly adder. Thus, variations in the size of monthly bills are due entirely to changes in the amount of energy used.

With the high bills, we have had a number of calls and the common theme we heard is

"I couldn't have used that much because I was gone most of the month" or "I set the thermostat lower and still used more." Setting the thermostat lower might result in a bill that's lower than it might otherwise have been, but it does mean that you will use less energy in a month. A heating system has to operate to make up for a home's heat loss. If the outdoor temperature is the same as the



(continued on 16b)

thermostat setting, the heating system does not have to operate. If the outdoor temperature is lower than the thermostat setting, the heating system will operate to make up the difference. The greater the spread between the thermostat setting and the outdoor temperature, the more the heating system has to work to make up the difference. That seems pretty basic, but many people lose sight of the differences in average monthly temperatures when they compare months. For example, if the thermostat setting was 70 degrees in November and the average outside temperature was 40 degrees, the heating system would have to make up a spread of 30 degrees. If the December thermostat setting was 60 degrees and the average temperature was 20 degrees, the heating system would have to make up a spread of 40 degrees. The heating system doesn't care if anyone is home or not, it is going to operate enough to make up for the temperature spread and heat loss of the home.

There is also a tendency for individuals to compare their energy usage to other people they know. That really is not a valid comparison because no two residences are alike and no two people have identical life styles. Even though two apartments might be identical in size, it makes a difference if it is a middle apartment, an upstairs or downstairs apartment or whether it is on the north or south end of the building. Exposure to the sun and wind all have a bearing on how much heat is lost from a building and quality of construction with regard to insulation and other energy conservation measures are also very important.

Most of us could probably cut back in our energy usage if we really tried. We could shorten showers, run the hot water less, turn off unneeded lights, turn down the thermostat and weatherize our homes more. However, in a month like December, all of these measures combined are not going to result in what you would consider a normal bill. A record cold month is going to result in record energy usage and there really is no way to avoid that to any great degree. You can cushion the effect of such months by utilizing a levelized payment plan. I have used such a plan for years and find it very convenient. While a levelized payment plan does not reduce total costs, it does

eliminate that big unexpected bill that always comes at the wrong time. We do offer such a plan and if you are interested in signing up, contact the billing department at the Steeleville office.

## CALIFORNIA

Some members have asked me about what is going on in California and could such a situation happen here. The basic problem in California is that they are short of generating capacity and they compounded the problem by forcing the state utilities to sell off half of their generating plants to other parties. The theory was that these other parties would then compete with the in-state utilities and drive down costs. That does not work in a shortage situation and these other parties tended to "maximize their profits" when the opportunity arose. Without deregulation, the in-state utilities might have still had to buy five to ten percent of their needs at high market rates, but with deregulation they now had to buy over half of their needs at greatly inflated prices. You cannot buy at 50 cents and sell at five cents and stay in business long. That is the situation they found themselves in.

Could shortages happen here this summer? They could if we have a hotter than normal summer and more generating plants than normal are down for maintenance at any given time. The problem with having high continuous loads is that there is no slack time to take units off for maintenance if a problem arises and sooner or later generating units are offline for one reason or another. These are complicated, high maintenance machines and the interconnected system only has so much reserve capacity. If too many units go down at one time, rolling blackouts could be the result. More and more peaking gas turbines are coming on line which helps to alleviate that problem, but that also has a direct affect on what some of you will pay for natural gas in the coming years. There are tradeoffs in everything and everything has its costs. Ultimately the consumer of the product or services must be the one to pay the costs. That is how our free enterprise system works and it has served us pretty well. We don't always like the bumps in the ride, but the overall trip is pretty good.

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10169 Old Highway 13 • Murphysboro, Illinois 62966 • (618) 684-2143

Office Hours: 8 am - 4 pm

[www.egyptianelectric.org](http://www.egyptianelectric.org)

## Propane prices give new meaning to 'gas pains'

If you use propane to heat with, I'll bet you stumbled backwards to the couch and lay there with your arms splayed to your side with your mouth agape when you opened your last bill! With the more than doubling of the price per gallon of propane coupled with the extreme cold temperatures of December, I'm sure many of you were caught in that situation. You probably even experienced feelings of entrapment, betrayal and helplessness. Fortunately, we can offer you a solution that will keep you from being in that position next year. If you have a forced-air furnace with a central air-conditioner that is near the end of its life span, you may want to consider replacing the air conditioner now with an add-on heat pump.

An add-on heat pump is nothing more than an air-conditioner that has the ability to change the flow of freon through its system. If you've ever walked by the outside unit during the summer, you've noticed how hot the air is that is being blown out of the unit. That's because the system is absorbing heat that is inside and expelling it outdoors. That's how the system cools your house. During the winter, a heat pump just switches the freon direction, it absorbs heat from the outside air and expels it the inside, warming your house.

The advantage of an add-on heat pump instead of just an air conditioner is that it provides heat very efficiently, usually in the 250% or higher efficiency range. To compare costs, a million btu's of usable heat for a 90% efficient furnace and \$1.00 propane is \$11.95. A million btu's of usable heat for a 250% efficient heat pump and \$0.052 electricity is \$6.09. Quite a difference!

Unfortunately however, we cannot size heat pumps to provide 100% of the heat we need. We could, but as the system is also our air-conditioner in the summer, it would be way too large a unit. As such, it would cool the house very quickly and would not remove humidity from the air. We'd end up with a cold, clammy home and nobody wants that. So, to make up the difference, heating contractors normally install backup strip heat that works when the heat pump cannot provide all the necessary heat. Because strip heat is only 100% efficient, it is not nearly as cost-effective as a heat pump. But, with an add-on heat pump, your existing fur-

nace can be used to make up this difference.

Doing this can save you a considerable amount on your annual heating bill. As the heat pump will provide the majority of your heating needs, you will use less propane. The efficiency of the heat pump makes this quite obvious. But, another hidden savings is in the way propane is priced. If you are an existing user of propane, you know that prices are less in the summer and early fall. With an add-on heat pump, you may not need to refill your tank during the winter, letting you fill up during the summer when prices are lower and avoid the winter price spikes.

To compare savings, I recently did a heat loss analysis on a 1650 sq ft home that is about 30 years old and has a heated basement. To heat this home with a 90% efficient propane furnace and propane at \$1.25/gallon, it would cost \$1,548 per year. Although propane did get to over \$2.00/gallon this winter, I averaged the cost down with the summer purchases. If an add-on heat pump were used, the annual heat bill would be \$950 with an average cost of propane at \$1.00 since we probably wouldn't need to buy as much of the expensive winter propane, if at all. This is a considerable savings. I also did the same analysis for natural gas. Although there are savings to be made, they are not nearly as great. With natural gas at \$.80/therm, the annual savings would be \$130.

To install an add-on heat pump, your contractor will change out the condensing unit outside, as well as the coil that is in the duct in the house. They should be able to do this within one day. According to an area heating contractor, the cost to install a 3 ton unit would be approximately \$2,500. And to help with this, Egyptian Electric will issue a rebate of \$300.00.

Since predictions are for propane and gas prices to remain high for the next several years, you should consider changing to an add-on heat pump now, especially if your air-conditioner is over 12 years old. The add-on unit will most likely be more efficient than your current air-conditioner, so you'll see some savings in the summer, too. And next winter, you won't get the shock of your life when you open your gas bill.

Bryce Cramer  
[bcramer@egyptianelectric.org](mailto:bcramer@egyptianelectric.org)



## Youth to Washington essay contest

Are you a sophomore or junior in high school, like to write and love to travel? How about spending a week in Washington, D.C. at our expense? If this sounds like fun, you should be part of the Youth to Washington essay contest sponsored locally by Egyptian Electric. Each summer, we send six area high school students to Washington for a week during the program sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

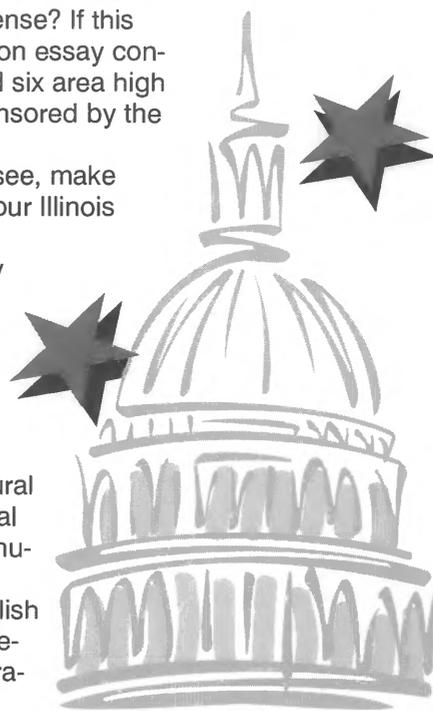
While there, you'll visit many of our national monuments, sightsee, make friends, take a riverboat cruise on the Potomac and meet many of our Illinois legislators.

To enter, you will need to write a 1,000 word — or less — essay on the topic "The Electoral College — Should it be Changed?" and submit it to EEC for the initial judging.

A panel of judges will score all essays submitted. The top ten essayists will be invited to a banquet at the SIU-C Student Center. There, a new panel of judges will select the final six students.

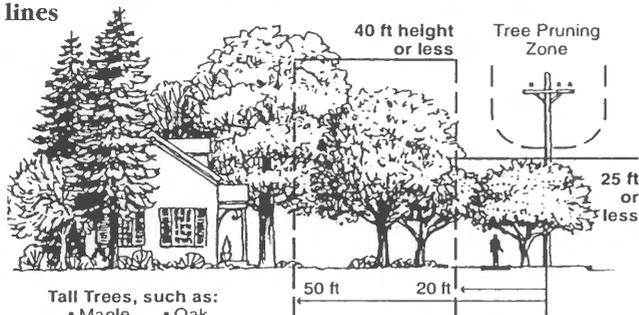
If you are selected as one of the ten finalists, you will also have the opportunity to visit our state capital in June as part of Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day. We'll meet our local legislative contingent and visit other Springfield sites and state monuments.

This is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Contact the English department at your school for additional information, research material, entry forms and contest rules. Or, contact your nearest Cooperative office for a resource packet.



### Plant the right tree in the right place

Taller trees should be planted away from overhead utility lines



Tall Trees, such as:  
• Maple • Oak  
• Spruce • Pine

Medium Trees, such as:  
• Washington hawthorn  
• Golden rain tree

Small Trees, such as:  
• Redbud  
• Dogwood  
• Crabapple

Trees are prized possessions in our communities. But when a tree's branches start to come close to or touch utility power lines, a potentially hazardous situation is created.

Trees and power lines can co-exist, and potential conflicts can be avoided by selecting and planting trees with size and growth characteristics appropriate to their location.

Please call us if you have questions about where or what trees to plant near our power lines. For a free copy of a brochure, "The Right Tree for the Right Place," please write: The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.

 The National Arbor Day Foundation®  
www.arborday.org

### What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. **During office hours:** (8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday) **call the office number nearest**

**you:** Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143.

**After office hours:** — Call (800) 606-1505

**Someone is always on duty to take emergency calls after hours.**

5. **Please give your map, section and house (or locat.) number as found on your billing statement.**

# EGYPTIAN

"Providing electric service to Southern Illinois"

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



## Messenger

### JANUARY LOADS

**B**y the time you read this, you will have already been made aware that January was also a very high-energy usage month. As I reported last month, December was a record month in terms of wholesale energy purchases and far exceeded any other month in the history of the cooperative. Usage in January was not as high as in December, but January also exceeded all other months in the history of the cooperative, with the exception of December. We bought over 34 million kWh's in December and January was slightly over 30 million. The previous high month was in the 27 million range. So, while I am sure that many of you thought that your meter had to be wrong, I can assure you that the power did flow through our system and we also had record power bills to pay. Those of you who read your own meters get a billing packet once a year and you know that we do not pass along monthly adders for fuel. For those of you who we bill, I again want to assure you that your December and January bills did not include any adders for fuel increases and any increase in your bill was entirely due to increased energy usage and applicable taxes.

### BUDGET BILLING

**I** know that many of you were probably unprepared for the large bills in December and January and I will take this opportunity to make my annual pitch for budget billing. Our budget billing year starts in May, so that is the time to sign up to have the lowest monthly budget billing amount. If you sign up later, there are fewer months left to recover the higher usage months, so the monthly billing amount is higher. I personally utilize budget billing for our home and find it very convenient. I know it is human nature not to want to pay more than what the bill would be in the months when usage is low, but avoiding the stress of having to deal with an unexpectedly high bill during the high usage months more than makes up for it. If you are interested in looking into budget billing, call the billing department at the Steeleville office and they can calculate what your monthly budget-billing amount would be.



