

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC

News

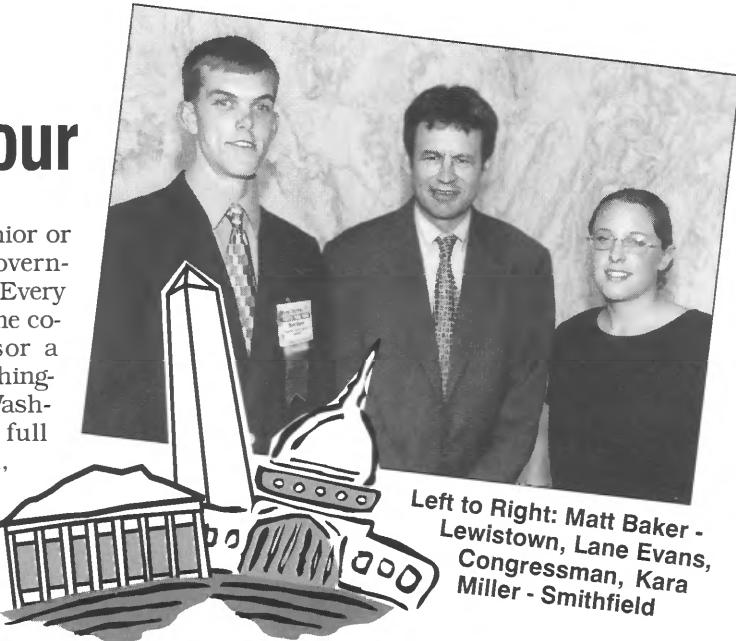
SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC
309-647-2700 ■ CANTON, ILLINOIS

2001 "Youth to Washington" Tour

Does your high school junior or senior have an interest in government and American history? Every June, the electric and telephone co-operatives in Illinois sponsor a group of young people to Washington, D.C. on the "Youth to Washington" program. During a full week in the nation's Capital, these students get an up-close look at democracy in action and get to meet with their downstate Illinois members of Congress.

Since 1957, hundreds of future leaders have been introduced to Government and the legislative process through this program. Many alumni of the program have gone on to leadership positions in our communities and government. Two current members of the Illinois General Assembly, State Representatives Tom Ryder and Art Tenhouse, are past members of the tour.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative has made the tour available to high school junior and senior children of members. If your son or daughter has an interest in government and would like to participate in the tour, please contact the cooperative as soon as possible. The cost of the tour to you the member is \$850. This cost includes all



Left to Right: Matt Baker -
Lewistown, Lane Evans,
Congressman, Kara
Miller - Smithfield

travel, lodging, meals and tickets. Souvenirs and incidental items will be the only participants' expenses.

The "Youth to Washington" Tour is recognized as one of the best youth tours of Washington, D.C. The tour is well organized with good chaperones and is a bargain. Participants will see monuments and memorials, visit historical places and government offices and meet Illinois Congressmen and Senators and their staffs. Several fun and exciting activities are scheduled, and your student will meet others from across the nation.

For more information, return the information sheet below or contact the cooperative office.

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE • ATTENTION: VICKI MURPHY • PO BOX 340 • CANTON, IL 61520

2001 "Youth to Washington" Tour • June 15-22, 2001

Student's Name			
Parent/Guardian			
Address			
City	ZIP		
Phone #			

Small WINTER kit

can offer big comfort if you're stranded

WOW!

The "fall" that we've just endured seems to many of us to have been winter, and the weather experts tell us that we're heading for much more of the same, if not worse.

With that in mind, you might want to put a small winter survival kit in your car and leave it there until the end of winter. The Illinois Highway Patrol (IHP) recommends that you do, and offers a booklet that gives you tips.

This information in this article is based on common sense and the recommendations gleaned from IHP pamphlet and a few others. The IHP recommends that you use a two or three-pound metal coffee can, and fill it with things that will ease your stay if you slide into a drift, and that will help rescuers find you if your car's half covered by blowing snow. Be sure to keep your kit in the driving compartment during the winter months. If you have a cell phone, be sure to keep it with you and keep the battery charged as much as possible.

Remember, though, that such a kit is just for help. You should always have at least a hefty blanket in your car, too, and you should dress for the weather even for the shortest of drives.

You should punch three evenly spaced holes around the outside of the can. That's so you can use the three pieces of string, each about 24" long, to suspend the can from your car headliner. To do that you'll need a couple of large safety pins. Be sure to put them in the can.

