



Manufactured homeowners beware

Many folks who live in doublewide manufactured homes may be paying for a lot more electricity than they actually need - especially this winter!

Many people who live in manufactured homes don't seal their crawl space tightly enough to prevent animals from getting in under their units. Often, stray animals will crawl in there to stay warm and dry. In the process they can damage the "cross-over" duct and leave it with a big, gaping hole.

The duct that links the side of a manufactured home's central heating system to the other half of the unit is usually a big coil of wire, resembling a giant "slinky."

It is wrapped in two layers of thin plastic film that sandwich a thin layer of fiberglass insulation. An animal (5531-57) can rip a sizeable hole in this short piece of flex duct, allowing air from the furnace or heat pump to escape into the crawl space - where it does no good at all!

And the homeowner is paying for this. In this case the heating or cooling unit must run a lot longer to satisfy the thermostat, resulting in a higher electric bill.

Even if the crawlspace is animal-tight now, the connections should be checked where the crossover duct attaches to the bottom of the heating/cooling unit to ensure it has not worked

loose. The old standard gray "duct" tape that is usually used dries out and loses its adhesive quality in a short time. It should be replaced with the new aluminized butyl tapes that will last much longer under both heating and cooling conditions.

Before going under the home to check for possible leaks, turn the furnace or heat pump to a high setting so it will stay on while it's being inspected, thus making leaks (481-5) easier to detect.

Damaged duct replacement and special tapes can be found at your local heating and cooling contractor.

Riding a stationary bike

Stationary bikes are one of the most popular aerobic exercise machines on the market. They provide a healthy cardiovascular workout and help strengthen the muscles of the lower body without excessive strain on the knees. Fitness experts offer these tips for using your bike properly:

- Adjust the seat height so that your knees remain (10532-91) slightly bent when the pedals are farthest away from you.
- Position the handlebars so that you can easily reach them with a slight bend to your elbows.
- Adjust the saddle to fit. Women are most comfortable with the saddle level or tilted slightly downward; men prefer the saddle tilted upward.
- The ball of your foot, not your instep, should rest on the pedal. Wear biking or walking shoes with firm soles.



Happy New Year!

We Get Our Power From You

Add a little light to your night



There's no place like home...and at nightfall, you'll have peace of mind with a security light from your electric cooperative.

Nothing foils a would-be burglar or trespasser like the brilliant beams of an electric cooperative security light. Today's security lights are brighter and more efficient than ever. And since the security light turns itself on at dusk and off at dawn, it's there when you need it, automatically.

A security light is an affordable way to provide safety and protection for everyone's family and possessions. Call your electric cooperative today for all the details.

Be **PREPARED**

for the unexpected

Are you prepared for an emergency? When the inevitable winter snows and ice storms arrive, will you know what to do if you have a power failure? Do you have a survival kit in your vehicle in case you are stranded in bad weather? Here are some suggestions to make sure that you and your family are prepared for whatever emergency may arise.

A survival kit for your home or vehicle should include six basics: water, food, first aid kit, clothing, tools or emergency supplies and special items.

Store a three-day supply of water in plastic containers. Allot one gallon of water per day per person: two quarts for drinking and two quarts for food preparation/sanitation.

Store a three-day supply of non-perishable food for each person. Select items that are compact, lightweight and require little or no cooking, such as ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables, juice and high energy foods such as unsalted nuts, dried fruits or hard candy.

Include these basics in your first aid kit: sterile adhesive bandages, safety pins, soap, latex gloves, sunscreen, scissors, tweezers, a needle, antiseptic, a thermometer and petroleum jelly. Also be sure to include non-prescription drugs such as aspirin or nonaspirin pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid and syrup of Ipecac (especially for young children when advised by poison control). Prescription medications should be kept current and available.

Tools or emergency supplies should include

working flashlights and extra batteries, paper or plastic cups, plates and utensils, a battery operated radio, a non-electric can opener, matches in a waterproof container and tools to turn off household gas and water if needed.

Your car survival kit should also include a fire extinguisher, signal flares, maps of the area, a shovel, battery jumper cables and a bag of salt or cat litter.

In addition, include necessary toiletries such as toilet paper, soap, feminine supplies, personal hygiene items, disinfectant and household chlorine bleach for sanitizing.

Store at least one complete change of clothing, including footwear, for each person. Rain gear, blankets, sleeping bags, hats, gloves, thermal underwear and sunglasses should be included both at home and in the vehicle emergency kit.

Include some games and books to help pass the time, especially if you have children with you that may become bored easily. If you have infants, always make sure you have extra formula, bottles and diapers at home and in your vehicle.

Store your emergency survival kit in a backpack, duffel bag or even in a covered plastic container. Water and food should be replaced every six months. Replace the batteries in your emergency kits at least once a year.

For more information on emergency survival kits and winter preparedness, visit the National Safety Council Web site at www.nsc.org and the American Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.



**Western Illinois
Electrical Coop.
524 North Madison
P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321**

Office hours
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

During office hours,
or after hours
to report outage
(217) 357-3125
(800) 576-3125



Our office will close at
noon on December 31
and reopen January 2
in observance of
New Years Day.

WISHING YOU A
*Prosperous
New Year*

Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

From Our Last Meeting



Summary of Board Meeting — October 25, 2001

Directors present: Wear, Menke, Rampley, Morrison, Newton, Gronewold, and Vaughn. Also present: Dion & Hartzell.

September, 2001 had a margin of \$85,435.00; total margins for the year through September 30, 2001 were \$258,666.00.

Approximately 90 people attended the cooperative's Member Appreciation Day.

A quarterly safety report was given to (9510-22) each director.

The date for the 2002 Annual Meeting of the cooperative members will be June 27, 2002.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

Check out wiec.net — WIEC's website



In case you haven't heard, WIEC is on the Internet. Our address is wiec.net.

Visit our webpage to find information about your cooperative, such as rates, programs, or current happenings. There are also convenient links with topics from area weather radar to energy conservation. Be sure to visit often because the *What's New* section will change. You never know, we may even have a contest for our webpage visitors where the lucky winner(s) will receive a credit on their next electric bill.

Welcome new members:

Bent, Thomas & Samantha, Warsaw
Harrison, Patricia S., Hamilton
Hutson, Jason & Jennifer, Niota
Jones, Stan A., Hamilton
Mills, Paul L., Nauvoo
Musselman, Arlyn & Carol A., Burnside
Newton, James II, Niota
Norman, Clinton, Carthage
Shaffer, Cathy, Bowen
Thoennes, Gregg A. & Marcia J., Hamilton



WIEC news

Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

2002 "Youth to Washington" tour June 14-21, 2002



Every June for the past 42 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois have sponsored a group of high school juniors and seniors to Washington, D.C. on the "Youth to Washington" program. This year will be no different. During a full week in the nation's capital, these students get a close-up look at democracy in action and get to meet with their downstate Illinois Congressmen.

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 lead-

ership 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. **(7819-54-15)**

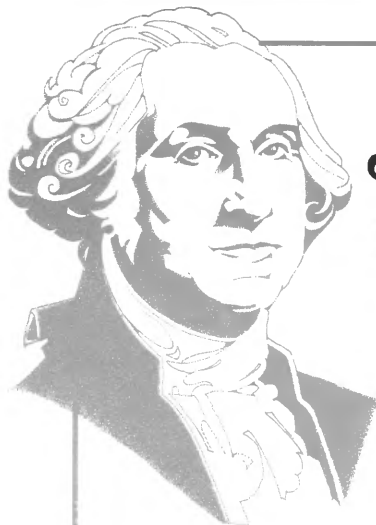
Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has made this tour available to high school junior and senior children of our members. If your son or daughter has an interest in government and would like to participate in the tour, please contact our office as soon as possible. The cost of the tour to you, the member, is \$850. This cost includes all travel, lodging, meals and tick-

ets. 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, contact the WIEC office.

Call WIEC toll free (800) 576-3125



The Presidential "Who Said It"? QUIZ

In honor of Presidents Day, let's test your knowledge of presidential quotes. Match the president to the quote:

- 1) The buck stops here.
- 2) I am a Ford, not a Lincoln.
- 3) Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.
- 4) I want a kinder, gentler nation.
- 5) A chicken in every pot and a car in every garage.
- 6) The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.
- 7) I am not a crook.
- 8) God must love the common man because He made so many of them.
- 9) I (6817-50) walk on untrodden ground. There is scarcely any part of my conduct which may not hereafter be drawn into precedent.
- 10) Our peanut crop is probably going to be off 25 or 30 percent because of the weather, not because I became President.
- 11) Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.

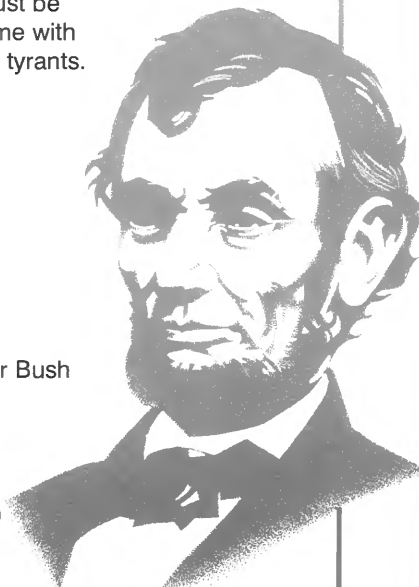
12) The war is over - the rebels are our countrymen again.

13) If elected, I shall see to it that every man has a square deal, no less and no more.

14) I am a compassionate conservative.

15) The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.

- A. Jimmy Carter
- B. Ronald Reagan
- C. Harry Truman
- D. George Washington
- E. Richard Nixon
- F. John F. Kennedy
- G. Thomas Jefferson
- H. Gerald Ford
- I. Abraham Lincoln
- J. George Herbert Walker Bush (father)
- K. Theodore Roosevelt
- L. Ulysses S. Grant
- M. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- N. George W. Bush (son)
- O. Herbert Hoover



ANSWERS:
1C; 2H; 3F; 4J; 5O; 6M; 7E; 8I; 9D; 10A; 11B; 12L; 13K; 14N; 15G

Consumer awareness of electricity deregulation decreases

Fewer consumers are aware of deregulation in the electric industry than last year, according to an annual consumer awareness survey conducted in October by Deloitte and Touche. Only 38 percent of those consumers surveyed said they were aware of restructuring in their state. That is a significant decrease from last year when 51 percent of consumers surveyed said they were aware.

Experts attribute the reversal in a five-year trend of increasing awareness to various causes, including states putting their de-

regulation programs on hold, which limited public hearings and ratepayer education programs. A lack of national discussion on the topic, as well as the events of Sept. 11, are also thought to explain the decrease in consumer awareness.

More than 55 percent of consumers, up slightly from last year, expect electric rates to increase during deregulation while the number of those who thought prices would decrease declined.

With regard to the benefits of deregulation, 36 percent said

they believed no benefits would be produced (5818-34) from deregulation, compared with 26 percent who thought lowered rates would result and 15 percent who said service would improve.

At a press conference, a Deloitte and Touche spokesperson said that in general consumers are now less informed and more pessimistic about the benefits of electric deregulation.

Source: *Energy Business Watch*; *Electric Power Daily*

Consider an electric fireplace!



Electric fireplaces are enjoying increased popularity as consumers realize they can have the atmosphere of a fireplace without the mess of the traditional wood burning variety. Electric fireplaces can be installed anywhere – living rooms, bedrooms, basements, mobile homes and cabins.

Unlike wood burning or gas burning models, an outside vent is not needed. This saves the headache of building and maintaining flues and **(587-34)** chimneys. There aren't any supply lines, propane tanks or woodpiles to get in the way. All that is needed is an electric outlet.

In addition to providing a flame, some models have heaters that provide warmth at the flick of a switch - just like a "real" fireplace.

For members of WIEC who already have electric heat (including geothermal), these electric fireplaces with heaters can be wired into the meter that measures your electric heat. The result is a beautiful, clean fireplace that uses electricity at the economical heat rate of 5 or 6 cents per kilowatt hour. The wiring and installation must be inspected by WIEC in order to receive the lower rate.

For more information, please contact WIEC.

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Board of directors

Briscoe N. Menke —
President, *Carthage*

Ross E. Wear —
Vice President, *Carthage*

Rob Gronewold —
Secretary/Treasurer, *Carthage*

Jay Morrison —
Assistant Secretary/
Treasurer, *Niota*

William R. Newton —
Director, *Burnside*

Wayne Rampley — Director,
Sutter

Haven Vaughn — Director,
Lomax

Staff

Paul Dion — *Manager*

Tommie Long —
Mgr. of Operations

Becky Dickinson —
Office Manager

Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

**From
Our
Last Meeting**



**Summary of Board Meeting –
November 27, 2001**

Directors present: Menke, Wear, Gronewold, Morrison, Vaughn, Newton, and Rampley. Also present: Dion & Hartzell.

A margin for the month of October, 2001, was in the amount of \$48,871; total margins for the year as of October 31, 2001, were \$307,629.

The Board discussed the CFC loan rate and the difference

between fixed and variable rates. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

The cooperative will have a ground source heat pump open house in March of 2002 at the Extension Center.

A resolution offering wire transfers by Internet banking was approved.