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK

BY HARRY KUHN

### AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT

**W**henever I push budget billing, I also like to try to sell automatic bill payment to those members whose meters we read and calculate a bill. If you utilize budget billing and automatic bill paying, you do not have to worry about unexpectedly large bills nor about getting the payment mailed in time. To me, it is simply the most convenient way to pay recurring monthly bills. To be honest, I have not been overly successful in selling automatic bill payment to the approximately 3500 meters we read and I have never really understood why. If you are a member who always pays on time, you obviously always have enough money in your account between the first and the tenth of the month to pay the bill. So, why would you not relieve yourself of the hassle of paying the bill each month? You will receive a bill as you do now, so you will know in advance what will be taken out of the account and you can enter it into your checkbook. If you are worried about overdrawing your checking account and have a savings or credit union account, you can have the payment taken out of those accounts. I know some of you are worried that the bank might make a mistake, but I have five bills paid this way each month and I have never found a mistake over the course of several years. My experience with banks is that they make very few mistakes with your money and if one does occur, it can certainly be corrected.

At the present time we have approximately 220 accounts that have the bill paid directly from a bank account or credit union account. With all the talk about people not having time and wanting more convenient ways of handling their daily chores, that seems like a low participation rate in view of the fact that we have offered the service for a number of years. It makes me tend to believe that we are a generation or two from the time when the vast majority are going to be handling their financial transactions over the Internet.

# Long Distance Telephone Service

**W**e are still making long distance telephone service available from Power Net Global through Southern Services LLC and your attention is directed to the ad below. As I have reported earlier, the six member distribution cooperatives of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative formed Southern Services LLC for the purpose of providing additional services to our members. The response to the two mailings has been very good and we are getting some word-of-mouth referrals because members are happy with the rates and are telling their friends and family about the service. This service is available to anyone in the state

of Illinois, so feel free to make copies of the form and pass it along to others. You do not have to be a member of a cooperative to sign up for this service.

As stated in the ad, you can have a personal 800 number at the same rates without any monthly fixed charges. If you travel and call home often or have children away at school, the 800 number is a real convenience. Our agent tells us that approximately 80 percent of the people signing up for the service opt for the 800 number.

If you have any questions about the service, please call toll-free 866-266-7531.

*Egyptian Electric Cooperative through*

## Southern Services, LLC

*is now offering*

### Business and Residential Long Distance Phone Service

Billed by PowerNet Global Communications

Utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

**4.9 cents**

All calls in Illinois

**6.9 cents**

All calls out of state

**24 hours a day - 7 days a week - no codes to dial**

- Free to join - No monthly fees - No monthly minimum
- No term agreements - Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9 cents - 6.9 cents per minute - no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9 cents per minute (No surcharge)
- 6 second increment billing (18 second minimum)

Low overseas rates. Call the United Kingdom for just 12 cents per minute.  
(Rates may vary from country to country) No fees or service charge.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Southern Services, LLC, is offering long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. You can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low 4.9 cents per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for 6.9 cents 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 or to enroll by phone call toll free: 1-866-266-7531  
Mail application to: Southern Services, LLC, P.O. Box 1478, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
Applications may be faxed toll free to 1-866-326-6753

DETACH HERE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Other Services Desired:  Toll Free 800 Number  Travel Cards...Number of cards requested \_\_\_\_\_

\*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, Southern Services, LLC, 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.

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

*Egyptian Electric Cooperative*

# Recessed Lights

by Bryce Cramer

**R**ecently, I had the opportunity to conduct an energy audit and blower door test at a new home that had been built with energy efficient products and techniques, including a geothermal heat pump. The homeowner was experiencing energy consumption levels higher than he had anticipated. Fortunately, I was able to identify several contributing factors. But unfortunately, one of these, the recessed can lights, could not be changed without considerable investment by the homeowner.

Recessed can lights have become a popular method of providing general, mood and spot lighting in new homes. They are relatively inexpensive and generally unobtrusive to the décor of the home. The problem is that most of them are little chimneys that allow air to escape the building envelope. This is done to keep the fixture cool and thereby avoid creating a fire hazard. One author of energy efficiency articles estimates that one recessed light alone can allow up to 2,500,000 cubic feet of air to escape annually, using nearly 1,000,000 btu's of heat. To put this into terms a little easier to understand, one fixture would allow the air in an 1,800 square foot home to change 173 times a year and cost from \$7.00 to \$10.00 annually for heat lost (this does not account for the energy needed to heat the cold air that has been drawn into the home to replace what has escaped nor for related air-conditioning costs).

So, does this mean that you shouldn't use recessed light fixtures? Not necessarily, but it does mean you need to think about where and what type you intend to use. It is preferred the fixture does not penetrate the building envelope. Placing fixtures in ceilings that have a floor directly above them is OK, or, placing them in soffits, such as in front of kitchen or bath room cabinets. But when placing fixtures in soffits, make sure there is a ceiling above. Many times soffits are framed before the sheet rock is installed. When this happens, there is no ceiling above the lights, so they still penetrate the building envelope. This can be remedied by either sheet rocking the ceiling before building the soffits or by closing off the area inside the soffit with plywood, oxboard or sheetrock.

If you must use recessed light fixtures in a manner that will cause them to perforate the building envelope, use air-tight IC rated fixtures. Non-IC rated lights must maintain at least 3" between the fixture and any insulation material. IC rated fixtures allow insulation material to be in direct contact with the fixture and air-tight IC fixtures do not allow

air to leak through them. Air-tight fixtures will cost from \$5.00 to \$10.00 more per fixture, but you will easily get that back the first year through energy savings.

It is best to not install recessed lighting in roof-ceiling combination type construction, but if you must, definitely use air-tight IC fixtures. Any other type fixture will allow air to leak into the cavity, carrying warm moist air from the room below. This might cause condensation, mildew and fungus problems on the bottom side of the roof deck.

You should also make sure you use the appropriate size and type of bulb in recessed lighting fixtures. A-base bulbs (standard bulbs) should not be used in recessed lighting as they emit light and heat in all directions. This may cause the fixture to overheat and create a fire hazard. Only PAR (parabolic reflector) type bulbs or compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs should be used. CFL bulbs are preferable, although they will cost around \$20.00 per bulb versus \$5.00 for PAR bulbs. However, a 20-watt CFL will emit the same amount of light as a 75-watt PAR and will last nearly 10 times as long. Plus the CFL will not create heat as PAR and standard bulbs do.

This information is fine if you will be building a home, but what do you do about existing recessed lights? As mentioned earlier, there are IC rated fixtures and non-IC fixtures. IC rated (insulation contact) fixtures may be covered and be in contact with insulation. This will not stop air leakage entirely, but will help considerably.

If your fixture is a non-IC rated light, you cannot allow insulation to come in direct contact with the fixture, but the 1998 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) mandates that they be "installed inside a sealed box constructed of a minimum 1/2" gypsum wallboard or constructed from a preformed polymeric vapor barrier, or other material manufactured for this purpose, while maintaining required clearance of not less than 1/2" from combustible material and not less than 3" from insulating material". Following this directive would lead you to believe it is entirely safe to automatically cover all IC and non-IC rated fixtures with an air-tight drywall box.

Not so fast. Before you start, you need to examine several things. First, how old is the fixture and what is the temperature rating of the fixture and its wiring? Second, determine the temperature rating of the household wire feeding the fixture. If the wire was installed before 1984, chances are it

*(continued on 16d)*

## Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

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(continued from 16c)

is only rated for 60°C 140°F. Newer cable, type NM-B, is rated for 90°C 194°F.

In an article in the January, 2001, issue of *Home Energy*, an article discusses testing done on non-IC recessed lights. First, an air-tight box was constructed around the fixture as recommended by the IECC. Then, insulation was laid around the box, but not on top and different types of bulbs were placed in the fixture. Simulating summer conditions, both 60-watt and 100-watt bulbs created temperatures well over the rating of the fixture and wiring. A 20 watt CFL created a max temperature of 125°F and a 75-watt PAR created a max temperature of 140°F, just barely within the rating of older type wire.

Before you install air-tight boxes over your IC or non-IC rated fixtures, determine what you are dealing with. If your fixture is rated at 90°C and your household wire is the same, you should be OK. If the fixture is rated at 90°C but you have older, 60°C wire you might still be able to cover the fixture, but you will need to change the wire. You do not have to change all of the wire, just the

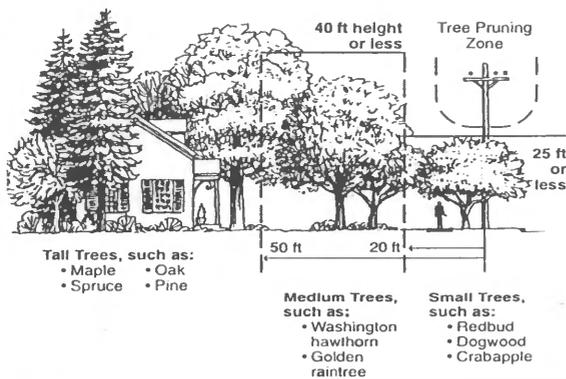
piece near the fixture. By installing a junction box according to National Electric Code requirements, you can splice a piece of new NM-B, 90°C wire to the fixture and cover the light. If the fixture is rated less than 90°C, it would probably behoove you to not cover the fixture.

If you decide you need to do something (and it is safe to do so), but don't wish to spend the time building gypsum wallboard boxes, there are products on the market designed for this purpose. One such product is called the Air-Tight Top Hat. They range from \$22.00 to \$30.00 each.

Recessed lighting can greatly improve the aesthetics and atmosphere within a home. But, this is not the place to attempt to bring the construction budget back in line. If you wish to use recessed lights, spend the extra money necessary to purchase air-tight fixtures. While you're at it, purchase compact fluorescent bulbs designed for recessed lighting. They'll pay for themselves in short order and you will appreciate the convenience of not having to frequently change that bulb in the cathedral ceiling that is 16' above the floor.

## Plant the right tree in the right place

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 The National Arbor Day Foundation  
www.arborday.org

# OFFICE CLOSING

**O**ur offices will be closed Friday, April 13, in observance of Good Friday.

## What to do if the power goes off

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2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
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# EGYPTIAN

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## Messenger

### Energy Shortages

By now, everyone has heard countless stories about the energy problems in California and the president has warned of possible shortages in the rest of the country this summer. There are no quick fixes to these problems because it takes time to develop additional energy supplies and build new power plants, so conservation is being pushed as a way to alleviate the problem somewhat. Conservation may help avoid rolling blackouts in California and other areas if the customers understand what is required on their part. Simply cutting kilowatt-hour consumption by ten percent may or may not help avoid rolling blackouts.

When you purchase electric service from us, you are really paying for two components of electric service. Those components are capacity and energy usage and capacity is what California is short of at the present time. Power plants, like any other machine, have a maximum output capacity and utilities build new plants to meet both their current electric load and some future load growth. Larger capacity plants cost more to build than smaller plants, so utilities size plants to what is required according to their best estimates. Large plants cost less than smaller plants on a per-unit-of-capacity basis, but unused capacity has to be paid for and consumers do not want to pay for capacity that is not being used. Utilities learned that lesson after we all overbuilt in the late seventies and early eighties and no one is anxious to do that again.

The last unit we added at the Lake of Egypt power plant was a 180MW unit, which means it has the ability to supply enough power to light 1,800,000 one hundred watt light bulbs at any given instant. The MW stands for 1000KW and a KW is 1000 watts, which equals 10 one hundred watt bulbs. People tend to use the term kilowatt and kilowatt-hour interchangeably, but they do not mean the same. Kilowatt is a measure of instant power flow while kilowatt-hour is a measure of the use of that power flow over a period of time. If you switch on a 100-watt bulb, you are creating a capacity demand of .1 kilowatts. If you leave that light on for ten hours, you will have used one kilowatt-hour of energy and your bill is



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK

BY HARRY KUHN

computed on the basis of kilowatt-hours used. The term kilowatt-hour is nothing more than the result of multiplying kW demand times the hours use of that demand and for those of you who remember your high school algebra, you will recall that the result would be kWh.

To use our unit at Lake of Egypt as a reference, the problem is that California has more than 1,800,000 light bulbs to light at a given time. To solve that problem, they either have to put more generating capacity on line or they have to cut off some of the lights. If no additional power can be bought or generating capacity can be added, load has to be shed. California has not been able to buy the additional capacity they need, so rolling blackouts were the only option. When a generating plant is loaded above capacity, safety devices will kick in before the generator is damaged and the result is a wide area blackout rather than limited areas being blacked out for a limited time on a rotating basis.