The reason you'll want to do that is so you can put a candle under the can to melt snow for drinking water. The candle will provide light and a surprising amount of warmth.

Then, you'll want to include these items: A reasonably sharp pocket knife or a pair of small scissors; three brightly colored ribbons to tie onto your door handle or radio antenna; Several packets of dry soup mix or bouillon cubes for warmth and nutrition, and some peanuts for protein.

In addition, you might want to add the following:

- Small package fruit-flavored candies, such as



jelly beans, orange slices or spice drops (Avoid chocolate, since it may melt).

- One pair athletic socks
- One pair cotton work gloves
- Three packages book matches
- One space blanket, or two large plastic garbage bags to reflect body heat
- One penlight and batteries (keep the batteries separate to avoid having them discharge when the light accidentally comes on).

When you've assembled your kit, the above items should just about fill a two-pound coffee can. If you have a three-pound can, don't waste the space! Add more stuff.

More candles should be helpful, as well as cocoa packets, tea or instant coffee. Then, cover the can with a good stocking cap, and put it in your car.

Keep in mind that as you prepare to go somewhere to take more clothing than you think you'll need. If you think a light jacket will be enough to get you to the nearest C-store, wear it. Then toss a big heavy jacket into the back seat where your blanket and can will already be. We hope you won't need to use a kit like this, but someday you may be glad you had one with you.

Remember that the IHP recommends strongly that you stay with your car. A big vehicle is easier to find than a lone pedestrian.



The profit is all yours

A lot of companies sell service. Automobile and appliance manufacturers, insurance companies, hotels, banks ... they all promote their services because they want to make a profit.

But when your member-owned electric cooperative talks about service, we're talking about a completely different meaning ... because we're nonprofit. We're not seeking your patronage in order to keep some stockholder in Rhode Island or California happy. We provide reliable, efficient service because we're committed to the well being and success of our members. That's why we were founded 65 years ago and also why we exist today.

So, when our construction crews build a few miles of distribution line, it means we're interested in helping you use energy efficiently and safely...not in earning a sales commission. Providing for your well being is our primary goal. And the profit in that is all yours.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois
Powerful solutions for over 60 years

Locally owned

• *Not for profit*

• *Democratically controlled*

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Long Distance Service Offering

Spoon River Electric Cooperative, through an association with a large consortium of individuals and businesses, is able to offer the following wholesale long distance program. The underlying carrier for the plan is QWEST Communications, the nation's fourth largest carrier.

4.9¢ 6.9¢

PER MINUTE

All calls in Illinois

PER MINUTE

All calls out of state

— No Codes to Dial —
Long Distance & 800 Service At
The Same Low Rate

- Free To Join
- 6 Second Billing
- No Monthly Fees
- No Monthly Minimums
- Major Carrier
- No Term Agreement

All Calls Same Rate — 24 Hours A Day — 7 Days A Week
Free NO Surcharge Calling Cards: 13.9¢ — 6 Second Billing



For Additional Information Regarding This Service, Call: (877) 404-2572
Mail To: Spoon River Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 340, Canton, IL 61520

Name _____	Social Security Number _____
Street _____	Estimated Monthly Usage _____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____
Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____	() _____ - _____
Services Desired: <input type="checkbox"/> Outbound <input type="checkbox"/> 800 <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Cards <input type="checkbox"/> 800 Number Requested _____	
800 Service: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing	To Ring To: () _____ - _____

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

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Spoon River Electric Co-operative, Inc.

930 South Fifth Avenue • P.O. Box 340 • Canton, Illinois 61520
(309) 647-2700 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. • Web address: web.winco.net/~srec

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC

News

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.
309-647-2700 ■ CANTON, ILLINOIS

Students tour state capital during Youth Day, Strom and McCormick are winners



Seventeen students representing Spoon River Electric Cooperative, Inc. met with area legislators during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day on Wednesday, April 4, in Springfield. While in the state's capital, they had an opportunity to watch government in action, and visited the Illinois Supreme Court. They also toured other sites, including Lincoln's tomb and the Governor's mansion. Pictured with Senator George Shadid are, front row from left: Molly Quinn and Amber Cecil of Abingdon, Lindsey Heitz of Cuba, in front, Reneigh Fickas of Springfield, Ted Brandon and Julie Cox of Canton, and Haley Vaughn of Vermont. Second row from left: Michelle McCormick of Yates City, Tara Strevels of London Mills, Sen. Shadid, and Theron Cassidy of Table Grove. Third row from left: Chris Peradi of Trivoli, Rudy Hadsell, chaperone, Spoon River Electric Cooperative, Jacob Strom of London Mills, Nic Lindsey of Cuba, Jennifer Rogers of Ipava, Buck Doubet of Astoria, Kenny Knox of East Galesburg, Kyle Schultz of Knoxville, and Sandy Barnes, chaperone, Spoon River Electric Cooperative. The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone co-ops in an effort to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