Early retirements of capital credits to the estate of Bryan J. Kimmel, the estate of Ethel E. Parsons, the estate of Marilyn Bross, and the estate of Zella A. Wollbrink were approved.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

Welcome new members:

Clark, Teresa, Carthage
Conard, Candace N., New York, NY
Evans, Jane, Stronghurst
Griffin, Charles R., Carthage
Hand, Wayann M., Gladstone
McDonald, Janet S., Nauvoo
Mencer, Alan R., Joliet
Wagler, Joani, Niota

These members are \$10 richer

These four observant members found their map location numbers recently in the WIEC News. They each received \$10 off their electric bill. Congratulations go to:

Marjorie Jo Kraushaar,
Warsaw

Bill Radel, Nauvoo

Marilyn Eddington, LaHarpe

Forrest Derry, Colusa

Each month, we print member's map location numbers in the WIEC News. If you see your number, call us and you'll be \$10 richer, too. Remember – you can't win if you don't look. Keep on reading the WIEC News.





WIEC news

Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

Before you dig

If you're thinking about landscaping your yard or building a patio, contact WIEC and the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators agency (**JULIE**) before you start. The utility lines that serve your home could be dangerous if damaged while digging. They could even be fatal. These lines can be marked or flagged, so you'll know exactly where they are.

WIEC will mark any underground line in the area, both on your side of the meter as well as ours. Call JULIE for marking water, sewer, phone or cable

lines. **JULIE** is a not-for-profit corporation that provides a free service for locating and marking underground utility facilities. You will need to provide your name, phone number, county, township, section number and nearest crossroad. **JULIE** will gather your information about planned excavations and distribute this information to the various utilities that have underground lines in the area. Each utility will then mark the location of its underground facilities with the colors listed on the right.

Yellow	Gas
Blue	Water
Red	Electric
Green	Sewer
Orange	TV, cable
White	Proposed Area of Excavation



Remember that if **JULIE** is not contacted and damage is done to underground lines, you may be responsible for the expense to repair those lines.

Contact information

JULIE: (815) 741-5000 or www.julie1call.com
WIEC: (217) 357-3125 or (800) 576-3125 or www.wiec.net.

Is deregulation working anywhere?

By: Jim Baker, president of the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation

About five years ago California enacted its deregulation plan. The results, of course, have been nothing short of disastrous.

It is often pointed out by staunch deregulation advocates, however, that California is an extreme example. That's true. Looking back, there seems to be a mile-long list of unique problems with the California deregulation model. But since California made its decision to deregulate, 22 other states have followed suit by approving deregulation plans of their own. So how are those states doing?

Let's start with Pennsylvania. It's the state most often lauded as a model of deregulation done right. Consumer Reports magazine says, however, in its June 2001 edition that Pennsylvania

electric utilities have recently requested rate increases. Since rate decreases are the number one selling point of deregulation, calling the plan a success would be quite a stretch.

In Arizona, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia, rate increases have been approved or are pending. Then there's New York, where rates rose 40 percent last summer and are expected to rise another 25 percent this summer. Five of the other 22 states have put a hold on implementing their deregulation plans. And five states list reliability problems that have stemmed from deregulation. So what's the moral of the story? That it is impossible for deregulation to work?

Truth is, we don't know. That's why I'm thankful Tennessee has taken a wait-and-see approach

on the matter. Other industries have taken deregulation in stride and even thrived - the telephone and cable industries for example. But electricity is different. If you think you could do without electricity more easily than other commodities or services if the bills got too high, then you've lived with the convenience of electricity too long to truly appreciate its absence. Electricity is a matter of life and death for some of our members. That's the most important reason for us to stay on top of this issue.

Deregulation will probably come to Tennessee one day. And when it does, we must be certain it has our mark on it. It should be legislation that considers the mistakes of the examples before it. It should protect the rural homeowner. It should protect against price gougers. In short, it should demonstrate that we've done our homework. **(6828-64)**

Employee Spotlight – Billing Department

Every month, you receive a bill card from WIEC in the mail explaining how much electricity you've used in the past month and the amount owed to WIEC for that electricity. But have you ever thought about what goes into calculating and printing that bill? Last July, we spotlighted the "Outside Guys" and told a little

about them and the jobs they do. This month, we're moving inside to spotlight the billing department. As part of an ongoing series, we are going to let you peek at the WIEC office and get a glimpse of what happens to produce a bill, and the steps we sometimes have to take to collect those bills. We have three em-

ployees, Donna Cramer, Tanna Ellefritz, and Karmen Metternich, whose efforts go into making sure that each bill is accurate when it is mailed and that payment is processed correctly once it reaches our office.

Below is the process that we will go through in a typical month. **(5625-31)**



Karmen and Garry Miller, area serviceman, discuss a potential dead meter at a member's location.

1/30: Meter reading - WIEC has 17 different routes which are read by a meter reader from your area. The meter reading books are brought in and the readings are entered into the computer. Donna enters roughly 3,600 readings each month.

2/4: Check for highs and lows - Karmen, the billing coordinator, runs computer reports that look at every reading and compare the current usage with the member's usage in previous months and years. If that usage falls outside the parameters set, it will show up on the report. She analyzes these accounts and double checks these meter readings to ensure accuracy. She may have one of the area servicemen double check the reading – just to be sure.

2/7: Bills are calculated - It takes 1 hour for the computer to calculate bills.

2/7: Bills are printed - The bills are loaded into the printer and printed. It takes 90 minutes to print.

2/8: Bursting of bills - Donna then separates the bills and puts them into sorted piles for mail delivery.

2/8: Mailing of bills - Each group is then banded and taken to the Post Office. The average postage cost per month is \$425.

2/25: Bills are due the 25th.

2/26: Penalty assessments - If payment is not made by the due date, a 5 percent penalty is added to the member's account. Each member is allowed one late payment in twelve months without penalty. The gross amount on your bill card represents the amount needed to pay with the penalty added.



Bursting the bills each month is a job that takes Donna about five hours.

2/27: Collections - All members with an outstanding bill after the due date are mailed a delinquent notice. If it is their first time being late, they are mailed a courtesy letter requesting payment. The purpose of this letter is to simply remind the member that payment has not been made. In this hectic world, we all forget once in a while.



Karmen talks with a new member on the phone.

Payment of delinquent amount is expected on or before the 10th of the following month. From time to time, a payment is mailed, and for whatever reason, does not make it to WIEC's office by the 25th and the member may receive a delinquent notice or first late letter. If this happens, simply call our office and explain the situation. Sometimes the payments and delinquents can cross in the mail. If the payment is post-marked on or before the 25th, the payment is not considered late and no penalty will be assessed.

3/11: Delinquents are due.

3/12: Disconnection notices are printed. If payment is still not received and the member has not made contact with our office, a disconnect notice is printed.

3/14: Area Servicemen deliver notices and try to collect amounts owed. If a member is not home, this notice and a note is left explaining that payment must be made by due date or service will be disconnected. If member is habitually delinquent, service may be disconnected at this time if payment is not made. A \$30 collection trip fee is charged if our servicemen have to deliver these notices.



Tanna enters a payment received from the drive up box.

3/21: Disconnection - Those who have not paid the delinquent amount are disconnected. Also, at any time, a member may call our office and make payment arrangements. A simple phone call will keep a collection trip charge from being added to their account. These arrangements are recorded and members are expected to follow through with their promises. Overall, WIEC's members have a very good payment record. On average, we have less than 1 percent per year written off as bad debt.

3/31: Billing process starts all over again.



Donna accepts payment from member. Many members still prefer the personal touch.

Throughout the month, payments are received. Donna's and Tanna's main responsibilities are to make sure those payments are handled correctly.

Payments are received in several different ways. Many members choose to mail their payments. Others utilize our drive up box or drop box. Still, we have others who like to come inside and hand their payment personally to a WIEC employee.

Payments come in different types as well. Cash, check, money order or credit card are all acceptable forms of payment.

Once the payment is received, Donna keys in the account number and amount into the computer. We appreciate the members who send in their bill stub with the payment. This saves Donna time by not having to look up every member's account number before the payment is entered.

Last year, we began offering our members the convenience of paying their bill by credit card. This has been ex-

tremely popular. We also have members who choose to use the ACH Transfer system to pay their bills. This automatically debits their bank account on the due date to pay their electric bill.

Just like the outside guys, Donna, Tanna and Karmen receive computer training annually to help them do their job better. In the end, the accuracy and knowledge they show on the job is an asset to the cooperative and the members they serve.



Tanna Ellefritz, Karmen Metternich, and Donna Cramer are the smiling faces of the billing department. Come say hello! (9636-25)

You are invited

WIEC
and
Peters Heating and Air Conditioning
will be holding a
**GEOHERMAL
OPEN HOUSE**
March 18th
4:00 to 8:00
at the
Hancock County Extension Center.

Representatives from
WIEC and Peters Heating and Air Conditioning
will be there to discuss how Geothermal will work for you!

Last year more than 50 families came to our open house to find out more about geothermal and why it's so energy efficient. When combined with WIEC's 6 cent rate, it's the way to go.

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Board of directors

Briscoe N. Menke —
President, *Carthage*

Ross E. Wear —
Vice President, *Carthage*

Rob Gronewold —
Secretary/Treasurer, *Carthage*

Jay Morrison —
Assistant Secretary/
Treasurer, *Niota*

William R. Newton —
Director, *Burnside*

Wayne Rampley — Director,
Sutter

Haven Vaughn — Director,
Lomax



**From
Our
Last Meeting**

**Summary of Board Meeting –
December 27, 2001**

Directors present: Menke,
Wear, Gronewold, Morrison,
Vaughn, Newton, and Rampley.
Also present: Dion & Hartzell.

A deficit for the month of
November, 2001, was in the
amount of \$5,174.00; total margins
for the year as of November 30,
2001, were \$302,455.00.

It was approved to transfer
\$1,000,000 of the CFC loan from
variable rate to a fixed rate loan
for five years.

There will be a ground source
heat pump open house March
18, 2002. An electric fireplace
will be on display in the
cooperative's lobby.

An ERC loan to Eddie and
Carolyn Zimmerman for a
ground source heat pump
was approved.

(Approved minutes are
available from the WIEC office.
Regular board meetings are
held on the fourth Thursday of
each month at the WIEC office.)

**Director nomination and
election process**

In accordance with Article IV,
Section 4, of your cooperative's
by-laws, a nominating committee
must be appointed between
30 and 120 days prior to the
Annual Meeting of Members
(June 27, 2002).

Directors shall be elected by
and from the membership by bal-
lot and shall serve for a term of
three years, or until their succes-
sors shall have been elected and
qualified. The terms of directors
from Districts #6 and #7 will ex-
pire this year.

District No. 6, currently repre-
sented by Robert Gronewold, is
Augusta, St. Mary's, Hancock, and
Harmony Townships in Hancock
County, Illinois.

District No. 7, currently repre-
sented by Wayne Rampley, is

Wythe, Wilcox, Rocky Run, and
Walker Townships in Hancock
County, Illinois.

The nominating committee
must post a list of nominations at
the cooperative office at least 20
days before the annual meeting.
Any 15 cooperative members may
act together and nominate another
member by petition. These nomi-
nations will be posted with those
made by the nominating commit-
tee. Nominations made by petition
at least 10 days before the annual
meeting will be included on the
official ballot. Later nominations by
petition shall be treated as nomi-
nations from the floor. The chair-
man shall call for additional
nominations from the floor. No
member may nominate more than
one candidate. **(8610-12)**

Office closing

WIEC offices will be closed
on March 29th in observance
of Good Friday.

**Map Location
Contest**

Every month we are printing
four member's map location
numbers in the newsletter. If
you find your map location
number call the WIEC office
by the 25th of the following
month, tell us where it is and
we will give you a \$10.00 bill
credit. Keep on reading the
WIEC News.

Welcome new members:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Couchman, Sheila, Hamilton
Electronic Engineering Co,
Des Moines | Leenerts, Myron E. & Teresa M.,
Hamilton |
| Gann, Tony & Lisa, Carthage | Rettig, Ronald J. & Alice M.
Hart, Stronghurst |
| Haase Farm, Kenneth & Randall,
LaHarpe | Rouse, Diane, Carthage |
| Hometown Auto – Joshua J.
Kraft, Niota | Schieffer, Rich, Carman |
| Jefferson Trust c/o
James Jefferson,
Carthage | Sheppard, Brian, Dallas City
Spray, Donna, Sutter |
| | VanVooren, Greg & Ann,
Carthage |
| | Weeks, Ryan, Warsaw |



WIEC news

Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

WIEC's 2001 Allocation of Margins

This year, instead of mailing out a separate allocation notice, WIEC will print each member's allocation for 2001 on the bottom left side of their April bill. This should be mailed around April 9th. By printing the allocation amount right on the bill and not mailing out a separate form, we save labor expenses, post-

age and printing costs.

For members who have had their service disconnected and no longer receive a bill, we will continue to send a separate allocation notice.

Remember, capital credits are held by the cooperative and will be returned to the member when Western Illinois Electrical

Coop's board of directors decide that the coop. is strong enough financially to do so. This is for our members' information only and does not need any (7635-60) action on their part. Please do not pay the allocation amount or subtract this amount from the bill. If there are any questions, please call our office.