In order for California to make it through the summer without rolling blackouts, they are depending heavily on conservation. However, if that conservation does not take place at the peak usage time of the day, it will not help alleviate the problem. If the peak occurs at 6 p.m. on a hot day and there is a load equivalent to 2 million 100-watt bulbs and no additional generating capacity is available, 200,000 bulbs have to be dropped from the system or the entire system will be shut down. Turning off lights at night to save kilowatt-hours when peak loads are already below the available generating capacity does not help avoid rolling blackouts during the peak load period that occurs during daylight hours. Conservation for the purpose of avoiding blackouts must occur at the time of peak load requirements, or it will be ineffective.

(continued on 16b)

Users of electrical energy can best help avoid rolling blackouts by delaying use of energy until off peak hours. For example, if the summer peak is between 5 and 8 p.m., customers can help by not doing laundry and showering during that time period. Water heaters and dryers have a fairly high electrical demand and it really helps the electrical system for them to be off line during system peak hours. Use of any hot water should be delayed, if at all possible, during peak hours if generating capacity is in short supply and any other electrical usage that can be delayed will help the situation. It would help tremendously, of course, if everyone would turn off his/her air conditioners during the peak summer hours, but if that is not a possibility, setting the thermostat up to a higher temperature will help. As air conditioners run less, there is less chance that all air conditioners will be on line at the same time and that will help cut system peaks.

While saving energy during off peak hours will not help avoid rolling blackouts during peak hours, I would be remiss if I did not point out that saving on electrical usage will reduce the burning of coal and natural gas. Generating plants have varying fuel efficiencies, but a good rule of thumb for our area would be that it takes a pound of coal to generate a kilowatt-hour. Thus, it takes a pound of coal to light that 100-watt bulb that is left on for ten hours unnecessarily. I am sure that all of us could find ways to cut back on our energy usage and not only help to conserve our natural resources, but also help cut back on air pollution and other side affects.

Not only is generating capacity in short supply, but the fuel necessary to support combustion in coal and gas fired plants is also in short supply. Gas fired power plants and gas turbines are now competing with homes and businesses for the available natural gas and we all know what that has done to natural gas prices this past year. The construction of more gas turbine plants will continue to put pressure on natural gas supplies, but more gas production will come on line if the price stays high enough to encourage additional drilling. With the colder temperature of this past winter, a great deal of coal was burned and supplies are now tight and utilities are starting to scramble to get enough coal in stock for the summer peaks. Many of the high sulfur coal mines have gone out of business, so coal supplies are becoming more limited as time goes on.

I know that many people are questioning as to how we seem to suddenly find ourselves in this mess. While it may seem sudden, these problems have been slowly building for years and are now coming to a head. Loads have been growing, but because of problems with over capacity in the

past and the uncertainties associated with de-regulation, utilities have been reluctant to commit to construct large power plants that take years to build. Consequently, as reserves dwindled, the utilities resorted to gas fired peaking turbines that can be built in a short period of time. Gas drilling companies, because of the relatively low price of gas, cut back on exploration because it was not economically feasible to drill for new gas at existing prices. The other part of the equation is growth in the usage of both gas and electricity. As the economy grew during the past ten years, businesses grew and production increased and it all required more energy. The other factor is what we as individuals have done and are continuing to do. A lot of wealth was generated in the past ten years and you only have to drive through new subdivisions and the countryside to see where some of it is going. I am always amazed at the size of new homes that we are building today and all of these homes have to be heated and cooled. I know that new building techniques and materials are making homes more energy efficient, but I have to believe that we are using a lot more energy to keep a couple of people warm and cool than we did twenty years ago. The question remains to be answered as to whether or not our resources can sustain this over the long haul and will we be making energy costs unaffordable for people at the lower end of the scale. My own view is that we have enjoyed the benefits of the overbuilding in the late seventies for many years, but that is past and a new cycle of building will have to start if we are going to meet the energy needs of the future. Utility rates are likely to rise in the future and natural gas is probably not going to come down to the rate levels of the past. We as a nation are using energy on a per capita basis that is unmatched in the rest of the world and the laws of supply and demand are slowly catching up with us. The challenge will be to manage our resources in such a manner that we can continue to maintain our standard of living as well as protect the world we live in for future generations.



# Youth to Washington Essay Contest

On March 23, ten area high school students were selected as semi-finalists in the Egyptian Electric Cooperative 'Youth to Washington' essay contest. The students selected were: Kevin Rheinecker and Katie Husband, Steeleville High School, Stephen Miles, Coulterville High School, Scott Jackson and Adam Bird, Sparta High School, Staci Vanderjack, Pinckneyville High School, Emily Hookham and Air'n Monahan, Murphysboro High School, Rod Sanjabi and Ben Bradshaw, Carbondale High School. The students wrote essays entitled "The Electoral College: Should it be Changed?" and were selected based on the awarding of points by a field of judges in five areas of criteria.

On April 4, the ten students traveled to Springfield to visit our state capitol and to repre-

sent Egyptian at the Illinois Rural Youth Day sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. While there, they visited with area legislators, Representatives Mike Bost and Dan Reitz and Senator David Luechtefeld. They also visited several historic sites while in Springfield. The ten will have made an oral recitation and the six finalists selected to represent Egyptian in Washington D.C. on April 26 at a banquet at the Student Center on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. At the time of this writing, those finalists are not known; however, we will publish those names next month. The six finalists will travel to Washington D.C. June 15-22, with an Illinois contingent of over sixty fellow high school students.

## Do you know these people?

Capital credit checks have been returned for the following past members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative. We have no current address for them. If you have any information pertaining to these people, please contact us at (618) 965-3434. If a past member is deceased, addi-

tional capital credits may be available as an estate refund. A date of death is needed to process those refunds.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in finding these members.

### CAPITAL CREDITS LIST

Alvey, Mary  
Anderson, James R  
Angone, James P  
Ashley, Katherine or Humbert  
Applebaum, Gerald H or Hilda  
Badgett, Lois J  
Bagwell, Gene or Fern  
Bailey, Jimmy R or Shirley  
Barker, Philip L or Becky S  
Beatty, William  
Beck, Thomas  
Berkbigler, Marie  
Boone, Toni R  
Bradley, Earl G or Cecyl  
Brewer, Alan  
Buster, Charles or Orgenie  
Cantwell, Claude K or Lucille or Evelyn K Cantwell  
Carpenter, Roland

Carter, Karen  
Crain, Jack or Edna  
Darnell, Sam K or Gail S  
Ellis, Mary Kay Welch or Sue Barnes  
Emil, Jeffrey or Barbara K  
Goffinet, Christine Gillespie  
Ghaibeh, Ousama or Amal Y  
Grady, V Richard  
Hayden, Kenneth  
High, Russell D  
Jones III, Eugene D or Arquilla  
Kowalzik, Sharon  
Naddaf, Mina  
Phillips, Steve D  
Slazinik, Edward M  
Smith, Charles E  
Wright, Paul E

### Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

1005 West Broadway • P.O.Box 38 • Steeleville, Illinois 62288 • (618) 965-3434

10169 Old Highway 13 • Murphysboro, Illinois 62966 • (618) 684-2143

Office Hours: 8 am - 4 pm

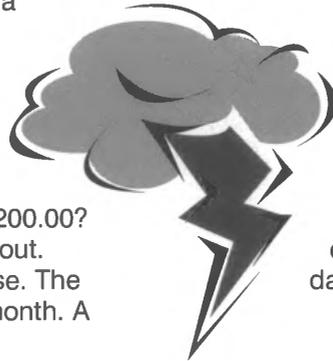
[www.egyptianelectric.org](http://www.egyptianelectric.org)

## Do lightning and outages make your computer angry?

Then you need an uninterruptible power supply (ups) system. As a dusk-dawn light provides security for your home, a ups provides security for your computer system. It protects it from over and under voltage during storms and other events. And in case of a total power outage, it gives you battery time to save your work. But you don't want to spend \$200.00? Then your cooperative can help you out.

We now offer two models for lease. The smaller model leases for \$5.00 per month. A

larger model with more whistles and bells is \$8.50.



What happens when the batteries need replaced in two years? Instead of buying a new ups or spending \$50.00 or more for new batteries, just bring the ups to the office. We'll either replace the batteries on the spot or give you a new unit.

What better way to protect your expensive computer and irreplaceable data?

## Looking For Your Pot O'Gold?

We can't guarantee that you will find your pot o'gold, but we can guarantee that you will definitely find ways to save energy by listening to the Doug Rye radio talk show. Mr. Rye is a nationally recognized 'energy guru' and lives in Arkansas. He is recognized for his infamous saying: "If you build a new home with high energy costs, its your own cotton pickin' fault!!" Fortunately, his message will teach you how to build homes with low energy usage, high levels of comfort and minimal additional investment.

Egyptian Electric makes his talk show available to you on WXAN Radio every Saturday morning at 9:05 a.m. If you have a question, you can even call an 800 number and Doug will answer your question on the air. WXAN can be found at 103.9 FM.



### What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. **During office hours:** (8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday) **call the office num-**

**ber nearest you:** Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143.

**After office hours:** — Call (800) 606-1505

**Someone is always on duty to take emergency calls after hours.**

5. **Please give your map, section and house (or locat.) number as found on your billing statement.**

# EGYPTIAN

"Providing electric service to Southern Illinois"

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Messenger

### Power supply

**B**ecause of the California power supply situation and the low water levels in the Pacific Northwest, there has been much speculation about other parts of the nation being affected. There have been several news stories that power supply will be adequate in Illinois this summer and that is probably the case if all available generation is in fact on line and running. It is assumed also, that there will be sufficient natural gas available to run all the gas turbines that have been built the past few years. Since natural gas is a winter peaking industry, at this time, there should be sufficient gas this summer unless something really goes wrong in the supply chain.

Should loads be much greater than projected or a number of large generating units fail in the state, power could be imported from other areas if it is available. There is, however, only so much transmission line capacity available and the amount of power that can be moved from one area to another at any given time is limited by the capacity of the interconnected transmission system. Not only have we not been building very much base load generating plants in the last twenty years, we also have not been building high voltage transmission lines to move blocks of power. With utilities and power marketers selling across state lines, much of the transmission capacity is tied up with daily transactions and there is not much room to move more power in case of an emergency.

Assuming a normal year with regard to generating units being available, we should be okay this summer. If not, and rolling blackouts become necessary, there are some things that you can do to help ease the situation. Summer peaks occur late in the afternoon when temperatures are at their highest levels and people are returning home from work. Thus, any load that can be turned off or kept off the line at that time will help alleviate the problem. The biggest help would be for you to turn off the breakers to your water heater and to turn off the air conditioner or at least set the desired temperature a little higher on the thermostat. As I have said before, cutting back on usage during off peak times will avoid burning coal or gas, but it does not help meet peak load conditions. If we are short of generating capacity and none can be purchased, the only solution is to reduce load. That can be done with rolling blackouts or through voluntary cutbacks, but one way or another, load has



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK

BY HARRY KUHN

to be shed. To not reduce load would mean losing the entire system and it is much better to have selected areas off for a couple of hours on a selective basis, as opposed to having the entire system down.

In the event that rolling blackouts were necessary, our plan would be to drop circuits out of substations on an alternating basis. There are, however, certain loads that we believe are necessary for public safety, such as medical facilities and water and sewer plants and we would try to keep them on line. That means that some members that are served by the same lines as those facilities might not have their power interrupted, but I believe overall public safety takes precedence over making sure that everyone shares equally in any rolling blackouts. With seventeen substations, it will be difficult to treat everyone equally in the event of rolling blackouts, but we will do our best if that situation should ever arise.

### RURAL WATER

I know that a number of you live in the area where Egyptian Water Company has plans to provide water at some time in the future and you may be wondering how our plans are progressing. Phase 1 is complete and 290 meters were set on approximately 40 miles of water line. We have submitted a preliminary application for Phase 2, but as yet we have not heard from the Rural Development Agency as to the status of our application. We have asked for funding for another 40 miles of line to be served out of our existing water tower near Sparta. The next addition would extend from the Steeleville "T" to Bremen and then up to Walsh by way of Palestine. That is the approximate route with taps off the main line. The final route will be dependent on the funds available and the number of people that actually sign up for the water. At the moment we are doing nothing in the way of signing up customers or obtaining easements until we know the status of funding for the next phase. We, like many of you, are anxious to get going with the next phase, but we cannot do anything without funding and we just have to bide our time.