Auto debit payment

Pay your bill "Worry Free" with an auto debit to your checking or savings account. This is a great way to pay your bill while away from home or if your busy schedule gets in the way. You'll save postage, too. This is a good way to make sure your payment is received on time and avoid late penalties. All you need to do is sign up for our "Worry Free Auto Debit" and we take care of the rest. You will still receive your notice by mail to notify you of the date and amount charged to your account.

Worry Free Auto Debit Payment Plan Fill out below or attach a Voided Blank Check

Bank Name: _____ Location: _____

Savings Checking

Account Number _____ Bank Route Number: _____

I agree to have Spoon River Electric deduct from my account specified above.

Sign Here _____

SIGN UP FOR BUDGET BILLING

If you have a 12-month billing history and are in good standing, you can qualify for budget billing.

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Sign Here _____

Check out our propane prices— we're competitive!

We here at Spoon River Electric Cooperative think of ourselves as members of a service organization. With that in mind, we try to keep up with changing market trends so we can continue to offer you quality services that you want and need.

One trend we believe is coming will involve the use of fuel cells to provide electricity to locations that are either in a remote area, or somewhere where it's difficult and expensive to run power lines to. Before long, fuel cells will change the way electricity is delivered.

While fuel cells seem to be a "miracle" source of power, they will still need a source of energy, and this energy will, for the most part, come from either natural gas or propane.

With this in mind, SREC has prepared for the future by getting involved in the propane business. We have formed a new ven-

ture, Spoon River Propane, to meet those needs. We're not only interested in meeting your future needs, but your present needs as well. We offer propane at competitive rates for those who need it for heating, cooking and other uses. If you never buy or lease a fuel cell, you can still benefit from Spoon River Propane. You can buy your electricity — and gas — from the same place, and enjoy one-stop shopping.

Call Spoon River Propane at 1-888-346-6771, or write to us at Spoon River Propane, PO Box 370, Canton, IL 61520.

Planning to dig? Call Spoon River first!

Now that spring is coming—we hope—and the eight-month winter will soon be a thing of the past, many of our members may have the urge to get out and dig in their yards. We encourage you, very strongly, to call us first. We ARE NOT a member of JULIE, which serves as a utilities' clearing house for many other utilities, so a call to JULIE won't help in your efforts to locate our underground facilities. Please keep that in mind before you dig, and call us. It is both dangerous and expensive to dig into underground cables. The number to call is (309) 647-2700.



Office Closed Memorial Day

The Spoon River Electric Cooperative, Inc. office will be closed Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.

Spoon River Electric Co-operative, Inc.

930 South Fifth Avenue • P.O. Box 340 • Canton, Illinois 61520
(309) 647-2700

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Web address: web.winco.net.nsrec

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Long Distance Service Offering

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4.9¢ 6.9¢

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**— No Codes to Dial —
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Name _____	Social Security Number _____
Street _____	Estimated Monthly Usage _____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____
Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____	
Services Desired: <input type="checkbox"/> Outbound <input type="checkbox"/> 800 <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Cards <input type="checkbox"/> 800 Number Requested _____	
800 Service: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing	To Ring To: () _____ - _____

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Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Miss those kids away from home?

Our telephone service also offers a free 800 number for kids away from home to use to call you. They can call you at any time, a reassuring thought for many par-

ents. Check with us to see about getting an 800 number for your son or daughter. They'll be glad you did — and so will you.

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC

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SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC
309-647-2700 ■ CANTON, ILLINOIS



Dave Bergand
Chairman
of the Board

Dear Member:

I felt it was appropriate that I take time out of my busy schedule to update all of you on the many changes taking place in the electrical industry and Spoon River Electric Cooperative. I am a member such as yourself and have had the privilege to serve as your representative on the Spoon River Electric Board for approximately 12 years, 6 as Chairman of the Board. I have taken this responsibility seriously, as have the rest of the Board. Our main objective has been to do what is best for you, the member! We have faced many tough decisions in the past and will face even more complex decisions in the future.