Nominating committee appointed

Your board of directors, at its February meeting, appointed the following members to serve on the 2002 nominating committee: District No. 1- John Lenahan, Lomax; District No. 2 – Loren Sinele, Niota; District No. 3 - Richard Douglas, Burnside; District No. 4 - Rodney McGaughey, Carthage; District No. 5 – Ron Howell, Carthage; District No. 6 – Robert Menn, Plymouth and

Gary Akers, Carthage; and District No. 7 – Wayne Spory, Sutter and Phil Zinn, Basco.

Two members are appointed from the districts whose board terms expire each year, with one being appointed from remaining districts. These members will nominate at least one member for a three-year term to represent Districts 6 and 7.

Directors whose current terms

expire and who are eligible for re-election are: District 6 – Rob Gronewold, Carthage; and District 7 – Wayne Rampley, Sutter.

These names are provided in advance of their meeting so that members who wish to make any recommendations to this committee can do so. The committee will have its organizational meeting at 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 2002, at the WIEC office in Carthage.

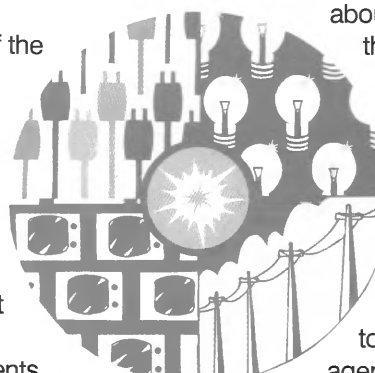
Learn how to be safe

Electricity is a major part of our daily lives. When it's used properly and safely, it's a great asset. But when safety rules are disregarded or our attention wanders while using or working (9522-39) around electrical equipment, the results can be devastating.

Hundreds of people are killed and thousands injured each year in electrical accidents that could have been avoided. It's easy to forget about the overhead service line when carrying that aluminum ladder to the other side of the house, or to get caught up in the

excitement of launching a kite without noticing the power lines nearby.

Members of the Illinois Electric Council (IEC) have created a Web site with extensive electrical safety information. It's a great resource for teachers, students, homeowners, farmers, contractors, business owners,



public safety officials – anyone who has questions or needs to know about electrical safety. Isn't that everyone?

WIEC is one of the proud sponsors of Safe.Electricity.org.

"We became involved in Safe.Electricity because we wanted to stress the importance of electrical safety to our members," Manager Paul Dion explains.

"We invite our members to check it out." Visit www.safeelectricity.org.

Call WIEC toll free (800) 576-3125

WIEC needs to know!

WIEC needs to know any time a member or family member is using medical equipment that depends on electricity to operate. This applies to oxygen tanks, apnea monitors or any other medical (656-23) wonders a physician may prescribe.

Just call the office and ask to be put on the prearranged out-

age list. Enrolled members will receive a call ahead of time when the electricity will be out for a planned maintenance. That way, members will know when the electricity will be out and for how long.

For unplanned outages due to weather or other acts of Mother Nature, we make every

effort to get your power restored as quickly as possible. WIEC understands that electricity is not just a convenience - it's a necessity.

When the medical equipment is no longer needed, please call the office to be removed from the prearranged outage list.

POWER *is in your* HANDS



*I*t's an essential and fundamental power that flows from your electric cooperative.

That basic democratic power, which includes one vote by every single co-op member-owner, is one of the most important characteristics that makes your electric co-op different from any other kind of utility.

Also, you have the power to discuss issues with friends and neighbors at co-op annual meetings, vote for the governing board, or run for office yourself.

A co-op is as good as its members. And that's pretty powerful by anyone's standards.

So, make sure you exercise your share of power. It won't cost you a cent, and it's one of the best investments you can make.

An electric evening with the Larsons ^{**}

One night, Mr. and Mrs. Larson arrived home from work at the same time. While Mr. Larson was retrieving the mail from the box at the end of the driveway, the yard light (45 kwhs per month) was just starting to come on.

From the garage, Mr. Larson carried the groceries into the house while Mrs. Larson plugged in the car's engine heater (200 kwhs per month). In the house, Mrs. Larson turned on the lights (100 kwhs per month) and glanced at the electric clock (two kwhs per month). She walked to (8614-34) the electric range (100 kwhs per month) and started preheating the oven while her husband put the groceries away in the refrigerator (130 kwhs per month) and deep freeze (150 kwhs per month).

Next, Mr. Larson went to take a hot shower while Mrs. Larson threw a load of clothes into the washer (10 kwhs per month) right beside the electric dryer (80 kwhs per month). Just then, the well pump (15 kwhs per month) came to life to keep up

with this new demand of water. Soon, the electric water heater (400 kwhs per month) started replacing the hot water being used. As Mrs. Larson

the news on the television (30 kwhs per month). Mrs. Larson used the microwave oven (20 kwhs per month) to heat some

vegetables and then she set up the ironing board and iron (five kwhs per month) to use later that evening.

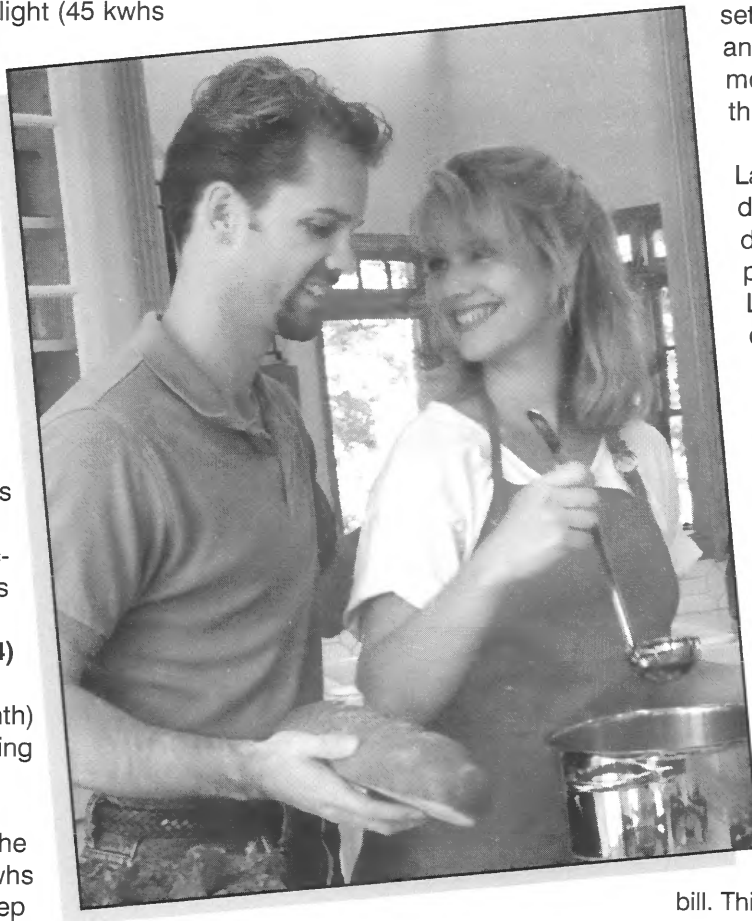
After supper, Mrs. Larson stacked the dirty dishes in the dishwasher (30 kwhs per month) and Mr. Larson sat down to open the mail. "We got our electric bill today," he told Mrs. Larson. "I don't know where we use all that electricity."

"Maybe not," Mrs. Larson said. "But can you imagine living without it?"

******In case you're curious, the Larsons used 1,343 kwhs per month and at WIEC's rates would have a \$166.96 electric

bill. This is without any teenagers (who take lots of hot showers), or an air conditioner or dehumidifier running. The kwhs used by the Larsons are approximate. Please don't compare your usage to the Larsons as usage may vary greatly from one household (and appliance) to another.

Source: 2000 data; North Dakota REC/RTC magazine



quickly turned to return to the kitchen, she almost tripped over the humidifier (14 kwhs per month).

Mr. Larson had finished his shower and was pouring himself a cup of coffee from the automatic coffeemaker (12 kwhs per month) before going into the living room to watch



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Wayne Rampley — Director,
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Haven Vaughn — Director,
Lomax

Staff

Paul Dion — *Manager*

Tommie Long —
Mgr. of Operations

Becky Dickinson —
Office Manager

Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

**From
Our
Last Meeting**



**Summary of Board Meeting –
January 24, 2002**

Directors present: Menke, Wear, Gronewold, Morrison, Vaughn, Newton, and Rampley. Also present: Dion & Hartzell.

A margin for the month of December, 2001, was in the amount of \$6,838; total margins for the year as of December 31, 2001, were \$309,293.

The Board reviewed the rate of discount for early retirement of capital credits.

The Board reviewed the policy on attorney services.

An ERC loan to Steve and Valerie Peterson for a ground source heat pump was approved.

The Board discussed customer choice and a letter to the membership. The decision was made not to offer customer choice at this time and not enter the deregulated market.

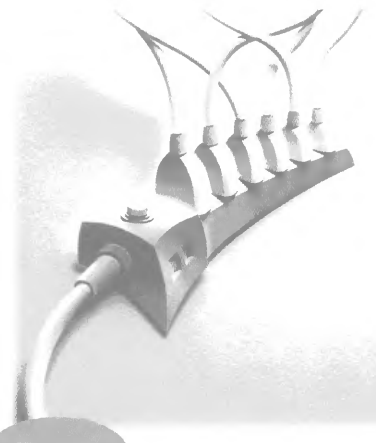
Mr. Vaughn reported there would be a Soyland/CCS regional informational meeting in Springfield on February 20th and encouraged all directors to attend.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

Energy Myth

Myth:

When my appliance is turned off, it's off.



Fact:

It's been found that most devices continue to consume

power when they're switched off, sometimes as much power as when they're on! A surprisingly large number of electrical products—from air conditioners to VCRs—cannot be switched completely off without unplugging the device. These products draw power 24 hours a day, often without the knowledge of the consumer. It's called power consumption standby power. One easy remedy for this is to unplug appliances when you are out of the house—easily done if many items are grouped together on one power strip.

Resetting the VCR each time it's used may not be worth the trouble, but now you know the facts.

Welcome new members:

- Fecht, W. Jerry, Carthage
- JBD Farms c/o Bill Weid, Phoenixville, PA
- Kelley, Tyson P., Nauvoo
- Markham, Troy & Mindy Russell, Niota
- Northup, Harold E. & Judith A., Dallas City
- Peterson, E. Steve & Valerie L., West Point
- Valdes, Arturo Jr., Huntsville
- Wagner, Sally, Quincy



Honoring Old Glory

Each Memorial Day, there are customary parades and flag ceremonies. Attendance at these gatherings has dwindled in past years. It seems there are more important happenings to attend, such as the Memorial Day sales in the stores or picnics at the neighbors. This year, however, Memorial Day will take on a special meaning. In light of the tragedy of September 11th, it is our hope that more people will take this day to remember the sacrifices that have been made on their behalf. Since that fateful day, there has been a rediscovering in our country of the American flag and all that it stands for. Below is (7717-54) art of the Congressional Code advising Americans how to treat Old Glory with the respect she so rightly deserves.

Congressional Standards for the use of the U.S. flag in a joint resolution - June 22, 1942

The flag of the United States is the emblem of our identity as a separate nation, which the United States of America has been for more than 200 years.

- Therefore, citizens should stand at attention and salute when their flag is passing in a parade or being hoisted or lowered.
- The custom is to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on flagstaves in the open, but it may be displayed at night upon special occasions to produce a patriotic effect.
- The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.



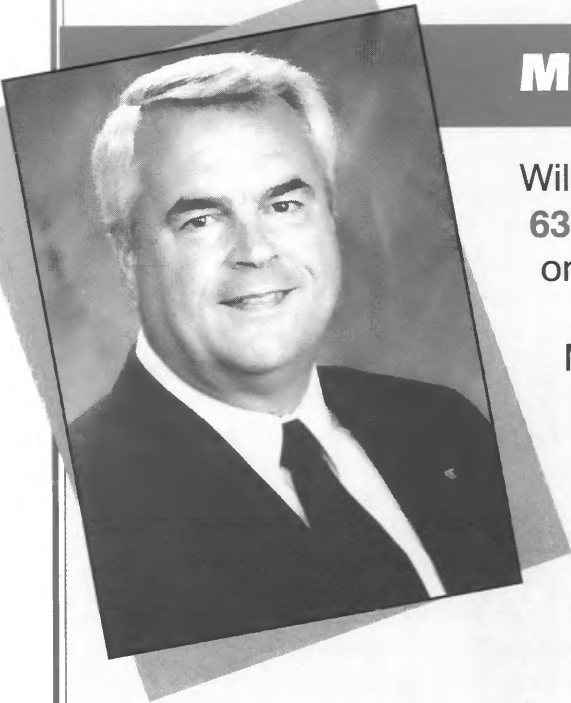
- It should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement.
- It should be displayed, weather permitting, on all holidays: New Year's Day; Inauguration Day; Lincoln's Birthday; Washington's Birthday; Armed Forces Day; Easter Sunday; Mother's Day; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon); Flag Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Constitution Day; Columbus Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving; Christmas; and state holidays and admission days.
- It should be displayed at every public institution and in or near every polling place on election days, and at schoolhouses during school days.