# Nominating Committee appointed

To: Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Cooperative and in compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Electrification Administration Revised Bulletin 20-19, notice is hereby given to the members of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association that the Cooperative will hold its 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of its members on Tuesday evening July 31, 2001, at 7:30 p.m., in the Steeleville American Legion meeting room located on the west side of town and a block south of Broadway on Chester Street.

Notice is further given that the terms of office of directors W. Dean Bame, Ava, Allen Haake, Murphysboro, and Kevin Liefer, Red Bud, will expire at said annual meeting.

Notice is further given that the board of directors of the Cooperative have appointed the following named persons as a nominating committee:

Ruth Brown, Rockwood  
John C. Edgar, Ava  
Richard Fager, Murphysboro  
Tom Horn, Carbondale  
Stuart Langrehr, Evansville  
Leland Luthy, Marissa  
Alicia Miller, Pinckneyville  
Leonard Priebe, Campbell Hill

Notice is further given that the above nominating committee will meet at the Steeleville office of the Cooperative, located at the west edge of Steeleville, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 19, 2001, at

8 p.m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for election to the board of directors, and that all members interested may attend said meeting and participate.

The by-laws also provide that the nominating committee, upon making their nominations, shall prepare and post at the office of the Cooperative, at least 30 days before the annual meeting, a list of nominations for directors.

The by-laws further provide that any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signature not less than 25 days prior to the meeting. Additional nominations may be made from members at the meeting.

The by-laws provide that each active member shall be entitled to one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting of the members and that proxy voting is prohibited.

A member having questions regarding the above proceedings may contact any officer or member of the board of directors for clarification or further information.

Copies of the by-laws of the Cooperative are available and can be obtained at the Cooperative offices located at Steeleville and Murphysboro, or mailed to you upon your request.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Hicks  
Secretary

## Is your air-conditioner on its last leg?

Instead of just replacing your old air-conditioner, consider upgrading it to an add-on heat pump and receive a \$300.00 rebate from Egyptian Electric (for Cooperative members only with a fossil fueled furnace such as natural gas or propane). You may save as much as 30% or more on your current heating costs with an additional investment (beyond the cost of just replacing the air-conditioner) of as little as \$100. And you'll have the best of both worlds, the efficiency of the heat pump during moderate temperatures and the heat of a fossil system during cold weather. Plus, you may not have to purchase any propane during the winter when prices are at their highest. So call us or your nearest air-conditioning contractor and ask how an add-on heat pump can save you money. Or check out our website at [www.egyptianelectric.org](http://www.egyptianelectric.org) and go to the heat pump section.

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### Remember...

Our Annual Meeting  
is just around the  
corner -  
Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.



## Six Youths selected for Youth to Washington

**A**t a banquet held at the Southern Illinois University Student Center Thursday, April 26, six area high school students were selected to represent Egyptian Electric in Washington D.C. June 15-22 at the annual "Youth to Washington" program. The students were selected by an essay contest offered to sophomores and juniors at each of the area high schools within Egyptian's service territory. The six finalists were selected from a field of ten semi-finalists that had been chosen from the original field of entrants.

The essays were originally judged on five categories, focus, support, organization, style and conventions. At the banquet, a new set of judges scored the essays using the original five categories and also awarded points for an oral presentation by each student given before the audience.

To enter, all students wrote an essay on the topic, "The Electoral College: Should it be Changed?" Viewpoints ranged from one end of the spectrum to the other, with several in the middle. Essays were not scored by the position taken by the author. Regardless of the viewpoint of the student, it was quite obvious they had spent many hours researching the issue and formulating their position. Many in the audience voiced the opinion that they themselves had learned much about our nation's



Pictured are the Youth to Washington essay contest finalists. From left: Ray Mulholland, president, EECA, Rod Sanjabi, Ben Bradshaw, Stephen Miles, Staci Vanderjack, Air'n Monahan, Kevin Rheinecker and Harry Kuhn, general manager, EECA.

presidential election system by hearing the student's oral presentation.

The six finalists that will be traveling to Washington D.C. are: Ben Bradshaw and Rod Sanjabi, Carbondale High School, Stephen Miles, Coulterville High School, Air'n Monahan, Murphysboro High School, Kevin Rheinecker, Steeleville High School and Staci Vanderjack, Pinckneyville High School. The four semi-finalists also giving oral recitations at the banquet were: Adam Bird and Scott Jackson, Sparta High School, Emily Hookham, Murphysboro High School and Katie Husband, Steeleville High School.

### Building a new home?

#### PLAN AHEAD AND LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILLS

The best way to avoid high energy bills is to build your home right: proper insulation, an airtight structure, an efficient heating and cooling system. These are a few of the things you can do **BEFORE** the bills start arriving. These ideas and more are wrapped up in one package - the Certified Comfort Home Program. The electric cooperatives of Illinois have set construction standards for energy efficient housing. If your home is designed and built to meet these standards, it will be a Certified Comfort Home, with certified energy savings. When planning that new home, you, your contractor and Egyptian Electric can work out the best way to be energy efficient and still have the house you want for your family.



#### Certified Comfort Home

A PROGRAM FROM EGYPTIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

MURPHYSBORO 684-2143

STEELEVILLE 965-3434

Egyptian Electric Cooperative  
through

# Southern Services, LLC

is now offering

## Business and Residential

## Long Distance Phone Service

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**4.9 cents**      **6.9 cents**

All calls in Illinois

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**FREE**

Personal  
800 NUMBER  
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Same low rate

**24 hours a day – 7 days a week – no codes to dial**

- Free to join – No monthly fees – No monthly minimum
- No term agreements – Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9 cents – 6.9 cents per minute – no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9 cents per minute (No surcharge)
- 6 second increment billing (18 second minimum)

Low overseas rates. Call the United Kingdom for just 12 cents per minute.  
(Rates may vary from country to country) No fees or service charge.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Southern Services, LLC, is offering long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. You can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low 4.9 cents per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for 6.9 cents 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 or to enroll by phone call toll free: 1-866-266-7531**  
**Mail application to: Southern Services, LLC, P.O. Box 1478, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864**  
**Applications may be faxed toll free to 1-866-326-6753**

DETACH HERE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Other Services Desired:  Toll Free 800 Number  Travel Cards...Number of cards requested \_\_\_\_\_

\*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, Southern Services, LLC, 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.

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

Egyptian Electric Cooperative

# EGYPTIAN

"Providing electric service to Southern Illinois" Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



# Messenger

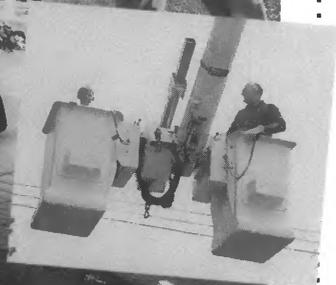
Plan to attend Egyptian Electric Cooperative's

## 63<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2001, AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL - STEELEVILLE, ILLINOIS

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 5:30 P.M.

- Picnic in the park 5-7 p.m.
- Entertainment by Chris Egelston-Magician
- Children's Program
- Registration Gifts
- Officers Reports
- Election of Directors
- Electric Credits
- Grand Prize
- Attendance Prizes



# Annual Meeting

Annual meeting time is just around the corner and preparations are underway. Be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and plan to spend the evening with us in Steeleville. We are again planning to serve hot dogs, chips, soda and an ice cream bar in the park before the meeting. The entertainment will take place before the business meeting and we have lots of prizes to give away throughout the evening. We will conduct the necessary business affairs and still have you home early. Registration



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK  
BY HARRY KUHN

will be very similar to past years. If this is your first year to attend, make the registration table your first stop. More information will be included in the August issue, which you should receive before the meeting. In case you don't, consider this your invitation. I hope you can join us on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## The question of sheathing

by Bryce Cramer

A question that is frequently asked of me is "How should I insulate the walls of my house?" In reality they are really wanting to know if they should use blown cellulose or fiberglass batts. Rather than take up that question however, I would like to discuss another issue with insulating walls that no one asks about, that being **What should go on the exterior of the wall as sheathing?**

Generally, we see two types of material used to "sheath" a home, either a wood type material, plywood or oriented strand board (OSB), or a type of foam board, either extruded polystyrene (XPS, or commonly called blue or pink board) or polyisocyanurate (has a foil facing on both sides). My recommendation, coming from an energy and long-term life of the home perspective, is that an insulating foam board should be used.

The first issue we take up is from the energy perspective. When calculating the overall R-value of a wall, we add up the R-values of all materials that comprise the wall-drywall, sheathing, siding and even the thin film of air that is against the inside and outside surfaces. We also consider what

portion of the wall is comprised of insulation versus wood framing components. Generally, in a house with framing on 16" centers, the area taken up by the face of the studs and headers is around 25% and a house with 24" framing about 22%.

As you can see by the chart below, the use of even 1/2" insulating sheathing increases the R-value of a wall considerably. On a 2 X 4 wall on 16" centers, the use of 1/2" XPS increases the overall wall R-value by 23%. This does not mean that you will see a 23% reduction in energy costs, only that the R-value has increased 23%.

Generally, when we discuss energy conservation measures, we talk about a payback period. The amazing thing about this situation is there is no payback period to consider as 1/2" XPS (\$6.59) is less than 7/16" OSB (\$8.39). You save while building the home and later when it is heated and cooled. If 1" XPS (\$9.99) is used, the R-value increases 42% but only increases the cost of the material by 19%, a pretty good bargain.

So, why don't more builders use it? Most often you will hear the argument that OSB makes the house stronger. The question is how? If talking

### FIBERGLASS BATT INSULATION

Framing	Stud Spacing	Framing Area %	Insulation	1" XPS (R-5)	1/2" XPS (R-3)	7/16" OSB (R-.68)
2X4	16	25	R11	15.8	13.7	11.1
2X4	16	25	R13	16.9	14.8	12
2X4	16	25	R15	18	15.7	12.8
2X6	16	25	R18*	20.9	18.8	16
2X6	24	22	R18*	21.4	19	16.5

\* R-19 batts are actually 6.5", when compressed to 5.5", the R-value is reduced to R-18

### CELLULOSE INSULATION

2X4	16	25	12.95	16.26	14.00	11.09
2X6	16	25	20.35	21.39	19.06	15.99
2X6	24	22	20.35	21.97	19.65	16.67

\*\* Cellulose has an R-value of 3.7 per inch.

about bearing load, that's what the studs are for. The greatest advantage OSB or plywood sheathings offer is in twisting of the home's walls by lateral forces, such as wind. But, if you talk with an architect about this, they will point out that the corners are where this must be dealt with. That is why the recommendation of the Certified Comfort Home program is that a sheet of OSB or plywood is used to start each corner, inside and outside and nailed on 4" centers. By doing this, the corners will have the strength they need to counteract any lateral forces that are applied to them. And, if a 1" foam sheathing is used on the remainder of the walls, a 1/2" sheet can be placed over the top of the OSB and the overall R-value of the home is sacrificed very little.

The second issue concerns the life of the home. An issue that greatly affects homes but seldom sees much discussion is one of moisture control. Water vapor moves from warm air towards cold air as warm air contains more water vapor causing it to have a higher vapor pressure. In winter, the water vapor attempts to reach the cold outside air in two methods—through vapor diffusion and by air movement. Diffusion is the relatively slow movement of water vapor directly through the wall components. Air movement carries greater amounts of water vapor in the form of air leaks through cracks, electric boxes, etc.

We attempt to stop diffusion by the use of vapor barriers such as visqueen or kraft facing on insulation. However, air movement is quite often left unchecked. Holes in plates are not caulked, allowing warm air that is against the drywall to rise upward through cracks and holes, drawing high moisture air from inside the home into the wall cavity through wall openings. As long as moist air does not contact any surface that is at or below

the dew point of the air, there is no problem. But, as plywood and OSB have relatively low R-values (.68), during cold periods, the temperature will fall below the dew point of the water vapor in the wall cavity. When this happens, condensation occurs. If the condensation is severe or prolonged, mold and decay can begin to destroy the wall. You can imagine that by mid to late January, the wall cavity in your home and the air inside the house will be near the same level of water vapor. If you see condensation occurring on the glass portion of a single pane piece of glass (R-.88), imagine what is happening in the wall cavity where the sheathing has a lower R-value (.68) and where heat is being shut off from the sheathing by the wall insulation. If the wall sheathing on the other hand has a high R-value, the exterior of the wall will not fall below the dew point, or at least not for any extended period of time.

Back in the days when we all heated with fossil-fired heat systems that sent warm moist air up the flue and drew cold outside air in to replace it, there was little concern with moisture related problems. In fact, most of us needed to add moisture. But as new fossil-fired appliances use outside air for combustion or we use electric heat and heat pumps that don't need air for combustion, and we build homes tighter and tighter, we don't have cold dry air lowering the overall water vapor levels in our homes. That doesn't mean we should revert to the old energy inefficient methods of heating and building homes. It just means we should be aware of potential problems and take steps to avoid them, such as using insulating sheathings to keep wall cavity temperatures high enough to avoid condensation.



## OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4, 2001 in observance of Independence Day. ◀.....

[www.egyptianelectric.org](http://www.egyptianelectric.org)

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. **During office hours:** (8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday) **call the office number nearest**

**you:** Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143.

**After office hours:** — Call (800) 606-1505 **Someone is always on duty to take emergency calls after hours.**

5. **Please give your map, section and house (or locat.) number as found on your billing statement.**

## Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

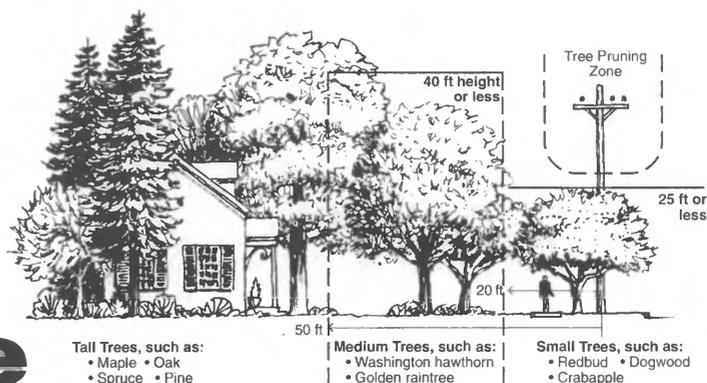
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10169 Old Highway 13 • Murphysboro, Illinois 62966 • (618) 684-2143

Office Hours: 8 am - 4 pm

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# You can make a difference



Flip the switch. NO POWER! You look out the window. Oh, no—there's a tree lying on your power line. Time to call Egyptian Electric.

Don't wait for this to happen. Egyptian Electric is ready to give your power line the attention it needs to keep the power on at your house. Please allow our employees to do the right-of-way clearing on your property. Working around power lines can be dangerous and your safety is our concern. Now that we have your attention, let's discuss power line right-of-way and how you can make a difference.

Right-of-way is the area that Egyptian Electric has been granted by an easement to construct and maintain power lines. There are both overhead and underground easements with certain restrictions on the easements distinct to each type. Underground easements insist the property owner keep the easement clear of buildings, trees and shrubbery, undergrowth and roots, or other obstructions. Overhead line easements ensure the cooperative will be able to cut, trim, or remove trees or shrubbery in order to keep power lines clear and/or to cut down any dead, weak, leaning, or dangerous trees that are tall enough to strike the lines should the tree fall.

The easement also defines what should or shouldn't occur within proximity of the line for the common good of all members. Members abiding by the easement make it easier for our crews to gain access to the spot where an underground conductor has failed and needs to be repaired. The result is that we'll be able to locate the problem and restore service far more quickly than if we have to dig under brush/trees or maneuver around a maze of fences and buildings that have been constructed on the easement.

By not planting trees or allowing trees to grow under the line, members pave the way for maintenance savings to the cooperative as well as enjoy more reliable service and reduced outage time. Keeping a clean right-of-way will greatly increase the likelihood of your power staying on in a storm. There will be fewer outages caused by animals

crawling from trees onto the line or transformer. Also as a safety precaution, children won't be endangered (electrically anyway!) by climbing a tree away from the power lines.

We are putting forth an effort to REMOVE those trees under the overhead lines that have been a continuous maintenance (trimming) problem. Our goal is to establish tree-free corridors for our distribution power lines. Besides, topping a tree that would grow to a height of 50 feet or more under a 25 foot power line is both unsightly and unhealthy for the tree. The National Arbor Day Foundation has a great internet site, [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org), which offers excellent information, including tips to avoid tree/utility conflicts. We will also be mowing under the power lines in rural areas that have a dense growth of brush, since hand cutting is more labor intensive.

Another method we use in keeping unwanted trees/brush from sprouting up into the line is spraying. We hand-spray herbicides specifically designed to target enzymes found in plants only—not in people or animals. They work on the unwanted species by entering the leaves and stems and controlling the plant from the inside. The predominant mix we apply works only on the plants and root systems of woody species, leaving beneficial grasses. Selectively controlling trees and weeds along power lines not only assures safe and easy access for service and maintenance needs but also preserves and enhances natural surroundings—including wildlife habitat.

Your help in keeping an eye on what is over, under, and around the power lines is of tremendous value to the cooperative. We're asking you, as a member of this cooperative, to assist us by doing your part in honoring easements, which is just one aspect of being a cooperative. If there are potential problems regarding the lines on your property, call your local cooperative office.



# EGYPTIAN

"Providing electric service to Southern Illinois"

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



# Messenger

## Board of directors annual meeting invitation

**O**n behalf of the board of directors of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, I extend a personal invitation to attend your cooperative's annual meeting. The meeting will be held at Steeleville's American Legion Hall on Tuesday, July 31, 2001.



Mulholland

We are planning a short business meeting to conduct the necessary business affairs of the cooperative. Before the meeting, food and refreshments will be served in the park next to the American Legion beginning at 5 p.m. The outdoor activities will also start about 5:00 p.m. During the business session, a children's program is planned in the small hall next door. Plan to come early and join in the socializing.

Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m., and each member registering will receive a free gift for attending. All members registered by 7:30 p.m. will be included in the drawing for our 63rd Anniversary prize, the two grand prizes of \$100 electric credit and the ten \$20 credits to be applied on an electric bill. At the conclusion of the meeting, all members present will be eligible for the drawing of other attendance prizes.

The most effective method of getting word to the members about the annual meeting seems to be for those reading this announcement to tell others about it. Please help us out and remind your friends and neighbors about the annual meeting. Better yet, bring them along with you so have a big turnout. This is an opportunity for you to participate in the operation of the cooperative. We promise you an enjoyable evening.

Ray Mulholland, President  
Board of Directors

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
July 31, 2001 — 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Hall  
South Chester Street  
Steeleville, Illinois

Action will be taken on the following matters:

- 1 Report on the number of members present, in order to determine the existence of a quorum.
- 2 Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting as the case may be.
- 3 Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meeting of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon.
- 4 Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, trustees and committees.
- 5 Election of board members.
- 6 Unfinished business.
- 7 New business.
- 8 Adjournment.

Paul Hicks,  
Secretary Board of Directors  
Egyptian Electric Cooperative



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK



BY HARRY KUHN

## New director appointed

**E**gyptian Electric is pleased to announce that Gilbert Kroening was appointed to fill the vacant seat on its Board of Directors.

Gilbert H. Kroening, Professor and Dean Emeritus, has been a resident of Carbondale for the past 32 years. He retired from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) on January 1, 1999, after working in the College of Agriculture for 30 years. He was Dean of the College of Agriculture from 1974 to 1986. During his tenure he also served as Assistant Dean for Research, Department Chair, and Director of the Office of International Agriculture. He participated in international programs in Brazil, Zambia, Pakistan, Lithuania and Russia. He and Jean spent 2.5 years in Peshawar, Pakistan, where Gilbert served as Team Leader of a USAID funded Agriculture project. He taught nutrition and livestock management courses as a professor in Animal Science, Food and Nutrition.

Gilbert was born and raised in Altamont, IL in Effingham County on a small-diversified farm. He received his BS and MS degrees in Animal Industries from SIUC and his PHD in Animal Nutrition from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. He was the swine specialist at Washington State University for 5 years before accepting a position at SIUC in 1969.

His wife Jean is from Kinmundy, IL and they have three children, Debbie, Karl and Tricia. Debbie Hudgins, deceased in 1998, lived in Boston; Karl, a TV station videographer, lives in Indianapolis, IN; and Tricia Flejter, lives in Jupiter, FL. They have four granddaughters, Kelly (8) and Courtney (6) in Massachusetts and Chloe (4) and Grace (2) in Florida. Jean worked as a real estate agent in Carbondale for 20 years. Jean and Gil enjoy traveling, golf and visiting the grand kids. They are active members in their church, Our Savior Lutheran in Carbondale, and Gil stays busy in the Rotary Club of Carbondale. WELCOME ABOARD!



# 63<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

## July 31, 2001 • 7:30 P.M.

AMERICAN LEGION HALL • SOUTH CHESTER STREET, STEELEVILLE, IL  
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 5:30 P.M. • SHORT BUSINESS MEETING

- ▶ Food/Refreshments
- ▶ Children's Program
- ▶ Two \$100 Credits on Electric Bills
- ▶ Music/Magician
- ▶ Free Gift to Each Registered Member
- ▶ 10 Credits for \$20 on Electric Bills

**63<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY PRIZE — 25-INCH COLOR TV WITH REMOTE**  
Drawing for Attendance Prizes - (Must be present to win)

**C**ooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In electric cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one vote per member).

## Annual meeting registration instructions

**R**egistration will be similar to last year. There will be three lines inside the main hall for registering members. They will be located in the offset in the back of the room. You can go to any person at those tables to register. You will be given a ballot and a blank card on which to print your name for attendance prizes. Be sure we can read your name before dropping your signed card into the attendance box.

Members must be registered by 7:30 p.m. to qualify for the anniversary prize, the two grand prizes, and the ten \$20 electric credits. The main meeting hall will not be open until member registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and it is air-conditioned.

To receive your attendance gift and be eligible for attendance prizes, you must register as you have in the past. Please register one time only.

As in previous years, entrance to the hall for the meeting will be through the double doors on the south side, from the walkway between the Legion Hall and the bowling alley building. Access to this walkway is from the front parking lot towards the bowling alley, or from the west parking lot behind the ball diamond. These entrances will be clearly marked, and Cooperative employees will be located around the area to help direct you to the meeting. Please do not enter from the Legion clubroom.

## Minutes of the nominating committee



**T**he Nominating Committee, in compliance with the by-laws of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, met in Steeleville, Illinois, in the office of the Cooperative, on June 19, 2001, at 8:00 p.m., to nominate candidates for the office of Director of the Cooperative to serve for a three-year term and to be voted upon by the membership of the Cooperative in its Annual meeting to be held on July 31, 2001, in the Steeleville American Legion Hall.

Attorney Barry Wesley opened the meeting by stating that the purpose of the Nominating committee is to nominate candidates for the office of Director of the Cooperative, and that the terms of Mr. W. Dean Bame, Mr. Allen Haake, and Mr. Kevin Liefer were expiring this year.

A roll call of the members of the Nominating Committee was taken, and all members were present. Attorney Wesley stated that the first order of business would be to select a chairman and a secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Stuart Langrehr was duly selected as chairman of the committee, and Mr. Barry Wesley was selected as secretary of the meeting.

The chairman requested the secretary to read the minutes of the last year's Nominating Committee meeting. The minutes were approved as read by all members present.

The chairman instructed the committee that three or more nominations could be made by the committee and placed on the ballot. Following a discussion on this, it was unanimously agreed to nominate three candidates.

Mr. John Edgar nominated Mr. W. Dean Bame, Mr. Leland Luthy nominated Mr. Kevin Liefer, and Mr. Richard Fager nominated Mr. Allen Haake for the office of director of the Cooperative. Mr. John Edgar moved that the nominations be closed and that they be nominated by acclamation, and that their names be placed on the ballot to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting of the members on July 31, 2001.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Leland Luthy, and unanimously carried.

There being no further business, motion was duly made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Stuart Langrehr, Chairman  
Alicia Miller  
Ruth Brown  
Richard Fager

Leonard Priebe  
John C. Edgar  
Thomas R. Horn  
Leland Luthy

## Other nominations

Walter Crane of 1156 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL has been nominated by petition in accordance with Section 4.05 of the Bylaws.

## Where at? "Watts" up? And Who's on?

It's annual meeting time again and we hope you are planning to spend a few hours with us. The date is Tuesday evening, July 31. The employees and directors are busy making plans for an enjoyable evening. The outdoor activities have been a big hit. So once again, hot dogs, soda and ice cream bars will be served in the park beginning at 5 p.m. Weather permitting, various outdoor activities are being planned from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Outdoor seating is limited, so bringing lawn chairs is a good idea. While the business meeting is going on, a children's program will be next door in the small hall. We even have a special prize drawing for the children that evening. We do hope you will join us. And NOW - Egyptian Electric is very pleased to present its entertainment for the evening:

Around 5:00 p.m. a husband/wife duo from Sparta, The Gordons, will bring their music to Egyptian Electric's members in the Legion park. They have been playing for audiences for three decades, touring the Midwest and Carolinas, playing clubs, fairs, festivals and colleges. Gary and Roberta Gordon put their unique touch on songs ranging from bluegrass to contemporary country and gospel. For the past two years, they have

performed live in Dublin on R.T.E., Ireland's national television network. This year has also seen The Gordons in Belgium, Germany and The Netherlands where they performed at the first European World of Bluegrass Festival. Their most recent release End Of A Long Hard Day will surely attract even more attention to this wonderful bluegrass duo. The Gordons music is heartfelt, sincere and unique.