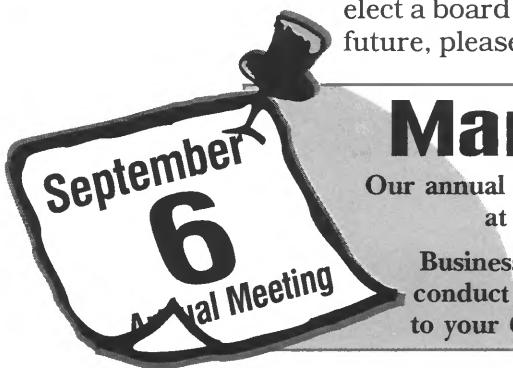
I would like to start off by thanking the Board and President/CEO Ed Cox for all of their help and cooperation. We as a team have expanded into many new business ventures and have tried to do what is best for our members. The dedicated SRE employees have adapted well to the many challenges and changes we have put their way, especially over the last four years. I believe the industry is changing at a very rapid pace.

I expect a lot from the Board and they deliver. When you as members elect a board member in the future, please send us those

that will take a serious interest in the cooperative business. They will make decisions that will affect the reliability and cost of electricity for years to come. New directors will be overwhelmed by all there is to learn, but I am sure they will rise to the task. I also would encourage both men and women, to run for the Board. We need your input.

Since the last regional meetings we held there have been many changes in the electrical world. As many of you have heard, California has had shortages of electricity. There have been shortages in Wisconsin, Illinois and out east that caused great concern regarding reliable power supply for our area. Spoon River Electric and other cooperatives nearby joined forces many years ago and formed Soyland. We did this so we would be able to buy or build a reliable energy supply for our cooperatives. We no longer own any nuclear energy supply but have energy contracts that last until 2002. Soyland built peaking generators, which run on hot days when electricity is very expensive or can not be had at all. These plants run on natural gas and have proven to be a very good investment to insure that we have power to sell

(Continued on 16b)



Mark your calendar!

Our annual meeting is set for Thursday, September 6th, at 7 p.m.
at the Canton High School Auditorium, Canton

Business meeting begins at 7 p.m. Come and help your co-op conduct its business; Visit with friends and neighbors, and talk to your Co-op employees and directors. *We hope to see you there!*

(Continued from 16a)

to you when you need it most.

On the negative side, the cost of natural gas has risen as has propane and gasoline. Even though the cost of running the peaking plant on high demand days has risen dramatically we still have electricity for our members. We have paid increased cost for this natural gas to Soyland.

I feel very fortunate that this board decided to diversify and get into other business ventures. We no longer have federally subsidized loans or borrowed money from banks to start these businesses. The revenue from the storage units, pagers and telephone long distance service has helped offset many of our increasing costs. I only wish we had started these businesses years ago! The propane business is off to a good start, but is to new of a business to offset costs. Thanks to many of you who have switched to Spoon River Propane.

I was given the privilege and responsibility to serve as Spoon River Electric's representative on the Soyland Board of Directors for the last six years. I am now Vice-Chairman of that Board. Soyland's Board has looked for ways to cut costs and decided to form an "Alliance" with Allegheny. Allegheny is a group of electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. We sold Soyland's offices at Decatur and have cut costs by merging our employees with Allegheny's.

I promised you a few years ago that we at Spoon River would pass on any cost savings we would see when Soyland pays off its nuclear power plant debt. Soyland is still paying off its debt and we expect to see some savings to Spoon River Electric by the year 2006. We still plan to pass on these savings, but I am afraid that the rising cost of energy/electricity will eat up those savings and more.

I have never been a big supporter of deregulation. Illinois is now in the process of phasing in deregulation. California was one of the first states to deregulate! I believe this benefits big business, not the "you and me" member. I am in hopes that by Soyland and Allegheny joining forces we can buy power to pass on to our members at a lower cost.

If we have to build future power plants I hope the combined abilities and people can get a cost effective plant that will provide reliable electricity to all of us for years to come.

I hope this letter better informs you to all the changes taking place in our industry. I hope it encourages you to attend our Annual Meeting on September 6, 2001 at the Canton High School auditorium. Don't wait until you have no electricity, such as California, to participate in the future of Spoon River Electric Cooperative.

Thank you

Dave Bergland
Chairman of the Board

Check out our propane prices— we're competitive!

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for the future by getting involved in the propane business. We have formed a new venture, Spoon River Propane, to meet those needs.

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Worry Free Auto Debit Payment Plan Fill out below or attach a Voided Blank Check

Bank Name: _____

Location: _____

Savings

Checking

Account Number _____

Bank Route Number: _____

I agree to have Spoon River Electric deduct from my account specified above.