- In a procession the flag is to the right of another flag or, if in a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.
- The flag should not be displayed on a float except from a staff, nor draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle.
- When the flag is displayed on a vehicle, the staff should be fixed firmly to the chassis.
- No other flag should be placed above the flag of the United States or, if on the same level, to its right.
- When flown at half-staff, the flag should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to half-staff position. It should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. Half-staff is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.
- It should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- It should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- When the flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

If attending a Memorial Day parade or flag ceremony, please stand at attention, remove your hat, and place your hand over your heart. Please remember why she's called "Old Glory".

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. Is pleased to announce that

MIKE SHEA



Will be our featured speaker at the
63rd Annual Meeting of Members
on **June 27th, 2002**

Mike's radio program, "It's a Beautiful
Day for Living" entertains tri-state
listeners on WCAZ radio. **(10532-86)**

We invite members to come to our
Annual Meeting and listen to him
in person.



Recently, four WIEC **(3926-15)**
employees were honored for
length of dedicated service to
the coop. and it's members.
Standing are Eric Johnson, 15
years and Terry Long, 25
years. Sitting are Garry Miller,
40 years and Harold Enzeroth,
35 years. Job well-done
gentlemen; we salute you!



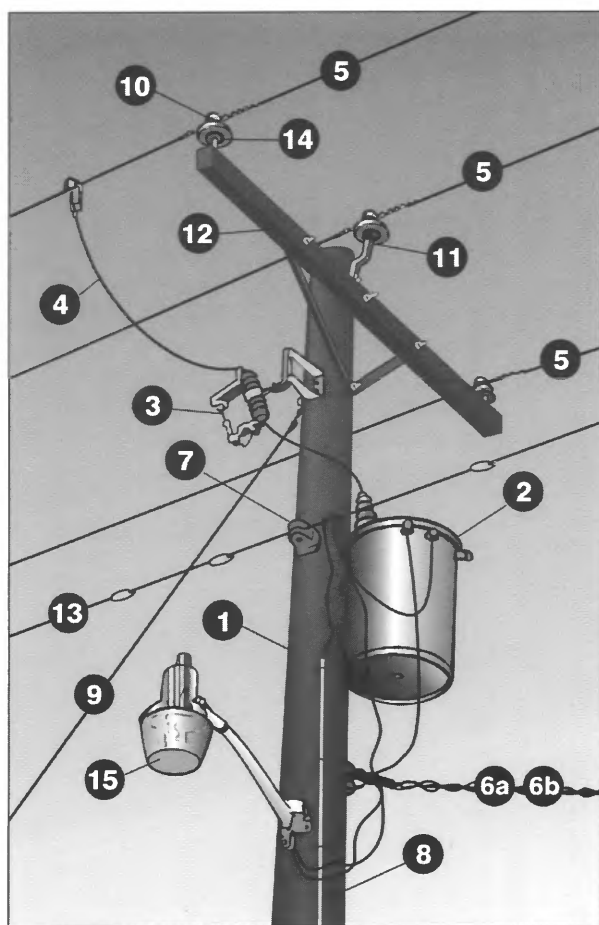
Power Line Anatomy 101

What do you see when you look at a power line? What are all those attachments, and why are they important?

The power lines that carry electricity from the substation to your home or business are called distribution lines. They are part of a system of poles, wires, transformers and other equipment used to deliver electricity.

Sometimes the power lines are buried underground. However, more frequently they are run overhead.

Below is a description of the main components of an electrical distribution system.



1. Utility pole: The half-ton wooden pole is the backbone of the electrical line. It is partially buried to support all of the equipment. It usually is about 40 feet in length, and typically is made from logs made of cedar, pine or fir trees.

2. Transformer: The cylindrical metal tank-shaped device steps down the voltage to a level safe for delivery to the customer, either 120 or 240 volts. Many transformers have a lightning arrester, which protects them from a strike.

3. Fused cutout: This provides overload protection. A link inside a fiberglass barrel operates the cutout, which

isolates the tap from the main line. When a loud blast is heard from a utility pole, it is the fused cutout operating.

4. Wire and clamp: This wire is secured by a clamp, and connects the main line to the transformer.

5. Primary conductor: This is the main series of wires that carries electricity from the supplier to the consumer through the distribution system. A three-phase line—typically used to serve large power users, such as commercial and

industrial accounts—has three separate current-carrying conductors. A single-phase line—which serves most homes—has just one current-carrying conductor.

6. Secondary tap (hot and neutral): This conductor carries electricity between the transformer and the consumer's electric meter.

7. Strain insulators: These ceramic objects hold the conductors in place and insulate them from the pole.

8. Pole ground wire: This wire is connected to a metal rod driven eight feet into the ground. Its job is to ground the system.

9. Guy wire: This stranded wire helps stabilize the pole. Hardware connects it to the pole and an anchor in the ground.

10. Insulators: These porcelain or rubber objects support the electric wires and prevent an undesired flow of electricity.

11. Pole-top pins: These support the insulators on the pole.

12. Crossarm and braces: This is the horizontal piece on the pole that makes the structure look like a cross. It holds the insulators, and keeps the lines on a three-phase line from touching one another. It usually is made of the same wood as the pole.

13. Main line neutral conductor: This wire is the neutral conductor in a distribution circuit.

14. Insulator pins: These support the insulators on the crossarm.

15. Security light: Although not on all power poles, a dusk-to-dawn light is visible on many power poles.

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Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

**From
Our
Last Meeting**



**Summary of Board Meeting –
February 28, 2002**

Directors present: Menke, Wear, Gronewold, Morrison, Vaughn, Newton and Rampley. Also present: Dion & Hartzell.

A margin for the month of January 2002 was in the amount of \$39,029.

Responses to the customer choice letter have been positive with many good comments concerning the letter.

The Safety Fair for fifth grade students will be September 27, 2002.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the geographical area for director districts should not be changed.

The Nominating Committee (10431-38) was appointed and a meeting was set for Monday, April 8, 2002, at 7:00 p.m.

Early retirements of capital credits to the Estate of Ida L. Barns and to the Estate of Mabel Malcolm were approved.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

Welcome new members:

Christy, Laden, *Stronghurst*

Graham, Gary Lynn & Rhonda Sue, *Pekin*

Herdrich, Sean & LaJuanah J., *Dallas City*

Husted, Dawn M., *LaHarpe*

O'Hern Stock Farms c/o Larry J. O'Hern, *Vermont*

Stark, Ric D., *Nauvoo*

Welborn, Michelle L. & Matt Kirchner, *Niota*

Wiggins, Kathy R., *Stronghurst*

Office closing



**WIEC will be closed in observance of
Memorial Day on May 27th.**



WIEC news

Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.



2002 ANNUAL MEETING

- June 27th at the Hancock County Extension Center.
- Meeting begins at 7:30 with registration beginning at 6:00.
- All registered members will receive a \$5 bill credit.
- Grand prizes are five \$100 bills, with other prizes to be handed out.
- Two members will be elected to the board of directors.

Come and listen to the Cooperative's Board President, Treasurer, and Manager give their annual reports regarding what's happening at your co-op.

We Get Our Power From You

UNITED



Nominating Committee

Nine members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. were appointed to the 2002 nominating committee. The committee met at the WIEC office on April 8th and April 15th to make nominations for directors. Two directors will be elected at the cooperative's annual meeting on June 27th.

Serving on the committee were - John Lenahan, Lomax; Loren Sinele, Niota; Richard Douglas, Burnside; Rodney McGaughey, Carthage; Ron Howell, Carthage; Robert Menn, Plymouth; Gary Akers, Carthage; Wayne Spory, Sutter and Phil Zinn, Basco.

The following were nominated for director positions:

District 6 – Rob Gronewold

District 7– Stan Carr and Janet Spory

Any nominations made by petition will be included on the official ballot if they are brought to the WIEC office at least 10 days before the meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.



The 2002 Nominating Committee. Seated (L-R) John Lenahan, Rod McGaughey, and Robert Menn. Standing (L-R), Loren Sinele, Phill Zinn and Wayne Spory.

Annual Meeting Prizes – 2002

NO.	GIFT	DONOR
1	Document Bag	Marine Trust Co. of Carthage
2	\$25 Cash	First State Bank of Western IL
3	Crock-ette One Quart Slow Cooker	Electric Lab & Sales Corp.
4	25' Outdoor extension cord & Quartz work light	Heintz Electric Company
5	12" Oscillating desk fan	Fletcher-Reinhardt Company
6	\$25 Cash	Arnold Brothers Cooling & Heating
7	Wooden CD case	Cricket Hollow/WIEC
8	Plant	Frese Ornamental Nursery, Inc.
9	6 Beanie Babies	Ridders Business Supply
10	2 caps & 6 golf balls	J.K. Creative Printers
11	\$20 Cash	Camp Advertising - Carolyn Zimmerman
12	Bagel switch toaster	United Utility Supply
13	Adjustable outdoor lamp post	Gem City Electric Company
14	Hats, gloves and toy trencher	Vermeer of Central IL, Inc.
15	Jacto knapsack sprayer	UAP/Timberland
16	Coat	Smokin' Gun Hunting Club/WIEC



5 Grand prizes, \$100 Cash..... WIEC

Can't make it to the Annual Meeting?

You can still make your vote count!

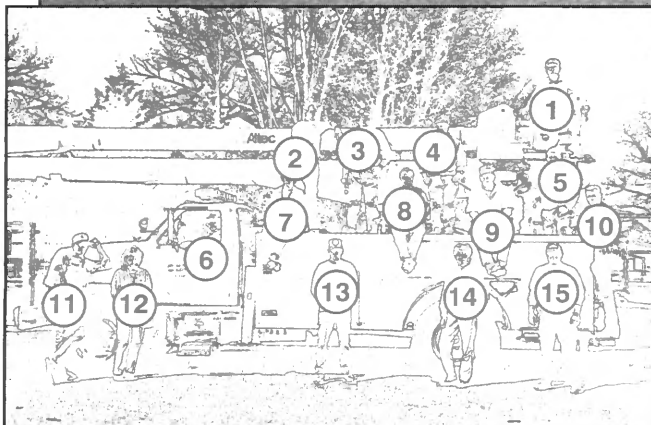
If you can't come to the WIEC annual meeting on June 27th, you can still make your vote count. There are two ways to do this.

1) Find someone who can attend and put their name on the first line of your proxy card. Then sign the card and give it to them.

2) Bring your signed proxy card to the office and we will give it to an attendee the night of the meeting.

Either way, your vote will count!

Behind the numbers...



At WIEC, we have the numbers to succeed. But those numbers mean nothing without the dedicated employees who go beyond the call of duty to serve our members.

We would like to recognize those employees who answer your questions, fix your problems, and make superior customer service a priority.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Tommie Long
22 years | 4. Greg Bolton
12 years | 7. Becky Dickinson
7 years | 10. Scott Carle
3 years | 13. Jerry Payne
27 years |
| 2. Eric Johnson
15 years | 5. Paul Dion
27 years | 8. Donna Cramer
26 years | 11. Garry Miller
40 years | 14. Karmen Metternich
4 years |
| 3. Dick Chockley
32 years | 6. Harold Enzeroth
35 years | 9. Terry Long
25 years | 12. Tanna Ellefritz
3 years | 15. Mark Kissinger
11 years |

63 years of service
1,180+ miles of line
3,086 poles and
3,300+ members



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Your electric company

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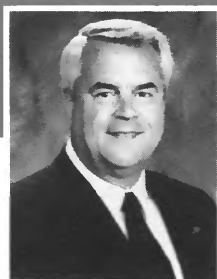
Wayne Rampley — Director,
Sutter

Haven Vaughn — Director,
Lomax

**Western Illinois
Electrical Coop.**

Is pleased to announce that

Mike Shea



Will be our featured speaker at
the 63rd Annual Meeting
of Members
on June 27th, 2002

Did you know....?

WIEC 2001 Statistics

Miles of line energized	1,181
Number of members served	3323
Number of new services installed	45
Number of consumers per line	2.8
Total kwh purchased from Soyland	42,393,417
Average residential usage (per month)	876kWh
Number of members who have electric heat that require separate heat meters	379
Total water heater credits returned to members	\$75,070.00
Number of miles traveled by WIEC vehicles	128,019
Number of miles traveled by WIEC meter readers	31,000
Revenue collected per mile of line	\$3,925
Capital investment per mile of line	\$11,175
Geothermal systems served by WIEC	137
Average amount used per month to heat & cool homes using geothermal	\$39.54



Free blood pressure checks

The Hancock
County Health Department has
agreed to come to our annual
meeting again this year to make
available free blood pressure
checks to our members.

Want to Win \$5?

It's so easy – just come to
the Annual Meeting! Every
registered membership will
receive a \$5 bill
credit on their
July bill just
for attending.



**The WIEC office will close
Friday, June 28th at Noon.**

**Watch for the Annual Meeting
Notice in your mailbox.**



It will contain the registration card, proxy card, and other
important information. To save time, please bring the
registration card with you to the meeting!



WIEC news

Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

Soyland Power Cooperative enters long-term power contract.

Soyland Power Co-op., through its alliance with Continental Cooperative Services (CCS), has entered into a six-year contract to purchase energy from AmerenEnergy Marketing. Ameren will supply the energy and transmission reliability needs of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. and other Soyland affiliated distribution coops in Illinois. The prices were locked in last January when contract pricing "were some of the lowest we've seen in some time," said Dick

"This is great news for WIEC members,"

says Manager Paul Dion.