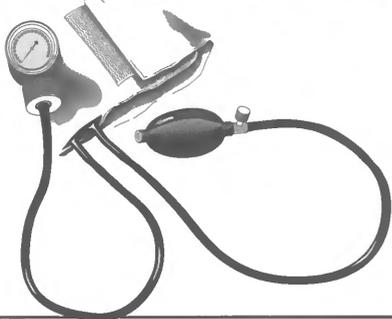


Chris Egelston

At approximately 6:45 p.m. Chris Egelston will take the stage in the meeting hall and amaze the audience with his MagiComedy Show. His unique and fun-filled presentation of magic, comedy, and audience participation is sure to be a big hit with our group. Spectators react with gasps of amazement to roars of laughter.

The business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by the drawing for attendance prizes.

## BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS



**W**e have made arrangements with TIP/VNA Homecare to do blood pressure checks during our pre-meeting activities. Anyone attending can take advantage of this service or visit with representatives of TIP/VNA Homecare and find out about the services they can provide.

### What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. **During office hours:** (8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday) **call the office number nearest**

**you:** Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143.

**After office hours:** — Call (800) 606-1505

**Someone is always on duty to take emergency calls after hours.**

5. **Please give your map, section and house (or locat.) number as found on your billing statement.**

## Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

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10169 Old Highway 13 • Murphysboro, Illinois 62966 • (618) 684-2143

Office Hours: 8 am - 4 pm

[www.egyptianelectric.org](http://www.egyptianelectric.org)

# EGYPTIAN

"Providing electric service to Southern Illinois"

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## Messenger

### ANNUAL MEETING

The 63rd annual meeting is history and although it was pretty warm, we had a good turnout and I thought the meeting went well. We served the usual hot dogs, chips, dilly bars and soda and had musical entertainment and a magician to keep the crowd entertained until the meeting started. We also gave rides on our aerial truck booms and had entertainment for the children while the meeting was taking place. If you haven't attended a meeting or haven't been in awhile, plan to join us next year. It will be held July 30, 2002.

This year we reported about the improvements we are making at the Southern Illinois Power Cooperative generating plant at Lake of Egypt. Like all machinery, power plants eventually wear out and a point is reached where it is better to rebuild rather than continuing to replace parts. The three small units that went on line in 1963 have reached that point and coupled with the fact that they will not meet the new clean air standards, it makes more economic sense to replace the boilers. We are in the process of adding a new fluidized bed boiler to serve the three small turbines and this boiler will enable us to continue to burn Southern Illinois coal and also meet the clean air standards. We are also adding a catalytic reduction system to the large unit to bring it into compliance with the new standards, and two 70MW gas turbines to handle peak loads in the coming years.

All of this requires a substantial amount of investment. Those of you who were with us in the late seventies when unit four came on line will probably remember what took place at the time. Most utilities built units about the same time and as a result of the oil embargo and inflation of the seventies, loads did not grow and we wound up with a lot of power plants that were far from being fully loaded. The end result was substantial rate increases to pay the debt service. Fortunately, loads did grow again and the investments made in the seventies turned out to be a good deal for the next twenty years. The investments we are making now will also result in some rate increases, but nothing like the last time we made a major improvement at the power plant. This time we have the load for the units and are not investing in idle capacity.

Rather than have one increase to cover the plant additions, we have decided to make several small increases in rates so that no one's budget is disrupted to any great degree. This fall we will add \$1.00 to the monthly facilities charge and add a tenth of a penny to the final block price. Thus, if you use less than 500 kwh per month, you will see a monthly increase in your bill of \$1.00. If you use 1,000 kwh,



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK

BY HARRY KUHN

the increase will be \$1.50 per month. If you use 3,000 kwh, the increase will be \$3.50 per month. At the 1000 kwh and 3,000 kwh level, the increase is approximately 1.8 percent. While no one likes to see rates go up, reliable and adequate power is essential and that is why we are making improvements in the power plant. We expect to see the same benefits from these investments as those we enjoyed from the investments made in the late seventies.

### LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE

I reminded those in attendance that we are still promoting our long distance telephone service. The Southern Services group has signed up more than 8,000 customers for the service and it is going very well. A number of people have personally expressed their satisfaction to me and as far as I can determine, problems have been absolutely minimal. So, if you have been debating about the service, you ought to get on board. The rates are a good deal and the personal 800 number is really handy for travelers or families with children away at school.

### RETIREMENT

I advised the members present at the meeting that this was my last meeting as their manager. In accordance with my understanding with the Board of Directors to give them adequate notice of my intention to retire, I have advised them that I would like to retire no later than June 1, 2002. I will have been in this business for nearly thirty-seven years when I retire and it has been very good to me and my family, but I have decided it is time to go. Thanks to the support of the membership and a great group of employees and directors, these last eighteen years as your manager have been a rewarding personal experience for me.

The hiring of a new manager is the responsibility of the Board of Directors and they will be engaging in that process in the coming months. I would not expect that the process will be completed and a decision made until sometime in early 2002. In the meantime, I will be here until early May or June and it will be business as usual.



## New rates and services discussed at annual meeting

Officials of Egyptian Electric Cooperative had updates about power supply, rates and new services for members attending the cooperative's 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting Thursday, July 31.

President Ray Mulholland of Marissa told members that the cooperative had an operating loss for year 2000. "Interest income and capital credit allocations from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), your co-op's power supply, resulted in an overall margin, but revenues from the actual operation of the system did not cover expenses," he said. Revenue was down because January and February were unusually warm. The cooperative didn't have the electric heat sales that they count on for a significant portion of the annual margins.

Mulholland continued by explaining that due to the aging elements of SIPC's Lake of Egypt power plant, the need for new power supply capacity, and tougher air quality standards, plans for some major modifications to the plant have been made. He said, "This new investment will result in rate increases." He reassured the members that the cooperative had decided to implement a series of small increases rather than one large increase. "While no one likes to see costs go up, we certainly don't want to get into a situation like they experienced in California earlier this year. Our goal is to continue to provide you with reliable power in the amounts you need at a competitive price," Mulholland concluded.

General Manager Harry Kuhn said that along with maintaining a high quality distribution system, power supply is being expanded and enhanced by SIPC. SIPC started in the 1960s with just three co-ops. Now there are six distribution cooperatives serving 80,000 customers. To meet new demand for electricity, SIPC is installing new gas turbines for peaking power, plus a new fluidized bed boiler and emission controls to its coal-fired generators. The \$200 million expansion project will increase total generating capacity by 36 percent, reduce emissions by 75 percent and add 30 years to the productive life of the facility. "The improvements at SIPC will result in moderate price increases, but we will continue to provide you with competitive prices," said Kuhn.

Kuhn told the members about Southern Services, a partnership formed by six southern co-ops to see what services they could provide as a



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group. "Our first service is long distance, but in the future we are looking to expand into new venues. We have been discussing getting into propane. And if the right opportunity comes along, we may venture into that," said Kuhn.

Kuhn also reported on their automated meter reading system. He said, "By the end of the year, most of the meters that were being read by our employees will be automatically read from our office. All of our substations are equipped to do this and we intend to offer this service to other members in the future. Those members who have difficulty reading their own meters or travel a good part of the year will receive first consideration if they will agree to have the bill payment deducted automatically from their bank accounts."

Kuhn informed the members that Egyptian Electric's sister co-op, Egyptian Telephone had expanded its Internet service into the Murphysboro and Carbondale areas. He encouraged members to take advantage of that opportunity.

"And now at this time," Kuhn said, "I'd like for everyone to take a moment of silence to remember a dear friend to the co-op and a former director, Harold Dycus, and his wife Jane, who were killed in a car accident last November. They were wonderful people and are sadly missed."

Finally, the members were informed that after 20 years as manager of Egyptian Electric, Kuhn was announcing his retirement. "This will be my last annual meeting, as I am planning to retire June 1 of next year. I've enjoyed working for all of you and I appreciate the support you've given to me and to the co-op over the years," Kuhn said in closing.

The report of Treasurer Paul Hicks of Carbondale reflected the cooperative's financial success in 2000. Revenues totaled \$17,281,920 in 2000, he said, up \$498,000 from 1999. Power costs were \$10,995,591. Operating margins, including non-operating margins were \$375,200 to be allocated as capital credits to all members receiving service in 2000.

During the director election, three area men were re-elected. They were, W. Dean Bame of Ava, Kevin Liefer of Red Bud, and Allen Haake of Murphysboro.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association is a member of Touchstone Energy — an alliance of some 560 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country, committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.



## Students explore Washington D.C.

**E**gyptian Electric Cooperative sent six students on the annual Youth to Washington tour. During the week of June 15-22, participating students visited Washington D.C. to learn about their government. Ben Bradshaw of Carbondale, Stephen Miles of Coulterville, Air'n Monahan of Murphysboro, Kevin Rheinecker of Percy, Rod Sanjabi of Carbondale and Staci Vanderjack of Pinckneyville were selected as participants based on their academic and community leadership qualities.

John Freitag, vice president of operations at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and coordinator of the program, said, "The electric cooperatives started this program in 1958 as a way to recognize young leaders, reward them and introduce them to their government in action. After 42 of these youth trips to Washington, the goal of our program remains the same. We're pleased to recognize some of rural Illinois' best and brightest young people through this program."

Students were able to meet and converse with their local congressmen at a Capitol Hill luncheon. They also met Senator Dick Durbin on the



Pictured on Capitol Hill are (l-r): Air'n Monahan, Stephen Miles, Congressman Jerry Costello, Kevin Rheinecker, Staci Vanderjack, Rod Sanjabi and Ben Bradshaw.

steps of the U.S. Capitol. In addition, they visited Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Supreme Court, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Newseum, the Roosevelt and Lincoln Memorials, the Washington Monument and a number of other historical sites. This event is sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois. Fifty-four rural Illinois youth leaders were selected for the trip.

## Keep it safe around SCHOOL BUSES

**S**ummer's over and children are heading back to school. Last year, more than 9,000 students were injured and 26 were killed in bus related incidents. You can help stop these incidents by doing your part to ensure students' safety around buses.

- Always stop your vehicle when a bus is stopped with its stop sign extended from either side of the road.
- Keep a close watch for students that are walking, biking or skating to school.

### STUDENTS SHOULD FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

- Take 10 giant steps in front of a bus before crossing the street. (This will enable the driver to clearly see all students as they cross.)
- Never walk behind a bus.
- Watch for cars and cross streets carefully.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver says it is okay to approach.



## Office closed for Labor Day September 3, 2001.

### What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. **During office hours:** (8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday) **call the office number nearest**

**you:** Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143.

**After office hours:** — Call (800) 606-1505. Someone is always on duty to take emergency calls after hours.

5. Please give your map, section and house (or location) number as found on your billing statement.

# EGYPTIAN

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## Messenger

### WINTER BILLS

It is only the beginning of September as I write this and already last December is ancient history. However, if last year repeats itself, cold weather and high heating bills could be only a few months away. While we cannot do anything about the weather, we can take some steps to make our homes more energy efficient. If you have a house that is not as air-tight as it should be, perhaps some weather stripping and caulking are in order. Additional insulation in the attic might also be warranted if the house is not insulated to today's standards.

While the new homes today use more energy efficient materials and homes are built to better standards, the amount of air infiltration you may find if you have your home checked might be surprising. If your energy usage is considerably more than you expected for your home, we perform free blower door tests to determine how tight a home is constructed and try to determine where air is getting into the home. Heating the outdoors can be very expensive, so homeowners need to do everything they can to prevent heat from escaping. If you have an interest in a blower door test, contact Bryce at the Murphysboro office.

While May is the optimum time to sign up for budget billing, you can still sign up now to spread out the costs of the winter heating months. If unexpectedly high bills are a problem for your budget, budget billing will help keep your monthly bills in line with what your budget can afford. Granted, you will be paying for more than you use during the lower usage months, but you will be banking for the months when the bill might exceed the amount you can accommodate in your monthly budget. If you're interested in budget billing, call the billing department at the Steeleville office.