Sign Here _____

SIGN UP FOR BUDGET BILLING

If you have a 12-month billing history and are in good standing, you can qualify for budget billing.

AUTO DEBIT PAYMENT

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WORRY FREE AUTO DEBIT PAYMENT PLAN FILL OUT BELOW OR ATTACH A VOIDED BLANK CHECK

Bank Name: _____ Location: _____

Savings

Checking

Account Number _____ Bank Route Number: _____

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4.9¢ 6.9¢

PER MINUTE
All calls in Illinois

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All calls out of state

— No Codes to Dial —
Long Distance & 800 Service At
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- No Monthly Minimums
- Major Carrier
- No Term Agreement

All Calls Same Rate — 24 Hours A Day — 7 Days A Week
Free NO Surcharge Calling Cards: 13.9¢ — 6 Second Billing



To Sign Up By Phone...Dial: 1-800-268-0453, when prompted,
enter Agent I.D. Number: 7331231234 and follow the instruction.

For Additional Information Regarding This Service, Call: (877) 404-2572
Mail To: Spoon River Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 340, Canton, IL 61520

Name _____	Social Security Number _____
Street _____	Estimated Monthly Usage _____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____
Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____	() _____ - _____
Services Desired: <input type="checkbox"/> Outbound <input type="checkbox"/> 800 <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Cards <input type="checkbox"/> 800 Number Requested _____	
800 Service: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing	To Ring To: () _____ - _____

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(309) 647-2700 ■ CANTON, ILLINOIS



Youth to Washington participant Jacob Strom, left, is pictured with Congressman Lane Evans on the steps of Capitol Hill.

Spoon River Electric sends Jacob Strom to Washington

Spoon River Electric Cooperative sent a student 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. Jacob Strom of London Mills was selected as a participant based on his 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 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.

Taking a closer look at your drinking **WATER**

Whether you have a private water supply, such as a well, or tap into the public water supply, you should be aware of the possibility of contamination. Even though drinking water supplies are regulated for safety by the state, by the time the water comes out of your faucet at home there could be a problem.

Approximately 4.1 million people use water from underground sources in Illinois, according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Bureau of Water. Thirty percent of communities with their own groundwater supply withdraw that supply from an unconfined aquifer - an aquifer susceptible to pollution because a natural geological barrier, like limestone, does not protect them from pollutants on land. According to the Illinois EPA, 10 percent of the community water supply wells in the state are affected by contaminants.

Those not dependant on the community supplies for their water are the approximately 400,000 private well users in the state. Private wells can threaten area water quality when improperly abandoned. Private sewage-disposal systems, such as septic tanks, can also be hazardous to the community's drinking water. To learn how to properly seal your well, contact the Illinois Water Sealing Coalition at (217) 782-5830, or visit their web site, <http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/inrin/eq/well/trial.htm>.

Proper location of wells will reduce the risk of contamination to public and private water supplies. A well must never be closer than 10 feet to sewers, 50 feet to septic tanks, or 75 feet to sewage seepage fields, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health, the department responsible for regulating private wells in the state. They suggest using a bleach solution of chlorine to disinfect a contaminated well, directions for which you can find on the department's web site, www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/factsheets/drilledwellsFS.htm.

Even if your water is supplied by a large public or municipal body, and therefore regulated for safety by the federal and state governments, there is a chance that deteriorating pipes in your home could cause contamination, according to the University of Illinois Agricultural Cooperative Extension Service. The service suggests testing your water, whether publicly or privately supplied, if the following conditions apply: your water has a bad taste or smell; your household plumbing contains lead pipes, brass fittings, or lead-solder joints; you need a water softener; your water leaves scaly residues and soap scum; the pipes and plumbing show signs of erosion. You can request that the Illinois Department of Public Health collect a sample of your water for testing, free of charge, or you can contact your local extension office for a list of state-wide water-testing labs.



The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) meets regularly to discuss rural water issues. According to Don Wood, director of government relations for AIEC, this type of involvement is part of the state's co-ops ongoing mission to improve the living standards of cooperative members. For example, in 1994 the AIEC was instrumental in passing legislation allowing residents access to the water of Lake Shelbyville. Many electric cooperatives are also involved in rural water projects.