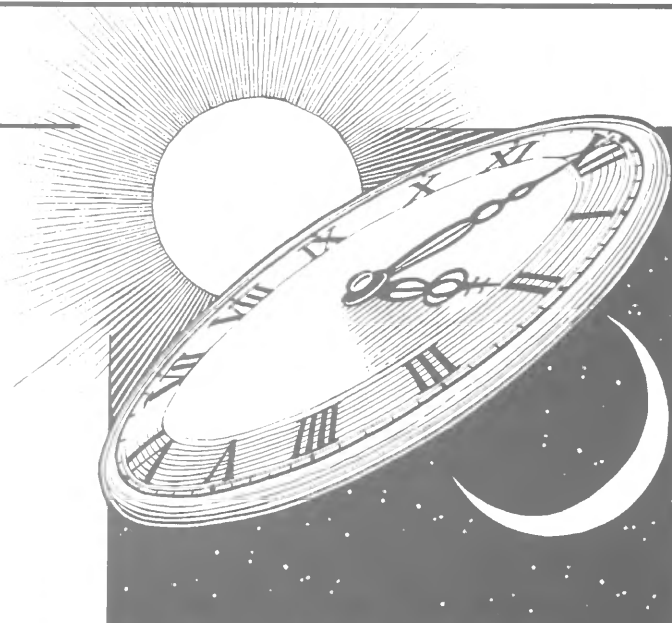
Osborne, Continental Cooperative Services vice president. CCS was formed last year from an alliance of Soyland Power Cooperative, Decatur, IL and Allegheny Electric Co-op, Harrisburg, PA.

WIEC Manager Paul Dion says, "This is great news for WIEC members. It means we will have a constant supply of energy along with stable prices for the next six years. We are proud of the fact that our rates are lower now than they were in 1985, and this contact should do a lot to keep it that way."

Time is running out!

If you are interested in Budget Billing, you'd better hurry!

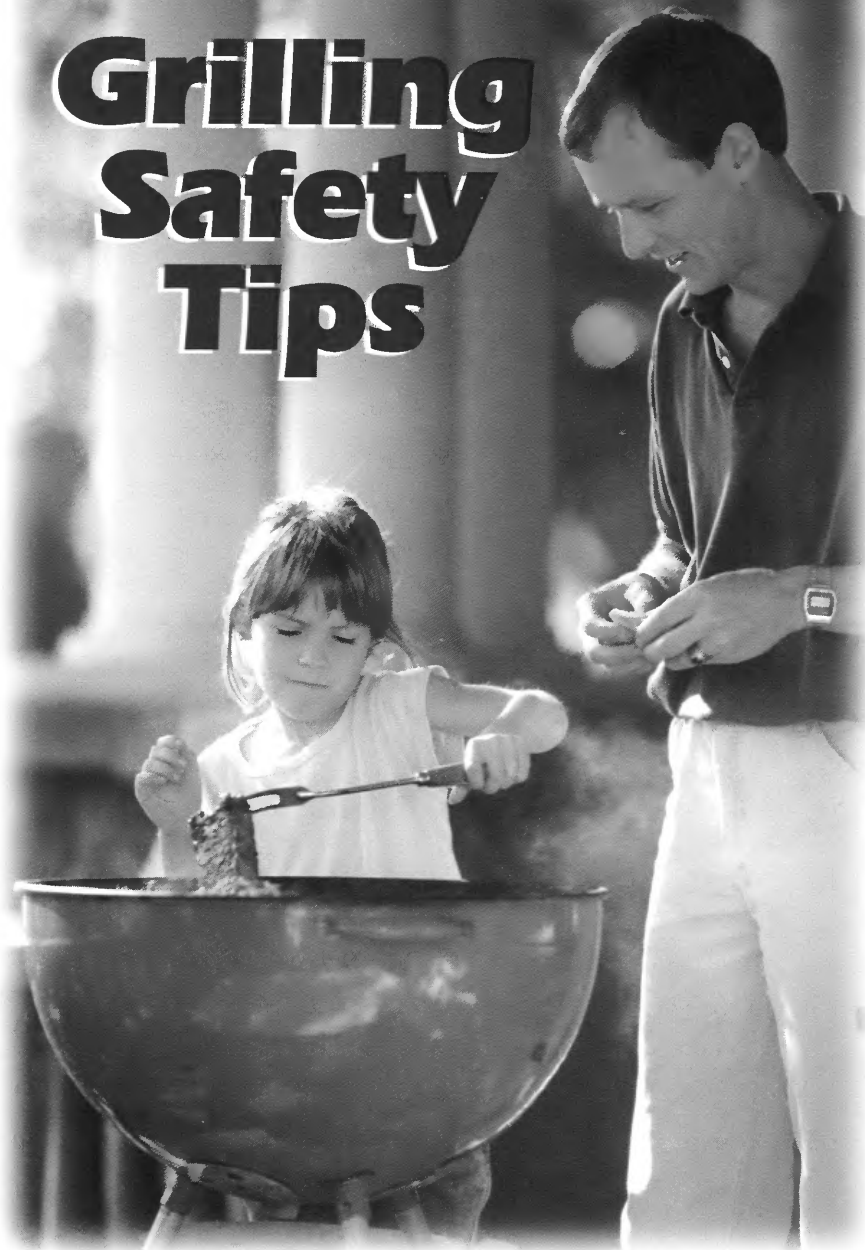
Deadline for enrollment is July 22nd



Call our office for details! 357-3125 or (800) 576-3125

We Get Our Power From You

Grilling Safety Tips



Summer is the time for grilling. It's important to be very careful, however, as both gas and charcoal grills can be hazardous. Each year, about 600 (8629-33) fires/explosions occur with gas grills resulting in injuries to about 30 people. A new Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) safety standard for propane gas tanks requires that an "over-fill prevention device" be installed in new gas tanks. The new propane gas tanks have valve handles (374-60-1) with three "lobes"

(prongs) while older tanks have valve handles with five prongs. People with older propane gas tanks should trade them in for the new, safer tanks.

A different industry standard adopted in 1995 at the urging of the CPSC has also provided for several safety features in the gas grills, hoses, and connections. The safety standard calls for a device that limits the flow of gas if the hose ruptures, a mechanism to shut-off the grill if it overheats, and a device to prevent the flow of gas if the connection

between tank and grill is not leak-proof. People who have grills that do not meet the 1995 standard should either get a new grill or be especially attentive to the safety tips below.

"CPSC pushed for these safety standards to help prevent deaths and injuries," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "Now families can use their gas grills with greater safety."

Gas grill safety tips

Here are some safety tips to reduce the risk of fire or explosion with gas grills:

- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.
- Always keep propane gas containers upright.
- Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.
- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- Never keep a filled container in a hot car or (6819-4) car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

Source: CPSC



Fireworks history

According to the American Pyrotechnics Association, in 2000, 150 million pounds of fireworks were detonated in the United States. "In 1976, the bicentennial year, only 29 million pounds were used," said Julie Heckman. "In the past decade alone, this industry has doubled." July 4th is the most popular date for fireworks displays, with New Year's Eve ranking second. The APA said it's impossible to count the number of professional displays held across the country but (3727-55) estimates that 95 percent of all cities host a July 4th fireworks show.

The trend in fireworks is moving toward indoor displays, especially at domed sports stadiums, as well as displays for business events, such as store openings,

and even weddings. New technology is making it possible to display letters, company logos, and shapes like stars and flags. The traditional colors of red, white, blue, and green are now being augmented with pastels, such as pinks and lavenders. Some of the most popular (8610-62) shapes are:

weeping willows - a large cascading display

salutes - fireworks that emit loud booms and bright flashes

comets - whistling and screaming trailers

bees and hornets - fireworks that hum and appear to scurry



Test your license plate savvy

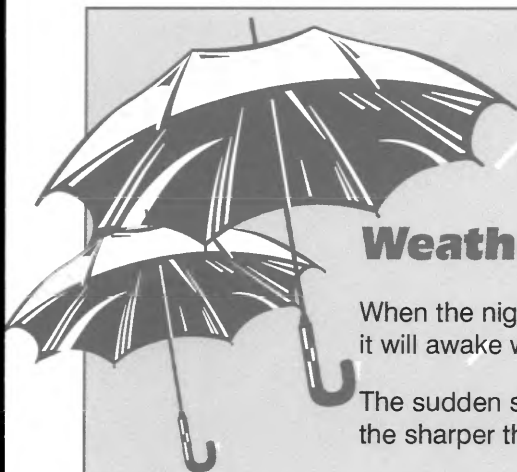
Have you noticed how many "personalized" license plates there are? A lot of plates use initials or birthdays, but others are a little more imaginative. From (6810-7) the following vanity license plates, can you guess which "professionals" own these cars?



- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| 1 AFAV8R | A. Optometrist |
| 2 10SNE1 | B. Air Force aviator |
| 3 I SK8 | C. Piano player |
| 4 DR IBALZ | D. Dentist |
| 5 BKEEPR | E. Skater |
| 6 W8LIFTER | F. Tennis player |
| 7 MTNBKR | G. Weight lifter |
| 8 88 KEYS | H. Mountain biker |
| 9 B4DKCME | I. Beekeeper |

Answer key

1B (Air Force Aviator); **2F** (Tennis Anyone); **3E** (I Skate); **4A** (Dr. Eye Balls); **5I** (Beekeeper); **6G** (Weight Lifter); **7H** (Mountain Biker); **8C** (88 Keys [on a piano]); **9D** (Before Decay See Me)



Weather proverbs

When the night goes to bed with a fever, it will awake with a wet head.

The sudden storm lasts not three hours, the sharper the blast, the sooner 'tis past.

4th of July
Celebration

Office closing

In observance of Independence Day, WIEC's office will be closed on July 4th, and will reopen on July 5th. **Happy 4th!**

**Western Illinois
Electrical Coop.
524 North Madison
P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321**

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8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

During office hours,
**or after hours
to report outage**
(217) 357-3125
(800) 576-3125

Board of directors

- Briscoe N. Menke —
President, *Carthage*
- Ross E. Wear —
Vice President, *Carthage*
- Rob Gronewold —
Secretary/Treasurer, *Carthage*
- Jay Morrison —
Assistant Secretary/
Treasurer, *Niota*
- William R. Newton —
Director, *Burnside*
- Wayne Rampley — Director,
Sutter
- Haven Vaughn — Director,
Lomax

Staff

- Paul Dion — *Manager*
- Tommie Long —
Mgr. of Operations
- Becky Dickinson —
Office Manager

Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

**From
Our
Last Meeting**



**Summary of Board Meeting –
March 28, 2002**

Directors present: Menke, Wear, Gronewold, Morrison, and Vaughn. Absent: Newton and Rampley. Also present: Dion & Hartzell.

A deficit for the month of February, 2002, was in the amount of \$5,260; total margins for the year as of February 28, 2002, were \$33,770.

It was the consensus of the Board to continue with Federated Insurance.

Haven D. Vaughn (5633-34) will be the delegate and Manager Paul Dion will be the alternate delegate to the Soyland Annual Meeting in July, 2002.

Haven D. Vaughn and Paul Dion will be the two directors and Ross E. Wear will be the alternate director to the Soyland Board of Directors for the next term.

The audit report was accepted and approved.

Early retirement of capital credits for the William N. King Estate was approved.

An ERC loan to Charles Griffin for a ground source heat pump was approved.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office.

Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

**Summary of Board Meeting –
April 22, 2002**

Directors present: Menke, Wear, (357-34) Gronewold, Morrison, Vaughn, and Newton. Absent: Rampley. Also present: Dion & Hartzell.

A margin for the month of March, 2002, was in the amount of \$7,819; total margins for the year as of March 31, 2002, were \$41,588.

The May Board of Directors' meeting will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2002, at 7:30 p.m.

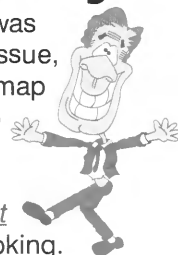
The June regular board meeting will be held on June 25, 2002, at 7:30 p.m.

Early retirement of capital credits for the Johanna Hanks Estate was approved.

A guarantee of the new power supply agreement between Soyland and Ameren Energy Marketing Company was approved.

Your lucky day!

Since last month was the Annual Meeting issue, we did not hide any map location numbers. To make it up to our members, this month we have hidden eight numbers; so start looking. You can't win if you don't try!



Welcome new members

March

- Akers, Lydia P. *Warsaw*
- Antes, Brian *Niota*
- Fry, Jerry J. & Marty S. . *Carthage*
- Gonzalez, Arnoldo F. &
Debra L. *Hamilton*
- K K & C Farms c/o Brian
Klingler *Carthage*
- King, Donald D. *Warsaw*
- Phillips, Annette *Carthage*
- Scanlan, Seth T. *Carthage*

April

- Bedolli, Kay A. *Niota*
- Biery, Ryan D. *Carthage*
- Gray, Laurey & Grant .. *Gladstone*
- Harris, David *Burlington, IA*
- Long, Shane *Carthage*
- Miller, Eldon Dean & Tammy,
..... *Lomax*
- Moore, Chris & Jaime *Hamilton*
- Ryan, Monika & Robert *Dallas City*
- Smith, Justin R. *Davis*
- Voorhees, Jeff *Carthage*



Student represents cooperative in Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Van Tine of Gladstone represented Western Illinois Electrical Coop. June 14-21 in Washington D.C. She met with Illinois congressional leaders and learned about her government during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

Van Tine funded the trip herself as a



Willie Wirehand participant. The theme of the 2002 Youth Tour was "Volunteers in Action." (5814-10)

Van Tine met with Congressman Lane Evans on Capitol Hill and was among 57 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, Van Tine also visited the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, George Washington's home, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and a number of other historical sites.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capitol, all the state groups convened for Rural Electric Youth Day to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included a survivor of the September 11 attack on The Pentagon, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell, who described his harrowing experience and miraculous survival. Birdwell touched on the importance of selfless service and accepting life's responsibilities.