If we experience some really cold winter months and bills are much higher than expected, please keep in mind that we do not control how high you set your thermostat, your life style or how your residence is constructed. We simply make the energy available and how much you use and how you use it is strictly your choice. Invariably, when we have cold weather, we get a lot of calls from members complaining that they never used that much energy before and the



FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK

BY HARRY KUHN

meter must be wrong. After checking the billing records, we usually find that there have been other months where the member used that much energy and the usage is in line with the temperatures experienced during the billing period. With regard to the meters, I can assure you that our meters are accurate and do not suddenly speed up during the winter heating season. Meters are really a very reliable device, but if one does fail, the normal situation is for it to slow down or stop completely. In some cases the register may quit recording the energy usage.

The number of days in the billing period can have a big impact on a month's bill if it is a high-energy usage month. Since we now automatically read most of the meters that we bill, we have pretty well limited the variation in billing periods to a day or two. However, those of you who read your own meters have the ability to vary the billing period length as much as ten days if you read on the first of one month and the tenth of the next month. Adding one third to a billing period during a high usage month can really run up that month's bill, so it is always a good idea to look at how many days you are paying for before you get too excited about your bill.

Those of us that work to provide you with electric service understand how difficult an unexpectedly high bill can be for some families. On behalf of those that work in the billing department, I would ask that you not blame them for the amount of energy you use because they have no control over that. You do. What they do have control over is working with you to make mutually agreeable terms whereby you can pay your bill and we can keep your service connected. My definition of mutually agreeable is a plan whereby subsequent months are paid on a current basis and the unpaid

(continued on 16b)

balance is paid off over an agreed upon time period. Mutually agreeable also means that once terms are agreed to, we have an expectation that payments will be made in accordance with the agreement. Failure to do so will subject the account to disconnect procedures and once an account is disconnected for non-payment, all amounts due up to the day of disconnect are due and payable before the account will be reconnected. The bottom line is that if you are having problems paying a high bill, it

will take a lot less money to keep your service intact if you work with us than it will take to get the service reconnected after it has been cut off for non-payment. As I have said before, the worst thing a member can do if they cannot pay a bill is ignore us in the hope that we will not take any action. Once our notices are ignored, we can only assume the member has no intention of paying and we will take action to cut our losses. In fairness to those that pay their bills, we can do no less.



## Students encouraged to apply for 2002 IEC Memorial Scholarships

**E**gyptian Electric Cooperative's manager Harry Kuhn has announced that for the seventh consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award \$1,000 academic scholarships to high school seniors. The four 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. Three of the four 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, 2002.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring

past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Harry Kuhn. Egyptian Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in our 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 demonstrating 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 Brenda Rapp at the Steeleville office (965-3434), or ask your high school guidance counselor.

## Leaf season calls for safety



**T**he leaves are starting to fall, and chances are you're getting out the ladder to clean the gutters, using an electric blower to gather the leaves off your lawn, and taking on other jobs around the home that could put you at risk for electric shock.

Be careful how you carry that ladder! If you lift it up in the wrong place, you could brush overhead power lines and give yourself a serious

shock. Once the ladder is up and in place, take care as you clean the gutters, and give overhead lines a wide berth. Always be aware of where the lines are, and avoid them.

Electric leaf blowers and vacuums are great tools, but like all tools, they must be used with care. If your blower has a cord, be sure you use the appropriate extension cord with it.



## Billing packets

**I**t's that time of year when those of you who read your own meters are starting to look for your billing packets. They will be mailed in mid-October, so you will have them in plenty of time for payment of the bill that is due by the tenth of November. If you do not receive your packet by November 1, please call one of our offices. We mail

over 9,000 packets, so there is always the possibility we missed one or one went astray. With that in mind, it is very important that we have your correct address. If, by chance, you are aware that we have the wrong address, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make the correction.





# Celebrating the co-op advantage

**OCTOBER** is national **cooperative** month. It is a time to celebrate the **accomplishments** of cooperatives and to **educate** the public about the advantages cooperatives offer. The idea for a **celebration** of cooperatives began in 1924 in Waukegan, **Illinois** and became a **national** event in 1964.

Today, educating the public about cooperatives has become even more important due to the deregulation of many industries. Electric deregulation is in the forefront now, and electric cooperatives are a large part of that industry.

More than 34 million people in the United States receive their electricity from a cooperative. That's more than one in 10 Americans. And chances are, all Americans receive some product or service through the 48,000 plus cooperatives that exist in America. Products such as Land O'Lakes, Ocean Spray and Sunkist are all made by cooperatives. And businesses such as Ace Hardware and True Value are cooperatively owned and operated.

But what is a cooperative? It is a member-owned, democratically controlled enterprise, created and used by its member-owners to provide goods and services. That means member-owners have a say in how the cooperative is run and receive the benefits of it. With other businesses, shareholders receive all the capital gain at the expense of the people who use the products or services. But electric cooperatives give back this gain in the form of capital credits to the members themselves.

More than 120 million people across America are forming cooperative businesses to find solutions to their community's needs. They have realized that cooperatives give consumers more choices, cost savings and less risks. Cooperatives are guided by the set of seven principles below.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> PRINCIPLE: VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> PRINCIPLE: DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership.



## 3<sup>RD</sup> PRINCIPLE: MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPLE: AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPLE: EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPLE: COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

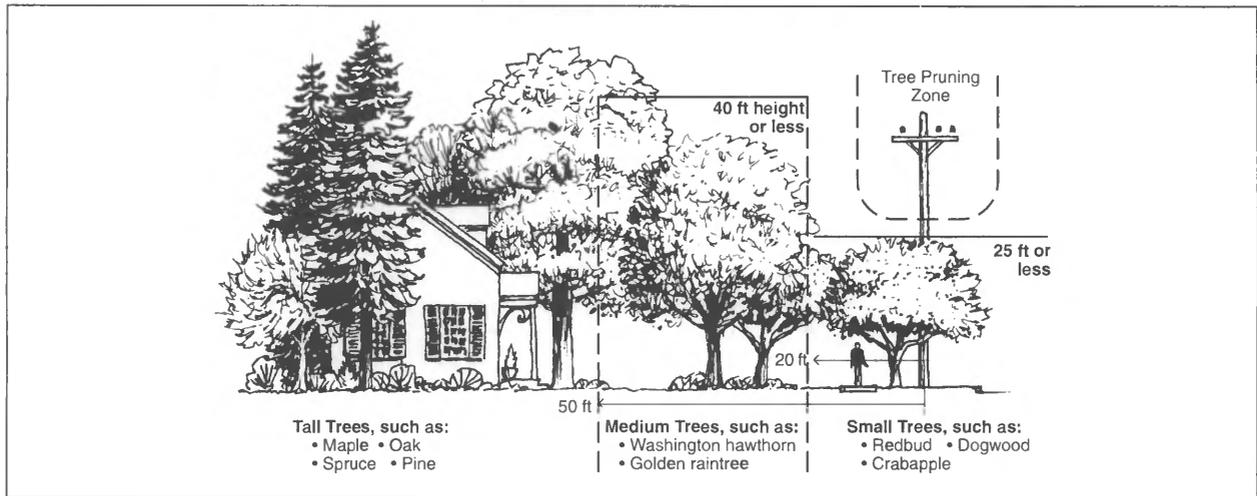
Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPLE: CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for community development through policies accepted by their members.

Keep these principles in mind as you think about the cooperatives that help make your life a little better. To find out more about electric co-ops visit [www.aiec.org](http://www.aiec.org) or [www.nreca.org](http://www.nreca.org).

# Please, plant the right tree in the right place



**T**rees are prized possessions in our yards and communities. They give needed shade in summer, provide protection from winter winds, help clear the air of pollutants, furnish a home for songbirds and wildlife and they please the eye with the beauty of their foliage.

But, when a tree's branches grow too closely to, or actually touch, power lines the result is going to be a power outage. This is a case of the wrong tree being planted or allowed to grow in the wrong place.

Trees and power lines can co-exist. But the trees must be selected and planted with size and growth characteristics appropriate to their location.

All responsible arborists and their associations subscribe to the following tree-planting rules in relation to overhead power lines:

**Low Zone** - Tree species that will not exceed 25 feet in height can be planted directly beneath power lines and for 20 feet to either side. Taller existing trees in this zone have to be pruned (sometimes drastically) so

they'll grow around the wires. We're all in agreement that trees pruned in this manner are not attractive.

**Medium Zone** - Trees that grow to 40 feet in height at maturity are recommended for areas immediately adjacent to the Low Zone. This will rule out the possibility of limbs overhanging the power lines that we'll need to prune or trees that can topple into the lines during a bad storm.

**Tall Zone** - Taller maturing trees should be planted at a distance of 50 feet or more from the power lines. This will insure they'll reach their full potential undisturbed by pruning. There is also little likelihood that wind or ice will cause them to do damage to the power lines.

Please call us if you have questions about where or what trees to plant near our power lines. For a free copy of a brochure, "The Right Tree for the Right Place," please write: The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. **During office hours:** (8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday) **call the office number nearest**

**you:** Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143.

**After office hours:** — Call (800) 606-1505

**Someone is always on duty to take emergency calls after hours.**

5. **Please give your map, section and house (or locat.) number as found on your billing statement.**

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# EGYPTIAN

"Providing electric service to Southern Illinois"

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



# Messenger

## What is Touchstone Energy® and what does it stand for?

Touchstone Energy is a brand identity program open to electric co-ops across the country to help them distinguish themselves as preferred providers in the electric utility marketplace. Touchstone Energy co-ops are dedicated and invested community members committed to providing high quality and responsive utility service. They are pledged to

operate with integrity, customer accountability, innovation and a spirit of community awareness.

The Touchstone Energy brand is communicated to consumers through a brand signature (that is co-branded with the current co-op logo), advertising, public and member relations activities, and a web site.



To America's  
heroes:  
thank you.

*Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative*



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives  
*The power of human connections*

## Utility bill assistance available

Energy costs place severe and continuing stress on the family budgets of many households. In some instances, the household is forced to decide which bills to pay and which necessities of life to survive without. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was designed to assist eligible households pay a portion of winter heating and electric costs. The program provides a one-time payment with the amount determined by household size, fuel type and income level.

The Department of Commerce and Community Affairs designated Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council whose central office is located in Steeleville, as the agency to administer the LIHEAP in Jackson, Monroe, Perry and Randolph counties.

On September 4, 2001, the agency began taking applications from households containing a member who is elderly (60 or over) and/or disabled.

Households whose utilities were disconnected could also call at that time for an appointment. All other households wishing to make an application may do so beginning November 1, 2001. A home visit will be made when no other arrangements can be made. To make an appointment, request a home visit, or for more information, contact the outreach office in the county you reside: Jackson 684-3341, Monroe 939-8715, Perry 542-4656, Randolph 826-3141 (Chester) or 443-5231 (Sparta).

When applying for assistance, documented proof of the following will be needed: gross income for all household members for the previous 30 day period, current copies of heating and electric bills, and proof of Social Security numbers of all members of the household. Applications will not be processed until all needed information is provided to the agency.

## Billing packets

The billing packets for the self-billed accounts are scheduled for mailing in mid-October, so everyone should have received theirs by the time this issue of the magazine is delivered. Please discard your old rate cards from previous years. The rates have changed slightly. The monthly facilities charge is now \$16 per month and the final block price has increased one tenth of a penny for each kilowatt-hour. For example, if you use 1000 kWh, your bill will increase \$1.50.

Apparently some people are sending in more than one billing card for each account. We only mail you 12 cards, which should last one year. Therefore, if you send in several cards at a time, you will run out before the year is up. So PLEASE send in only one card at a time for each account.

We had a slight printing problem this year. It seems the kilowatt-hour amount of 5890 is missing from the rate chart. If you find 5880, please add the following:

KWH	GROSS	NET	ENERGY	TAX
5890	376.69	358.75	341.67	17.08

Sorry for the inconvenience.



## Office closings

Our offices will be closed on Monday, **November 12, 2001**, in honor of **Veterans Day**.

The offices will also be closed on Thursday and Friday, **November 22 and 23**, to observe the **Thanksgiving holiday** with family and friends.