For more information, visit www.waterandhealth.org, a web site geared toward public health and water quality news, or the Illinois EPA web site, www.epa.state.il.us/water/water-quality, or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. To order publications from the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service on the quality of drinking water, call (607) 255-7654 or visit their web site, www.nraes.org. The number for the Illinois Department of Public Health is (800) 825-3518. Send e-mail inquiries about the state's water quality to Paul Terrio, pjterrio@usgs.gov, at the U.S. Geological Survey. You can also contact your Illinois cooperative extension service for more information regarding the quality of your water supply at www.extension.uiuc.edu.

Keep it safe around **SCHOOL BUSES**

Summer'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.



Winners at the Fulton County Fair

Thomas Zeglen Sr.
Bruce Mahr
Margaret Steel

Premier Phenoix
Portable

Gas Grill
Gas Grill with Carry Case
Stainless steel cookware set

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS

Look for Spoon River Electric and Spoon River Propane's booth at the Canton Friendship Festival.

OFFICE CLOSING

Spoon River Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Monday, Sept. 3, in observance of Labor Day.

Auto debit payment

Pay your bill "Worry Free" with an auto debit to your checking or savings account. This is a great way to pay your bill while away from home or if your busy schedule gets in the way. You'll save postage, too. This is a good way to make sure your payment is received on time and avoid late penalties. All you need to do is sign up for our "Worry Free Auto Debit" and we take care of the rest. You will still receive your notice by mail to notify you of the date and amount charged to your account.

Worry Free Auto Debit Payment Plan Fill out below or attach a voided blank check

Bank Name: _____

Location: _____

Savings Checking

Account Number: _____

Bank Route Number: _____

I agree to have Spoon River Electric deduct from my account specified above.

Sign Here: _____

Emergency procedure for a propane leak

If you smell gas in your house, workplace, vehicle, or around any gas equipment or appliance, follow the emergency procedure below.

Step 1

Extinguish all smoking material and other open flames.

Do NOT operate electric switches

Do NOT light matches

Do NOT use your phone.

Any spark or flame in the area where propane gas is present may ignite the gas. This could include the spark of a light switch, telephone, fan, or refrigerator motor, even static electricity from walking across a room or flame from a burner, pilot light or cigarette lighter.

Step 2

IMMEDIATELY get everyone out of the building, vehicle, trailer or area.

Step 3

Close all gas tank or cylinder supply valves.

Step 4

Use your neighbor's phone to call a trained propane service person and the fire department.

Do NOT re-enter the building, vehicle, trailer, or area until a service person or the fire department advises it is safe to return.

Do NOT turn on the gas.

Step 5

Let the trained propane service person or firefighters check for escaped gas. Have them air out the area before you return.

- Repair the leak,
- Pressure check the system,
- Turn on the gas,
- Check all the gas appliances and
- Re-light the pilots on the appliances.

Step 6

Re-enter the area **ONLY** when the trained service person or firefighters say it is safe.

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC

News

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC
(309) 647-2700 ■ CANTON, ILLINOIS



Board of Directors

Dave M. Bergland,
chairman

Curtis D. Strode, *vice chairman*
John D. Schoon, *secretary*
Bernard Marvel, *treasurer*
Lyle H. Nelson, *assistant treasurer*

Terry Beam
Jack Clark
Scott Parrish
Kathy Smysor

Employees

W. Edward Cox, *president/CEO*

Mark Balbinot
Sandra Barnes
Kevin Bloyd
Bill Braden
Marc Burkhead
Michael Coffey
Jerold Ellis
John Franciskovich
Tanya Games
Bernita Hammond-Trigg
Edward Harper
Jon Hedges
Gary Hulsey
Cheryl Marvel
Paul Moffitt
Vicki Murphy
Martha Pritchard
Marcia Proper
Rick Roudebush
Donald Schrodт
Shannon Williamson