Pictured below are (l-r): Van Tine and Congressman Evans.



Two new faces at WIEC

Welcome to
WIEC Cody
and Andy!



Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is pleased to announce that we have added two new groundmen to our family. Cody Grainger of Carthage and Andy Lafeber of Basco began their duties on June 24th. (6832-32-1)

Cody, a graduate of Carthage High School, has three children, Cheyenne, Clayton and Chase. He enjoys hunting, fishing, water-skiing and golf.

Andy and his wife, Erica, have three children, Haley, Dalton and Devin. He also enjoys the outside, listing hunting and fishing as his hobbies. He is a Warsaw High School graduate.

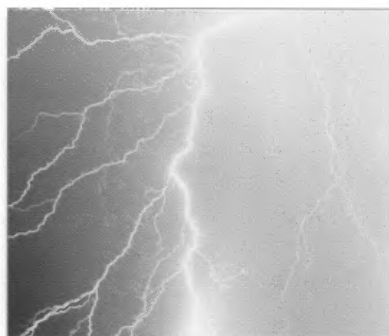


New Employees:(l-r) Cody Grainger and Andy Lafeber

Lightning can be expensive

There are roughly 16 million thunder and lightning storms a year in the world, with two-thirds of those taking place in June, July and August in the northern hemisphere. Some other lightning facts:

- On average, lightning strikes the earth 50 to 100 times every second.
- A bolt of lightning is only half an inch to an inch in diameter.
- Most lightning bolts remain in the sky and never reach the ground.
- The average temperature of lightning is 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit, five times hotter than the sun.
- The electricity in lightning releases the nitrogen in raindrops, thus providing nitrates, a beneficial nutrient, to the soil.
- The Empire State Building in New York City is struck by lightning an average of eight times a year. (9520-16)



Just think, 50-100 lightning strikes per second; that can mean a lot of damage to refrigerators, computers and telephones. WIEC has a surge protection program that can protect appliances and electronics from damage due to lightning strikes. For only \$5 per month, members can receive up to \$10,000 of guaranteed protection for their refrigerators, furnace motors or well pumps. For sensitive electronics, WIEC carries point of use suppressors that use two stages of arrestors to protect these investments.

Protect your investments. Call our office for more details.

Energy Myth:

Leaving lights, computers, and other appliances on uses less energy than turning them off and on repeatedly, and makes them last longer.

The small surge of power created when some devices are turned on is vastly smaller than the energy used by running the device when it's not needed. While it used to be the case that cycling appliances and lighting on and off significantly reduced their useful lifetimes, these problems have been largely overcome through better design. The rule of thumb today is: Turn off the lights when leaving the room, and use the power-management software that comes with the computer and monitor.

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.



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Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

**From
Our
Last Meeting**



**Summary of Board
Meeting -
May 30, 2002**

Directors present: Menke, Wear, Gronewold, Morrison, Vaughn, Rampley and Newton. Also present: Dion & Hartzell.

A margin for the month of April 2002 was in the amount of \$13,740; total margins for the year as of April 30, 2002, were \$55,329.

A two-year audit agreement with Quint-Dreyer for 2002 and 2003 was approved.

Early retirements of capital credits for the Florence Johnson Estate, Dorothy V. Bollin Estate, and Sammie Harrell Estate were approved. **(8623-14)**

ERC loans for ground source heat pumps were approved for Lonnie and Bonnie Riggins, Merlin Gronewold, and Larry and Kay Gasperi.

The date for the July WIEC board meeting was changed to Tuesday, July 23, 2002, at 7:30 p.m. due to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting.

Briscoe N. Menke will be the cooperative's representative and William R. Newton will be the cooperative's alternate representative to the AIEC annual meeting in Springfield, Illinois, on July 25th and 26th.

Briscoe N. Menke was elected to be the cooperative's director and Robert M. Gronewold was elected to be the cooperative's alternate director to the AIEC board of directors.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

Welcome new members:

- Brinkschroeder, Brian Nauvoo
- Corrigan, Rick Mendon
- Crutcher, Mark Carthage
- Davis, Patsy E. West Point
- Dooley, Rick D. & Brandy L. Hamilton
- Foreman, Jeffery M. & Ofelia C. Franco-Foreman Palos Park
- Hasek, Craig & Danette Quincy
- Hendrickson, Carol Quincy
- Hocker, Chad LaHarpe
- Hunter, John B. (J.B.) & Shelly Burnside
- Kirby, Sherry Sutter
- Morton, Dennis D. & Carole J. Nauvoo
- Rand, Keith Carthage
- Robey, Amber Pontoosuc
- Ternes, Robert M. Jr. & Susan M. Elyria, OH





WIEEC news

Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.



Parents Please tell your children

Last July, a McDonough County couple suffered a heart wrenching tragedy when two of their children were killed. The teenagers were electrocuted when stepping out of their car after an accident involving a utility pole and power lines.

Do not leave the car if you are involved in an accident where power lines are involved. According to the SafeElectricity.org Web site: when in a car you are not a part of electricity's path to the ground. Unless there is threat of fire, it's the safest place to be. Go

ahead and use a cell phone to call for help. Wait in the car until qualified electrical workers turn the power off and tell you it is safe to leave the vehicle. If people come near the car to help you, warn them to stay far away.

The Web site also explains that if you *absolutely, positively* have to leave the car because of fire or other danger, JUMP away from the vehicle so no part of you touches the (9612-50) vehicle and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet

together, then shuffle away. Take very small steps and keep your feet in contact with each other and the ground constantly. Watch out for any wires that may be on the ground. Always assume a downed wire is hot and dangerous, even if it isn't sparking. However, if you don't have to leave the car, don't.

Tell your children; tell your parents; tell your neighbors; just spread the word -

STAY IN THE CAR.

We Get Our Power From You

ANNUAL MEE

On a hot summer night, about 250 members of WIEC gathered together. They were willing to give up their time to attend Western Illinois Electrical Coop.'s 63rd Annual Meeting of its members on June 27th. They realized that active members control the co-op and they wanted to be involved.



Manager Paul Dion told the crowd that WIEC has a lot to be proud of. WIEC offers stable rates, minimal outage times, local (5819-4-7) control and employees that continually strive to make the cooperative better. He reminded attendees that today's rates are lower than they were in 1985.



Board President Briscoe Menke urged the crowd not to take our freedoms as Americans for granted. He also said the same could be said for electricity, as people tend to take it for granted.



The winners of the Grand Prize are shown with Manager Paul Dion. They are (l-r) Dion, Enid Allen, Francis Allen, Norma Mixer, Clarence Shults and Kathryn Hamman.

Congratulations!

Annual Meeting Prizes

Gift	Donor	Recipient
Document bag	Marine Trust Co. of Carthage	William Smith, Carthage
\$25 Cash	First State Bank Of Western Ill.	John Siegworth, Lomax
Crock-ette One Quart Slow Cooker	Electric Lab & Sales Corp.	Charlene Hillers, LaHarpe
25' outdoor extension cord	HEINTZ ELECTRIC COMPANY	Larry Worrell, Carthage
Quartz work light	Heintz Electric Company	Evelyn Yard, LaHarpe
12" Oscillating desk fan	Fletcher-Reinhardt Company	Dale Lawson, Carthage
\$25 Cash	Arnold Brothers Cooling & Heating	John Lenahan, Lomax
2 Red rose bushes	Frese Ornamental Nursery, Inc.	Reece Schmitz, Hamilton
1 Pink rose bush	Frese Ornamental Nursery, Inc.	Raymond Boston, Burnside
3 Beanie Babies	Ridders Business Supply	Ridders Merrit, Carthage
3 Beanie Babies	Ridders Business Supply	James Justus, Elvaston
1 cap & 3 golf balls	J.K. Creative Printers	Robert Cook, Carthage
1 cap & 3 golf balls	J.K. Creative Printers	Enid Allen, Carthage
\$20 Cash	Camp Advertising - Carolyn Zimmerman	Melvin Wetterich, Carthage
Bagel switch toaster	United Utility Supply	Lloyd Steinhour, Carthage
Adjustable outdoor lamp post	Gem City Electric Company	Raymond Martens, Basco
2 hats and baler	Vermeer of Central II, Inc.	James Harnetiaux, Tennessee
2 hats and 1 pair of gloves	Vermeer of Central II, Inc.	Lowell Mohr, Lomax
2 hats and model trencher	Vermeer of Central II, Inc.	George Britton, West Point
Jacto Knapsack Sprayer	UAP/Timberland	Merlin Marshall, Carthage
\$50 Cash	Dreyer & Kelso, P.C., P.A.	Harold Weid, West Point
Umbrella	Peters Heating & Air Conditioning	Fred Buckert, Hamilton
\$15 Gift Certificate	Weber's Christmas Tree Farm	Anna Mary Jones, Carthage
Shirt and pocket knife	Tom Boland Ford-Sterling	Glen Sellars, Augusta
Shirt and pocket knife	Tom Boland Ford-Sterling	George Clark, Sutter
Wreath from Hilltop Floral	WIEC	Cecil Shipman, Jr., Carthage
Coat From Smokin' Gun Hunting Club	WIEC	Doris Steinhour, Carthage
\$30 Gift Certificate to Weber's Home Raised Beef	WIEC	Randy Sharpe, Carthage
9 golf balls from Great River Rd Golf Club	WIEC	William Siverly, Carthage
9 golf balls from Great River Rd Golf Club	WIEC	Jack Curry, Hamilton
Wooden CD case from Cricket Hollow	WIEC	Florence Wright Trust, Warsaw
GRAND PRIZE #1	WIEC	Francis Allen, West Point
\$100 CASH	WIEC	Kathryn Hamman, Carthage
GRAND PRIZE #2	WIEC	Enid Allen, Carthage
\$100 CASH	WIEC	Clarence Shults, Burnside
GRAND PRIZE #3	WIEC	Norma Mixer, Hamilton
\$100 CASH	WIEC	
GRAND PRIZE #4	WIEC	
\$100 CASH	WIEC	
GRAND PRIZE #5	WIEC	
\$100 CASH	WIEC	

NG IN REVIEW

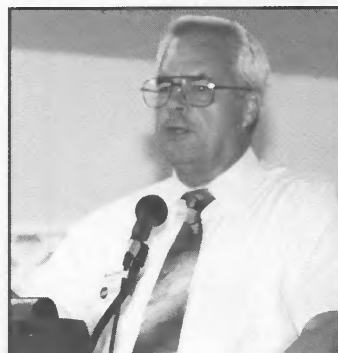


The meeting began at 7:30 p.m., but members could come early to register for a \$5 bill credit, enter the drawing (953-39) for prizes and pick up their ballots for the election to be held that night.



Board Secretary/Treasurer Rob Gronewold addressed the crowd concerning WIEC's auditors, Dreyer and Kelso of Mission KS, and the process they use to audit the coop's books. Rob also reported that 2001 was another good year for the coop.

Members could also use the time before the meeting began to take advantage of the free blood pressure screenings offered by the Hancock County Health Department. Thirty people took advantage of this service.



Featured speaker was Mike Shea, tri-state radio personality. He spoke of his childhood in Chicago and also about his days as a radio sportscaster.



On behalf of all WIEC employees, the office crew accepted the award for Best 3 Year Safety Record. Pictured (l-r) Tanna Ellefritz, Donna Cramer, Karmen Metternich and Becky Dickinson



The members of WIEC elected Rob Gronewold and Janet Spory to the Board of Directors. (l-r) Rob Gronewold, Paul Dion and Janet Spory

After the meeting, there was still time to pick up 4-packs of light bulbs for the bargain price of \$1.00.



Members of all ages enjoyed the annual meeting.

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**From
Our
Last Meeting**



**Summary of board meeting –
June 25, 2002**

Directors present: Menke, Wear,
Gronewold, Morrison, Vaughn,

Rampley, and Newton. Also present: Dion and Hartzell.

A margin for the month of May 2002 was in the amount of \$11,796; total margins for the year as of May 31, 2002, were \$67,125.

The (6717-62) Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held July 25th and 26th, 2002, in Springfield, Ill.

NRECA Region Five meeting will be in Des Moines, Iowa on September 10th - 12th, 2002.

Welcome new members:

- Biondolino, Ronald A. Carthage
- Bole, Brian G. & Amy L. Gladstone
- Cramberg, Kevin Dallas City
- Dycus, Edward D. Carthage
- Harry, Edward E. & Cecilia A. Nauvoo
- Nicol, James S. & Roni Sue Nauvoo
- Sides, Deual Bloomington
- Trautmann, Mark & Debbie Carthage
- Turner, Robert E. Stronghurst

**Watch for
electric lines**



You're taking the combine to the field through a back gate, one you haven't used before. You look back and realize that you're hung up on an overhead power line.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Climbing out of the combine is the worst thing you can do. Unless you're in immediate danger, stay where you are and call for help.