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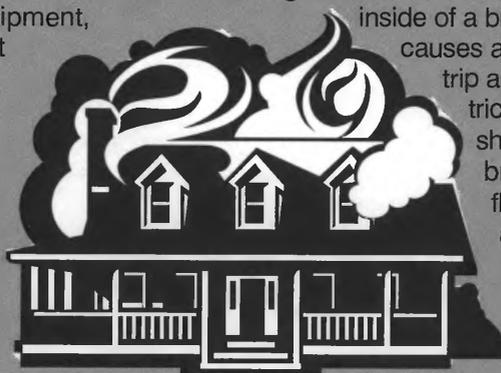
[www.egyptianelectric.org](http://www.egyptianelectric.org)



# National Electric Code

by Bryce Cramer

According to Cutler-Hammer, a manufacturer of electrical distribution equipment, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that in 1996 there were more than 43,000 home fires caused by electrical wiring systems. These fires resulted in over 300 deaths, 1,800 injuries and more than \$700 million in property loss. For many homeowners, especially rural residents without adequate fire protection, home fires are a major concern. Many of these fires were instigated by electric arc faults that are caused by damaged or aging electric wiring. The National Fire Protection Agency, through its National Electric Code (NEC), is taking steps to mitigate these potentially life threatening arcs by mandating the installation of Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters in bedroom outlet circuits as of January 1, 2002.



Unfortunately, many homeowners mistakenly believe the fuses, circuit breakers and even ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) they have installed in their electric distribution panels will protect them from electrical fires. To understand why these devices will not protect from arcing faults that start fires, we need to understand how they each operate.

Fuses were originally designed to protect the actual metal of the wire being used to carry electricity from short circuits and overloads. Fuses have a bi-metallic strip that has a lower current capacity than the conductor. When an over-current situation occurs, such as in a short circuit or overload, the wire begins to heat up. However, before the wire can be damaged, the bi-metallic strip melts, interrupting the flow of electricity.

Although fuses do an excellent job at what they were intended for, they are inconvenient. When a temporary fault or overload occurs, we have to manually remove them and replace them with new ones. I'm sure many members can remember "blowing" a fuse on a Sunday afternoon only to find there were no spares. If the neighbor didn't have any to loan us, we had to do without electricity in that part of the house until the hardware store opened on Monday.

Eventually, manufacturers realized this inconvenience and re-settable circuit breakers were developed. Circuit breakers, like fuses, were designed to protect the wire. Circuit breakers work on an electro-mechanical principle. When the current increases through a coil of wire, the magnet

strength of the coil increases. When this happens inside of a breaker, the magnetic field causes a switch inside the breaker to trip and interrupt the flow of electricity. Once the overload or short circuit is removed, the breaker can be reset and the flow of electricity begins again.

Although circuit breakers are convenient and reliable, they do not protect humans from electric shock. In the early 70s, the advent of ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) changed that. GFCIs detect the amount of current that is going through the "hot" wire and the neutral at the same time. If there is a differential between the two that is outside the parameters of the device, the GFCI operates very quickly and interrupts the flow of electricity before serious injury can occur. GFCIs also protect the wire from short circuits and overloads.

None of these devices can protect against arcs that can start fires. An arc fault is an unintentional electrical discharge that is characterized by low and erratic current flow. There are three types of arc faults that can occur in the home.

- **Parallel:** this is the typical short circuit, the hot wire to neutral.
- **Ground:** an arc from the wire to a ground
- **Series:** a break in a hot wire that comes back into periodic contact with another piece, which may even be at a connection.

If the current that flows through the hot wire in each these three types of arcs does not exceed the rating of the fuse or circuit breaker, the device will not operate. Only in the case of a ground arc will a GFCI operate. With the advent of electronics, the AFCI can detect a change in the sine wave of the electric current that occurs during an arc and immediately interrupt the electric current, hopefully before a fire starts.

In its 1999 version of the National Electric Code, the NFPA has mandated the use of AFCIs for all circuits that feed bedroom outlets beginning January 1, 2002. There is some question whether limiting them to bedroom outlet circuits only is going far enough. In fact, the state of Vermont and the city of Atlanta, Ga., now mandate AFCIs for all bedroom and living areas of new and remodeled housing.

As was the case when GFCIs were first introduced, the only model available at this time is a

*continued on page 16d*

breaker-type that goes in the electric panel. It is expected though, just as with GFCIs, that there will eventually be a model that replaces the existing outlet. It is also anticipated there will be a combination GFCI and AFCI breaker available in the future.

You may be asking yourself about now if you should have an electrician install AFCIs in your home. If your wiring is developing some age or if your home has taken a shot of lightning at some point, you may want to seriously consider this.

Currently, AFCIs sell for \$45 to \$50 and should only be installed by qualified personnel since installation requires working within an electric panel that has live parts, even when breakers are turned off. You may want to contact your homeowner's insurance agent to see if they offer a discount for the additional protection AFCIs offer. If piece of mind is more important to you than numbers, the additional protection offered by AFCIs may be all the incentive you need.

## IEC Memorial Scholarships

The Illinois electric cooperatives will award four \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois. Three of the four scholarships will be given to the child of an electric cooperative member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the son/daughter of a cooperative director or employee. Applications must be returned to the cooperative before January 1, 2002.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring

past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts. The Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways to do that is by lending a hand to our youth.

If you have a high school senior that plans to further his/her education by attending an Illinois school next year, please encourage them to get an application and send it in. We have had two winners at Egyptian Electric since this program began seven years ago.

## Long distance phone service

We are still making long distance phone service available. We included a brochure with your billing packets. If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late. If you have the service and are satisfied with it, please pass the brochure on to family or friends. This rate is available to anyone living in the state of Illinois. One doesn't have to be a member of Egyptian Electric to take advantage of these low rates. You can even get an 800 number for the same low rate. Give us a try. I think you will be pleased with the rates and the service.

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## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
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FROM THE  
MANAGER'S DESK

BY HARRY KUHN

## Electrical contacts

**O**ur insurance carrier has been making us aware of a disturbing trend nationwide whereby there have been an increasing number of cases where the general public is coming into contact with energized power lines. Since most primary distribution lines are energized at a minimum voltage of 7200 volts, such contacts can result in serious injuries or fatalities.

Over the years we have not had many situations where individuals have come into direct contact with our lines. But, every year we have a number of incidents where vehicles or other equipment hit our poles or get into our overhead lines. We put on a safety program for fourth graders every year and hope the students will retain some of what we present into adulthood. However, since most of our members have not attended a safety class related to electrical contacts, I am going to make an effort to bring some safety precautions to your attention.

One of the most common errors that people make is that they fail to look up or overestimate their ability to control a tall object, such as a television tower. If you're going to pull a grain auger through the yard or set it up at a grain bin, make absolutely sure that it will clear any overhead power lines. Sometimes it is hard to judge distances from the ground, so the safest bet is to lower the auger to a point where you know without a doubt that it will clear any overhead lines.

If you're putting up a television tower, measure the distance from the base of the tower to the overhead line. If the tower is taller than that distance, move it further away. The safest course is to plan for the tower to fall and to make sure it will not fall into a power line.

If you're cleaning out a swimming pool with a long pole, erecting a big tent in the back yard or putting up a garage or yard building, look up. If a power line is close enough to cause you to think about clearing it, you need to stop what you are doing and make sure that you can proceed safely. When you are dealing with 7200 volts, you do not want to bet your life on being able to accurately judge distances by simply eyeballing the situation.

We had more than the usual number of accidents where vehicles have struck our power poles this past year. Fortunately, we did not have any electrical contact injuries associated with these accidents, but the potential for such injuries is always present when an accident involves our power lines. If you are ever involved in or come across such an accident, the number one rule is to assume that the power line is still energized.

If you are the person in the car and know that the line is in contact with the car or you are not sure, stay where you are. Do not attempt to leave the vehicle unless it is on fire or in danger of catching on fire. If, for example, an energized line is in contact with a vehicle that is upright on its wheels and the tires are still inflated, there is a good chance that the tires are insulating the line from ground. If you were to step out of the vehicle, the instant your foot hits the ground, you are then the path to ground and serious injuries or death can result.

If the vehicle is on fire or in danger of catching on fire and you need to exit the vehicle, you should jump entirely clear of the vehicle. At no time should you come in contact with the ground and the vehicle at the same time. If you come upon an accident, the same advice applies. Assume all lines are energized and do not touch any vehicle that is in contact with a power line. Wait for someone from the utility to tell you that the line has been de-energized and grounded. The natural reaction is to want to help the injured parties, but your being electrocuted does not help them at all.

Always look the accident scene over carefully to determine where the power lines are located. If they are not safely out of the way, do not proceed until a utility employee tells you it is safe to do so. The same advice applies to farm accidents where farm machinery might get involved with a power line. If you are on a tractor, combine or some other machinery that is in contact with a power line, stay where you are until a utility employee shows up. If you have to get off, jump clear and stay away from the machinery until you are told by a utility employee that it is safe to approach the equipment.

All power systems are designed with protective devices that should open a line when a short circuit is detected. However, all of the devices are designed to operate when a sufficient amount of short circuit current is detected. If a line is insulated from the ground by tires, conditions are extremely dry or there is snow on the ground, there may be such a poor path to ground that not enough short circuit current flows to trip the protective device.

It is similar to a situation some of you may have experienced with underground cables to your

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home. You start to notice voltage problems on some of your circuits, but you do not suspect a bad cable because the breaker on the pole or pedestal does not trip. The problem is that there may be a pinhole in the cable or the aluminum conductor may have oxidized at the failure point and the fault is of such high resistance that not enough short circuit flows to trip the breaker.

Our linemen do not bet their life on the assumption that a mechanical device has operated as it theoretically should, and you should not do so either. Our linemen put grounding chains on lines to make sure they are de-energized before they work on them and that is the only way to ensure that the line is dead.

## The energy page - by Bryce Cramer

If you were told there was a more energy efficient washing machine being made, would visions of a washboard and tub come to your mind? We probably have a few members who can remember using (and some who may still use) these 'tools of the trade' more grudgingly than willingly and may tell us that they may be energy efficient, but aren't very efficient as far as the use of their time and energy. Fortunately, manufacturers have not regressed and moved to a fancy version of a washboard.

Today, nearly all washing machines are top loading with a vertical axis. To clean your clothes, they have an agitator that moves quickly back and forth to 'agitate' the water and get your clothes clean. This takes a transmission and seals around the moving parts to keep water from leaking out. The transmission and the seals are subject to considerable wear and tear and are usually the parts that fail and require the machines to be replaced. And, I'm sure many of you have seen the results of tangled and torn clothing that this back and forth motion of the agitator sometimes causes.

Manufacturers of new energy efficient machines have gone to a horizontal axis. In this manner, clothes are tumbled through the water, first in one direction, then in the other. This tumbling is the cleaning motion needed to remove dirt and soil from clothing. According to manufacturers, this creates less wear and tear on clothing while removing more dirt and stains. The machines also have a much simplified transmission system.

Energy is saved in several ways. First, because the machines have a simplified transmission, they use less electricity. They also use less water, and as they are better at cleaning, less detergent. In addition to the energy saved by the washing machine itself, there is less energy used by the clothes dryer

By definition, an accident is something that could have been avoided and a few simple precautions will avoid serious injury or death from electrical contact. Always consider every power line to be energized, no matter if it is on a car, in a tree or on the ground. Do not risk serious injury or death on the assumption that a mechanical device somewhere has de-energized the line.

Always look up when working with tall objects or machinery on your property. Avoid situations where you have to rely on your physical abilities to keep something from getting into a power line. If you subscribe to the theory that what can go wrong will go wrong and plan accordingly, you should be able to carry out your activities safely and avoid contact with energized power lines.

as these washers have a higher spin speed and remove more water from the clothes. A recent study by the US Department of Energy of 50 apartments in Boston revealed the residents used 50 percent less energy, 41 percent less water and 19 percent less detergent after they removed the traditional washing machines and installed energy efficient horizontal axis washers. They also reduced the clothes dryer energy consumption by 22 percent.

How does this correlate to dollars? One manufacture has calculated the cost per load of their machine at \$0.32 while traditional machines are \$0.69 per load, a savings of \$0.37. Based on the cost of energy they used, a member of Egyptian could estimate a savings of about \$0.27 per load. An average family will probably do six - seven loads of laundry per week, or about 350 loads annually. This would be a cost savings of \$95. As the machines are generally \$500 -600 more than traditional washers, it would take about 5-6 years to get your investment back. Of course, if you have a larger family and do more loads per week, you will recoup your investment in a short period while a smaller family will take longer. One other item to keep in mind is the wear and tear savings on clothing. You may not have to replace clothing after some of those accidental spills because the horizontal axis machines are more efficient at getting dirt and stains out.

Should you make the additional investment in a horizontal axis machine? As you can easily see, these machines will generally pay for themselves rather quickly, depending on the size of your family and the amount of washing you do. Plus, if you are in a rural area where city water is not available and you have to either use a well or haul water, the savings will be even larger and the payback faster.



## OFFICE CLOSINGS

Our offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 25, 2001, for Christmas and Tuesday, January 1, 2002, for New Year's Day. Our offices will close at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.