Spoon River Propane

*A division of Spoon River
Electric Cooperative*

R. Duane Siegel,
propane manager

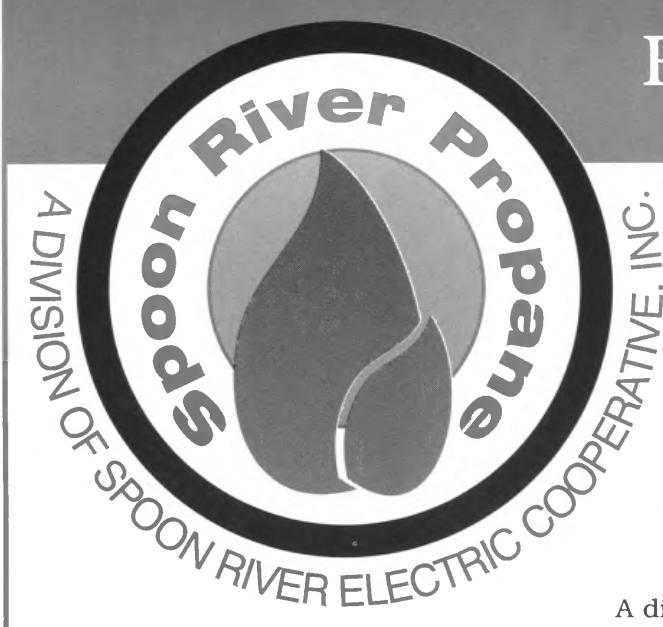
Lisa Miller, *office manager*
Brian Lehnhausen
Ed Cunningham
Donny Stambaugh
Rich Wilcoxen



Office Closing

The cooperative office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec 24 and 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday. We wish all of our members a very merry Christmas. The cooperative will be open for business on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

The cooperative office will also be closed Monday, Dec. 31 and Tuesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. We will resume normal business hours on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Best wishes to all of our members for the New Year!



R. Duane Siegel
Propane Manager

P.O. Box 370
24005 N IL 18 Hwy
Canton, IL 61520
srpropane@winco.net

**(888) 346-6771
649-5462**

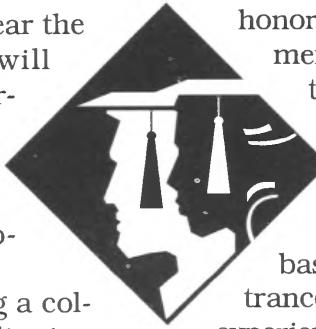
A division of Spoon River Electric Cooperative

IEC Memorial Scholarships

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. Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth.

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

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Applications are available at Spoon River Electric and your local high school.



Spoon River Electric Co-operative, Inc.

930 South Fifth Avenue • P.O. Box 340 • Canton, Illinois 61520
(309) 647-2700

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Web address: web.winco.net.nsrec

Safety presents for the ones you love



The holidays are just around the corner. Do you have shopping lists ready for each member of your family? Although they are not going to win "oohs" and "ahs" when presents are opened, here are some important gifts you may have forgotten that will show your loved ones how much you care.

■ SMOKE DETECTORS

One smoke detector is definitely not enough. December, January and February are the leading months for home fires and associated deaths in the United States. Install smoke detectors near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries at least once a year. A good rule of thumb is to change your batteries when you change your clocks. Have children help test and change the batteries so they are familiar with the location and sound of the smoke detectors.

■ FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Every kitchen should have a fire extinguisher that is rated for grease and electrical fires. It is also a good idea to have fire extinguishers near the furnace, fireplace, garage and anywhere else a fire may start in the home. Ensure that every able-bodied person in the home is trained on how to use a fire extinguisher. If you do have to use a fire extinguisher, always be sure that you have a clear way out in case you can't put out the fire.

■ CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is the result of burning fuel for furnaces, unvented kerosene and gas space heaters, stoves or automobile exhaust. More than 200 people in the United States die each year and many more become seriously sick from carbon monoxide poisoning. The risk of carbon monoxide poisoning increases during the winter as more people use furnaces, space heaters and fireplaces. The best