Don't let your body become a direct link between the line and the ground. If you must leave the combine, jump as far as you can so that no part of your body touches the combine and the ground at the same time.

And once you're off the combine, never get back on until the power line has been disconnected by your cooperative.

Every year, 62 farm workers are electrocuted in the United States. You don't want to be one of them.

Source: www.safeelectricity.org



WIEC news

Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

October is cooperative month

WIEC sponsors "Cookie Day"

In honor of October being Cooperative Month, WIEC will be having our annual Member Appreciation day. We will be serving cookies and cider to members who come in and pay their bill on October 25th at the Carthage office. We invite members to come and chat with the WIEC employees.

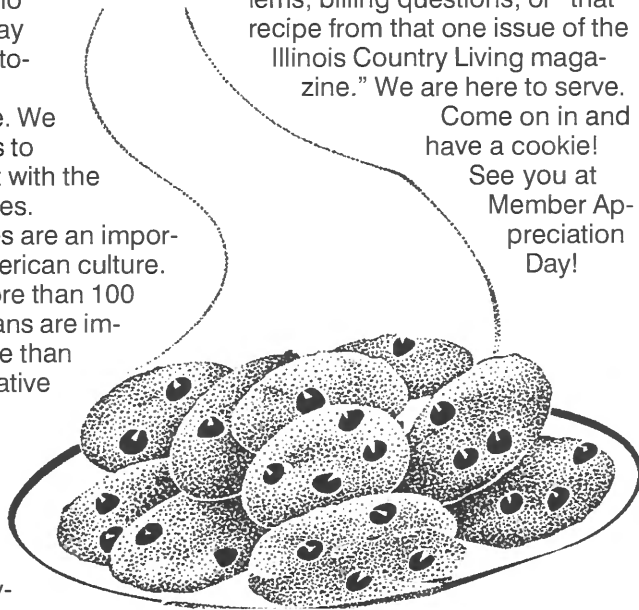
Cooperatives are an important part of American culture. The lives of more than 100 million Americans are improved by more than 48,000 cooperative private businesses that generate more than \$100 billion in annual economic activity. Cooperatives enrich our communities, large and small.

In 1938, when no other electric utility would venture into rural areas to provide electric service, it was the farmers who unified and created this electric cooperative. As a result, poles were set, lines were (5622-34) strung, and substations were built; a truly amazing rural electric system was born. No single person could have done it, because it was just too large of a task. It took a unified effort to make the seemingly impossible a reality.

This unified effort is still going strong today. Our diverse board represents our diverse membership. They bring their knowledge and experience to the board-

room to help prepare WIEC for the future. WIEC employees work continually to provide our members with the answers they need, whether it concerns wiring problems, billing questions, or "that recipe from that one issue of the Illinois Country Living magazine." We are here to serve.

Come on in and have a cookie!
See you at Member Appreciation Day!



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

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

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

Your electric cooperative is committed to providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. We take pride in our cooperative — a grassroots system of service started by pioneers like those who settled this area.

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

Energy Myth: Buying an efficient air conditioner or furnace will automatically reduce my energy bill

This is true to some extent, but you won't realize all the possible savings if the equipment is sized or installed incorrectly. Studies have shown that typical air conditioner and duct systems are improperly installed, wasting one-third or more of the energy used by the air conditioner. New and replacement equipment (and ducts) need to be properly designed and installed to realize all the possible savings. The same warnings about proper installation hold true for insulation, windows and many other energy efficiency upgrades.

Call Toll Free (800) 576-3125

Caution: utility construction ahead

For most of us, the wires and poles that carry the electricity to our homes and farms are an invisible part of the countryside. They have been around forever and are hardly noticed. However, utility lines occasionally need to be moved, such as when new roads are being built. The Highway 336 expansion, which will eventually connect Quincy to Macomb, is being built in the heart of WIEC service territory. Sometimes, our poles are exactly where the builders need to lay asphalt. Here is a peek at what is required when lines have to be relocated - in the name of progress.

In March 2001, the Illinois Department of Transportation contacted the WIEC office and sent plans for their next phase of the planned expansion of Highway 336. This next portion was to go from one mile north of the West Point/Bowen junction to the Carthage-Harmony township line or the Meadow Slough Bottoms, as locals call it. Landowners were contacted to give us easements that give us permission to put utility poles on their land. Every effort is made to make the new placement agreeable to both the landowner and WIEC. Also during this time, the job had to be planned out. Tommie Long, Operations Manager, had to calculate how many poles, how much wire, what other material might be needed, and also how many (681-16) man hours had to be allowed for the job. Once the estimates were finished, bids for the material were sent to make sure WIEC received competitive prices.

An agreement with the Illinois Dept. of Transportation was executed for reimbursement of a portion of line relocation. The cost of relocation of the line is reimbursable if they are moved



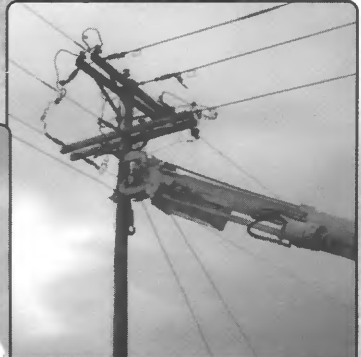
Familiar sights south of Carthage this summer.



The lines on the left will be taken down to make room for the new road. The lines on the right are new.



New wires were strung for the East-West line that crosses the highway. As the new wires were being strung, the existing North-South line, already taken off line until the work day was complete, kept the new wires from resting on the pavement.



The new (left) and old (right) three-phase junction pole. Some of the guy wires were moved from the existing junction pole and the arm from the digger truck was used to hold the pole and keep it securely in place.



Making final adjustments to the new three-phase junction pole.



Wires waiting to be tightened or "sagged" (line crew term).

from private property. Costs are not reimbursable if the lines are moved from state or county right-of-way. For this project, WIEC was reimbursed for about 75 percent of the project.

Once the planning stage was complete, it was time to get to work. The job would be done in four stages. The first stage began in February and the last phase was completed in July, with a work slow down in the middle due to the spring rains. The first stage was to relocate a .6 mile section of line one mile north of the West Point junction. The line crew also had to bring a .6 mile of new three-phase line to Union Douglas School and relocate a .5 mile of single-phase line north of the school.

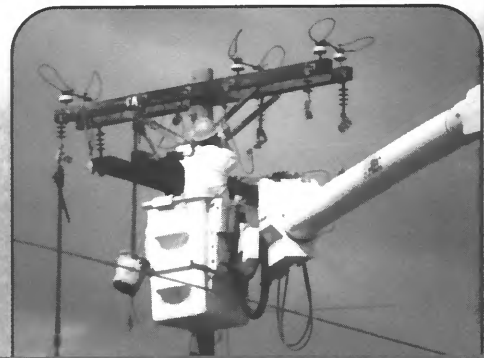
The third stage was to relocate another 1.6 mile of single-phase line on the west side of the existing highway from Union Douglas School south to road 850N. This line had to be moved further west to accommodate the new set of lanes being built.

A three-phase junction pole at the intersection of Highway 94 and County Rd 850N needed to be moved. It connected this newly constructed line to the new line on the west side of the road south of road 850. There also were electric lines running east and west that had to be considered.

The fourth and final phase of this job was at the crossing of WIEC lines across the Highway at the Meadow Slough intersection. The two poles nearest the road were now in the state's right-of-way and would be in the center of the planned intersection. Those two poles had to be moved south far enough to be out of the way. The next two poles were replaced to assure a proper spacing of conductors and to maintain structural strength of existing lines. The old poles were removed using the digger truck. Any re-usable parts were salvaged for another project.

For WIEC, this phase of the Highway 336 project was complete. The job was completed 40 percent under budget and it was done during the hottest part of the summer. Overall, 77 poles had to be relocated and it took 898 man-hours to do the job from start to finish. "This was a large undertaking for a cooperative of our size," said Manager Paul Dion. "The members of the line crew are to be commended for a job well done. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. would like to express our thanks to members who live in the area. They allowed us to move the poles onto their property and also understood when the power had to be interrupted for short periods of time."

So, when traveling south of Carthage on the new Highway 336 to Quincy, look up and notice the wires and poles. WIEC or AmerenCIPS has had to relocate most of what you see. Please remember what goes into putting them there – all in the name of progress.



Once the wires were connected to the west side of the road, they were pulled tight and connected to the existing wire. This connection is called a "splice". Finally, the line to the south was connected to the new junction pole.



The new poles (left) being moved at the Meadow Slough Bottom.



At this crossing, new wires were attached at the west end of the line with splices. Each phase, one at a time, was moved and placed on the new cross arms.



Once the wires were on the new cross arms, the wire was pulled to make sure it was taut. Hand signals were used to make sure they were positioned correctly.



To remove the pole, a chain was tied around the pole which lifted it out of the ground.



The Hardworking Crew: Pictured back row (l-r) Scott Carle, Eric Johnson, Harold Enzeroth and Garry Miller. Front row (l-r) Mark Kissinger, Cody Grotts, Andy Lafeber and Terry Long.

**Western Illinois
Electrical Coop.
524 North Madison
P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321**

Office hours
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

**During office hours,
or after hours
to report outage**
(217) 357-3125
(800) 576-3125

Wanna do our linemen a favor?

Our poles may look like a great place to put a garage sale ad or string fence wire, but please don't.

The tacks and nails used could put our linemen in danger. They prevent the hooks on our linemen's boots from getting a secure grip while climbing a pole. A nail sticking out just a little bit could cause injury if our lineman should slip while holding onto the pole.

Help us keep our linemen safe. Thanks!

Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

From Our Last Meeting



Summary of Board Meeting - July 23, 2002

Directors present: Menke, Wear, Gronewold, Vaughn, Newton and Spory. Absent: Morrison. Also present: Dion and Hartzell. A margin for the month of June, 2002, was in the amount of \$41,242; total margins for the year as of June 30, 2002, were \$108,367.

The minutes of the annual meeting of members from June 27, 2002, were reviewed by the board.

Haven D. Vaughn will be the cooperative's representative and Briscoe N. Menke will be the cooperative's alternate representative at the NRECA Region Five Meeting to be held on September 10th through the 12th, 2002, in

Des Moines, Iowa.

Briscoe N. Menke will be the cooperative's representative and Haven D. Vaughn will be the cooperative's alternate (6818-52-1-1) representative at the CFC District Five Meeting on September 11, 2002, in Des Moines, Iowa.

An ERC loan to Michael Johnson for a ground source heat pump was approved.

An ERC loan to the Hancock County 4H Building and Grounds Committee for air conditioning at the extension building was approved.

Early retirement of capital credits of the Elizabeth Jacobs Estate was approved.

A resolution of appreciation for Wayne E. Rampley was adopted by the Board of Directors expressing its sincere thanks and appreciation for his service to the members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

(Approved minutes are available from the WIEC office. Regular board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the WIEC office.)

Low Income Energy Assistance

If you need financial assistance to pay your electric bill, you may be eligible to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The program begins on September 3, 2002, for households that have elderly, disabled, have been disconnected or have been refused service. Applications for all others will be accepted starting November 1, 2002. Applicants must call for an appointment and bring with them proof of income for the (6623-38) last 30 days, their most recent electric bill and Social Security Number for all in the household. For more details contact the following:

Members in Hancock, Henderson and McDonough Counties:

Western Illinois Regional Council
223 S. Randolph
Macomb IL 61455
(309) 837- 2997

Members in Adams County:

Two Rivers Regional Council
4th & State
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 224-8171

In addition, members may also find help from: The Salvation Army, their Township supervisors, the Veteran's Administration and area churches.

Welcome new members:

Harry, James, Nauvoo
Higdon, Samantha & Eric, Niota
Jones, Sandra, Hamilton
Maynard, Thomas Shane & Jennifer, Lomax
Miller, Debra, Plymouth
Rea, John W. & Coi, West Point

Sellens, Walter K. & Kathryn A., Hamilton
Siegfried, Michael T. & Kelly A., Niota
Stanbary, Delbert, Carthage
Taylor, Donald L. & Sharon, Mendon
Vickers, Warren L. & Paula S., Elvaston



Salute to Veterans

*Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lakes, from the hills, from the skies,
All is well, safely rest. God is nigh.*

*Then good night, peaceful night,
Till the light of the dawn
shineth bright, God is near,
do not fear. Friend, good night.*

*Composed by Major Gen. Daniel Butterfield,
Army of the Potomac*

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. salutes those
who served their country to preserve our freedom.