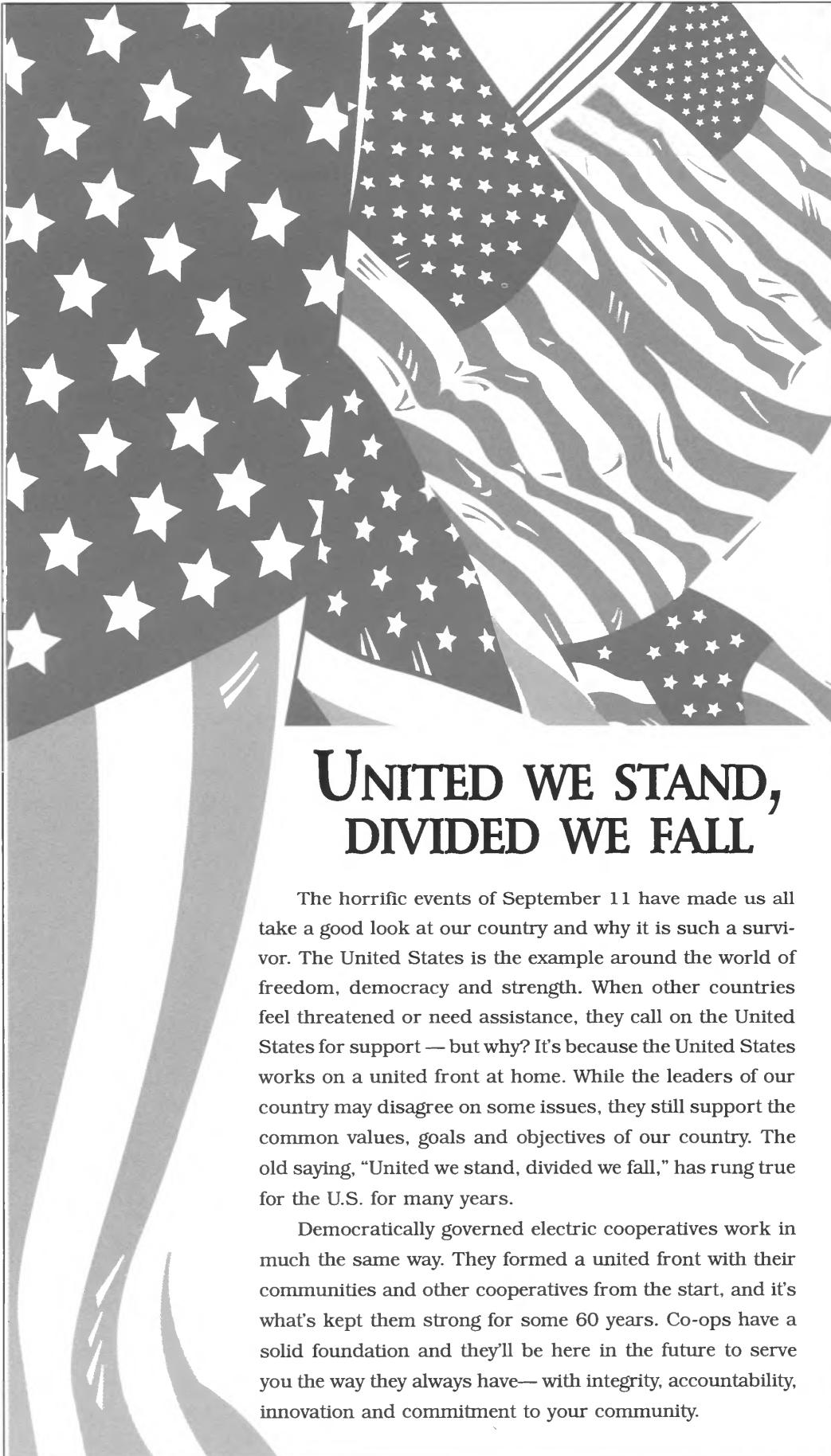
way to ensure the safety of your family from carbon monoxide poisoning is a carbon monoxide detector. Install carbon monoxide detectors near sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide detectors should meet the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards, have a long-term warranty and be easily tested and reset to ensure proper functioning. Research the various product features to see what best suits your family.

■ GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER (GFCI)

A ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) is designed to protect people from severe or fatal electric shocks or electric burns by monitoring electricity flowing in a circuit and switching off power to that circuit if it senses any changes in the electric current. For example, one of your kitchen appliances has a bare wire inside touching the metal case. The metal case of the appliance is now charged with electricity. If you touch the appliance with one hand while the other hand is touching a grounded metal object, such as your water faucet, your body has just become an unintentional electric path to the ground. A GFCI would have switched off the electric current the moment it sensed the change in the electric current, preventing personal injury.

Portable GFCIs are widely available and easily plug into any electrical receptacle. Qualified electricians can install permanent circuit breaker and receptacle type GFCIs. All GFCIs should be tested once a month to ensure they are working properly.

For more information on safety products, visit the National Safety Council website at www.nsc.org, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/safeusa/ and Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/.



UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

The horrific events of September 11 have made us all take a good look at our country and why it is such a survivor. The United States is the example around the world of freedom, democracy and strength. When other countries feel threatened or need assistance, they call on the United States for support — but why? It's because the United States works on a united front at home. While the leaders of our country may disagree on some issues, they still support the common values, goals and objectives of our country. The old saying, "United we stand, divided we fall," has rung true for the U.S. for many years.

Democratically governed electric cooperatives work in much the same way. They formed a united front with their communities and other cooperatives from the start, and it's what's kept them strong for some 60 years. Co-ops have a solid foundation and they'll be here in the future to serve you the way they always have— with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to your community.