*In honor of Veterans Day, WIEC will be closed on November 11th.
We urge our members to attend any local Veterans Day Service
to say "Thank You" for a job well done.*

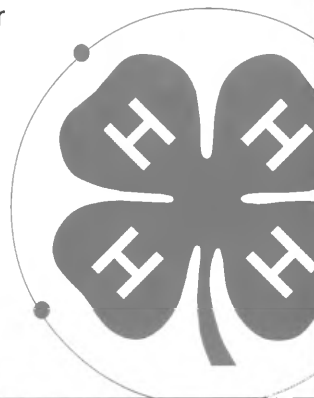
Visit our Web site at www.wiec.net

Roskamp - BEST 2002 4-H ELECTRICITY EXHIBIT

Jared Roskamp's indoor shop lamp earned WIEC's best electricity award at the 2002 Hancock County 4-H Fair. Jared, son of WIEC members Lance and Tami Roskamp of rural Sutter, is a seven-year member of the Lincoln Land 4-H club and has taken electricity projects each of his 4-H years. His other projects include Plants and Soils, and Small Grains. In addition to exhibiting at the county 4-H Fair, Jared has exhibited four years at the Illinois State Fair, featuring his electricity projects three of those years.

When asked about his project, Jared talked about learning how to wire correctly, the importance of (9626-49) knowing electrical codes, and how he learned about ground fault circuit interrupters this past year. Jared credits both the 4-H Electricity School and working directly with Brad Barber, Equipment Technician at Methode Electronics, for the skills he has learned.

Jared is a freshman at Warsaw High School where he is also involved in FFA, Band, Football, Quiz Bowl and Baseball.



TOP PHOTO: Jared Roskamp and his project—the 2002 winner of WIEC's Best Overall Electricity Award.

LEFT PHOTO: Jerry Payne, chief electrician for WIEC, helps students at the Electricity School held at the Hancock County Extension Center.

Each year, WIEC sponsors the best overall electricity award and also assists with the 4-H Electricity School as a way to encourage youth to explore working with electricity, and to also teach them to respect its power. Congratulations, Jared.

Information for this article supplied by Susan Sewell, University of Illinois Extension, Hancock County

Meet Janet Spory, WIEC director

At the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop., the members of WIEC elected Janet Spory, Sutter, to serve a three year term on the board of directors representing District 7. She replaced retiring director, Wayne Rampley.

A member of WIEC since 1988, Janet is employed by Mercantile Bank and has been the Trust Operations Manager for Mercantile for the past seven years. She and her husband, Wayne, have two children, Faith and Ryan. When asked about her hobbies, Janet replied with a smile, "Music, music, music." She is the organist and choir member of the Sutter Salem Bible Church. Janet is also a member of the Quincy Community

Concert Band and lends a hand with the Warsaw school district's musicals.

When asked why she decided to run for election to the board, Janet said that she just wanted to learn how the cooperative operated and get a better understanding of the factors that influence it. From her 18 years of banking experience, she has concerns about the uncertain economy. She realizes that keeping the rates stable will have a big impact on the farmer's bottom line and that the farmer's bottom line will, in turn, have a big impact on WIEC's future. She is also keenly aware of the current low interest rates and wants to keep an experienced eye on the rate of return WIEC receives on its



investments.

Janet realizes that the path the cooperative has chosen in the past seems to be working well, but she also understands the importance of keeping options (7532-4) open for the future.

Janet closed by saying, "I appreciate the opportunity to serve and will try to do the best job I can."

Students encouraged to apply for 2003 IEC Memorial Scholarship

Western Illinois Electrical Coop manager Paul M. Dion has announced that for the eighth 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 (767-50)

the child of an electric cooperative member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee.

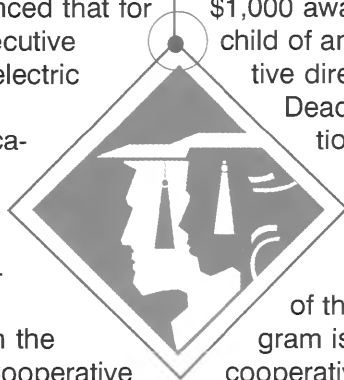
Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2003.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said cooperative manager Paul M. Dion. "Western Illinois Electrical Coop. and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the

best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay 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 Western Illinois Electrical Coop. at (800) 576-3125, or ask your high school guidance counselor.



**Western Illinois
Electrical Coop.**
524 North Madison
P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321

Office hours
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

During office hours,
or after hours
to report outage
(217) 357-3125
(800) 576-3125

Board of directors

Briscoe N. Menke —
President, Carthage

Ross E. Wear —
Vice President, Carthage

Rob Gronewold —
Secretary/Treasurer, Carthage

Jay Morrison —
Assistant Secretary/
Treasurer, Niota

William R. Newton —
Director, Burnside

Janet Spory — Director,
Sutter

Haven Vaughn — Director,
Lomax

Staff

Paul Dion — Manager

Tommie Long —
Mgr. of Operations

Becky Dickinson —
Office Manager

**From
Our
Last Meeting**



**Summary of
Board Meeting -
August 22, 2002**

Directors present: Menke,
Wear, Morrison, Vaughn, Newton
and Spory. Absent: Gronewold.
Also present: Dion & Hartzell.

A margin for the month of
July, 2002, was in the amount of
\$121,151; (771-1) total margins
for the year as of July 31, 2002,
were \$229,518.

Safety reports were given to
all of the directors.

Future events for the coopera-
tive include the Safety Fair on

September 27, 2002, Member
Appreciation Day on October 25,
2002, and goals committee
meetings in November. The Op-
eration Goals Committee will
meet November 7, 2002, the
Member Service Goals Commit-
tee will meet November 12,
2002, and the Finance Goals
Committee will meet November
14, 2002.

The September board meeting
was changed to Monday, Sep-
tember 23, 2002, at 7:30 p.m.

An ERC loan to Michael and
Sadena Jackson for a ground
source heat pump was ap-
proved.

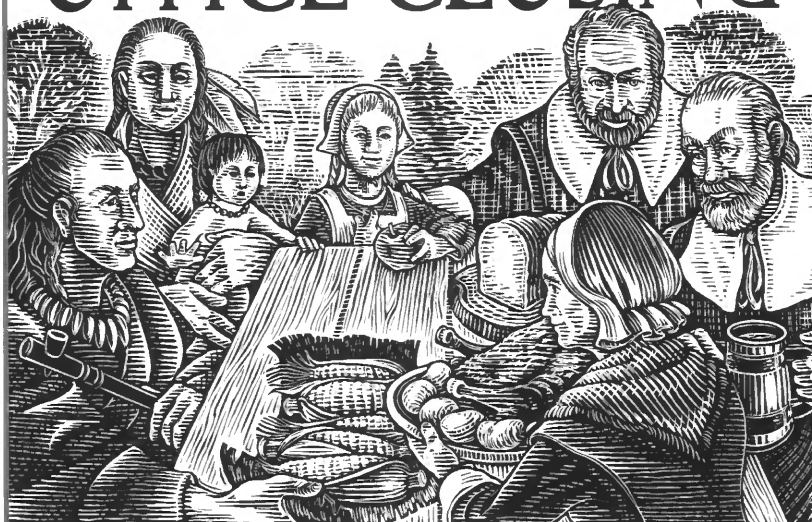
(Approved minutes are avail-
able from the WIEC office. Regu-
lar board meetings are held on
the fourth Thursday of each
month at the WIEC office.)

Welcome new members:

Boyer, Adelle, Niota
Hill, Ryan P. & Beth M., Sciota
Hunt, Diana Jo, Stronghurst
Hussey, Shane, Basco
Marshall, Donald E., Hamilton
Peasley, Daniel J., Burlington, IA

Rubert, Franklin G., Lockport
Savage, Dixie, Stronghurst
Sinele, Lane & Angee, Niota
Waller, Doris J., Carthage
Webb, Jessica & Robb Bell, Carthage
Wright, Lisa M., Nauvoo

OFFICE CLOSING



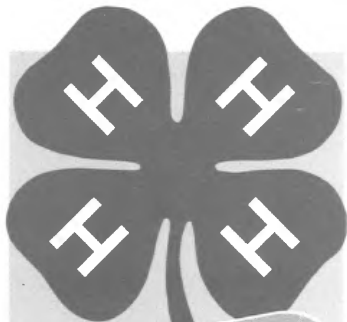
WIEC will be closed for Thanksgiving (November 28th).
We will reopen on Friday, November 29th. Happy Thanksgiving!

Map Location Contest

Every month we are printing
four member's map location
numbers in the newsletter. If
you find your map location
number call the WIEC office by
the 25th of the following
month, tell us where it is and
we will give you a \$10.00 bill
credit. Keep on reading the
WIEC News.



HANCOCK COUNTY 4-H CLUBS CELEBRATE



100th Birthday!

For the last 100 years, Illinois youth between 5 and 18 years of age have been going to 4-H meetings and for many of those 100 years have recited this pledge:

*My HEAD to clearer thinking,
My HEART to greater loyalty,
My HANDS to larger service, and
My HEALTH to better living.*

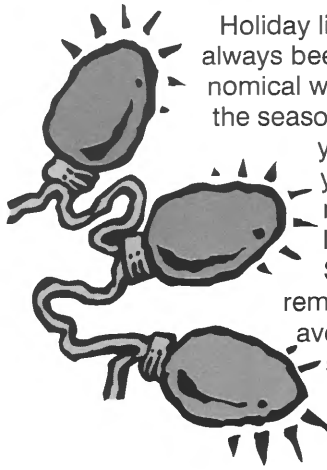
What started as a group of mainly (9532-44) rural kids has blossomed into the world's largest youth-serving organization with clubs in all 50 states and more than 80 countries. "By participating in 4-H, kids learn the 'skills for living' in such areas as individual accountability, responsibility and leadership development," writes Janice A. Seitz, Assistant Dean and Director of the U of I Extension 4-H Youth Development, in the latest issue of the *Illinois Clover*.

To celebrate 4-H's 100th birthday, the Hancock County 4-H groups have compiled a cookbook. This book is packed full with more than 900 family tested recipes and the proceeds from the sale of the book will stay in Hancock County to aid local 4-H programs. The cookbooks are \$10 each and can be purchased (9420-55) from any 4-H member or at the Hancock County Extension office.



Call Toll Free (800) 576-3125

Tips for a bright, safe holiday lighting season



Holiday lighting has always been an economical way to celebrate the season and beautify your home. If you're planning a holiday lighting display, Safe Electricity reminds you to avoid potential safety hazards as you place holiday lights.

"Lights on a tree or other places add to the enjoyment of the season, but they need to be checked and used properly," says Molly Hall, director of the Safe Electricity program. "We encourage everyone to take a few extra minutes to avoid the risk of electric shock or fire."

Keep these tips in mind when decorating with lights:

- Use only lights that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Look for the UL label on the box and on each string.
- If you use a fresh tree, water it frequently and place it away

from heat sources such as heating ducts, a fireplace, radiators or television.

- Before plugging in lights, check each string for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs. Replace any damaged strings.
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition. Use only UL-approved cords that are rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.
- Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas. Don't stretch them across a room where people can trip over them; likewise, don't hide them under rugs or carpets that people will trample on.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

"Checking the condition of electrical cords is very important, as a frayed or cracked cord could cause a shock or fire," said Hall. "Likewise, an overloaded extension cord also poses a fire hazard."

Whether decorating for the holidays or using extension

cords in general, read the labels on both the cord and the appliances that are plugged into it to make sure the cord can handle the load. If it can't, change to a higher-rated cord or unplug some appliances.

While some people may load up an extension cord to free outlet space over the holidays, remember that extension cords are meant for temporary, not permanent, use.

Safe Electricity is a statewide electrical safety public awareness program. The program was created by a coalition of nearly three dozen organizations including the University of Illinois, rural electric cooperatives, and investor-owned electric utilities from throughout the state. All are members of the Illinois Electric Council, a not-for profit organization dedicated to promoting electric safety and efficiency.

Everyone is urged to heed the safety tips presented in Safe Electricity public service announcements and to visit www.SafeElectricity.org to learn more about being safe around electricity and related equipment.

Christmas check list

Why fight the malls when you can do your last minute Christmas shopping at WIEC! Here are some ideas:

✓ **Dusk to Dawn Security Light** – A WIEC security light protects and gives peace of

mind. It costs \$68, including tax and free installation on existing pole or pre-wired building.

✓ **WIEC Gift Certificate** – Never worry about sizes or colors again! A gift certificate always fits and is always appreciated!

✓ **Surge Suppressor** – great for the gadget guru on your list. Protects his/her investments with *guaranteed* protection from lightning strikes and power surges.

Hang your stockings from a fireplace *this* Christmas season.



An electric fireplace offers all the comforts of a log fireplace with none of the hassle. Just plug it in and enjoy. You can even hook the fireplace onto your geothermal heating system.

Electric fireplaces feature 3D flames with glowing ember and log sets, often operate with or without heat, can be moved around in your home, require no venting or special hook-up, and are safe and inexpensive to operate.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has a model for display in their office from Peter's Heating and Cooling, in Hamilton. Come see how easy and beautiful electric fireplaces can be.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

is making available

**Business and Residential long distance phone service
24 hours a day – 7 days a week
plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

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

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is making available long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day – 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements. For additional information, call WIEC at (217) 357-3125 or (800) 576-3125. To sign up, call BTC Communications at (800) 239-7420.



4.9¢

**ALL CALLS
IN ILLINOIS**



6.9¢

**ALL CALLS
OUT OF STATE**

Mail to: BTC Communications • 52 W. Pine • Canton, IL 61520

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, to transfer my **Interlata and Intralata (local toll)** 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. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting a payment to PowerNet Global.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

