ADAMS OUTLET

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ADAMS ELECTRICAL CO-OPERATIVE
CAMP POINT, ILL.

Nutria, Promising Contender In Fur Industry

Meet Mr. Nutria

2 CENTS A DAY FEEDS ANIMAL

Take a beaver, a muskrat and a monkey--put them in a pen and let them live together for a while, and what would you have? Chances are, if they got along alright and didn't kill one another, you'd have offspring that look like the animal on the front cover. It's nutria, a comparative newcomer in the fur ranching industry, which already shows promise of becoming a leader in a very few years.

Nutria is a South American rodent, its body covered with rough hair covering a velvet-soft, luxuriant growth of fine fur. The long, rough hairs are clipped off in processing and used in making felt hats, while the fine pelts are used to make fur coats which sell in the $1,000 to $2,500 range. It's a friendly, easily tamed animal characterized by its beaver-like head - orange tusks, small ears, walrus whiskers, monkey-like front feet and webbed hind feet. It has a long, round tail used in swimming and to balance him as he eats and bathes.

Running water is a necessity for cleaning pens and supplying fresh bathing water.

We took the cover picture and the shots on these pages at Nicholson's Nutria Del Rey Ranch north of Mt. Sterling. Don and his brother Melvin of Fort Madison, Iowa, are in partnership in raising the nutria and, although they have been in the business only a short time, already Don is singing the praises of nutria. Mentioning nutria to Don is like asking a Milwaukee fan about the braves.

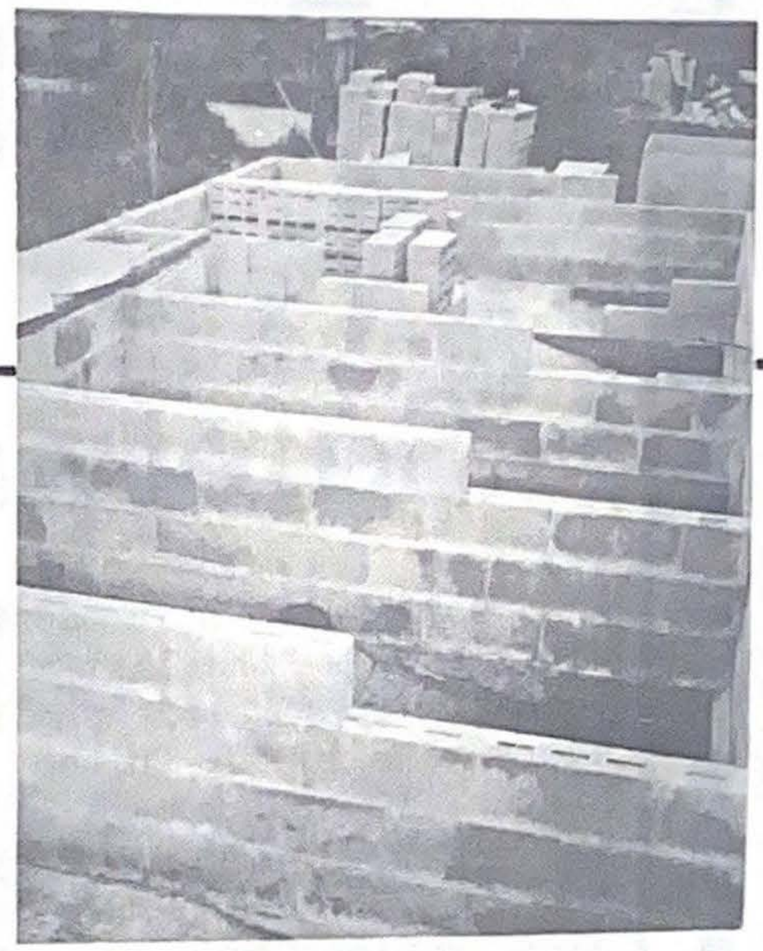
The fur industry is not new to the Nicholson family. Three years ago they were raising mink at the same location. It's no secret that mink are tough to raise, and their experience with them was no exception. Food was always a problem because it couldn't be obtained locally and it had to be stored in a freezer. Then, one day when the Nicholsons were away from home, something frightened the female mink and they killed thirteen of their young.

By contrast, nutria have wonderful dispositions; they are vegetarians and produce better pelts if fed rabbit pellets and corn. They do not damage one anothers pelts or destroy their young. The males stay with the females even after the kits are born. Apparently he is immune to any known disease. He thrives in any climate, winter and summer. They require little attention; in fact, the Nicholson's eight-year old son, Frankie, takes care of them after school each evening. They are fed once a day, require fresh water in one end of their pen daily, and need straw for bedding during winter and at litter time.

continued on next page

Don's investment to get started with nutria was $1795 for two males and three females. Of course, it is possible to start with a pair, but the return will be much greater and in a shorter time with a pair and a trio (male and two females). The material for his pens cost another $135.00.

As a return on his investment he expects to have 300 nutria at the end of a three-year program, of which he intends to keep 150 for breeding stock. The 150 should produce about 1,000 pelts for market at the end of the fourth year. Value of the Imperial Dark nutria, which Don has, varies from $12.50 to $37.50, depending on size and quality of the pelt. Mutations, or colored nutria, are valued at two to three times the Imperial Dark. Mutations available are Snow Whites; Jet Blacks; Golds; Sand Pastels; Champagnes, and others constantly being developed.



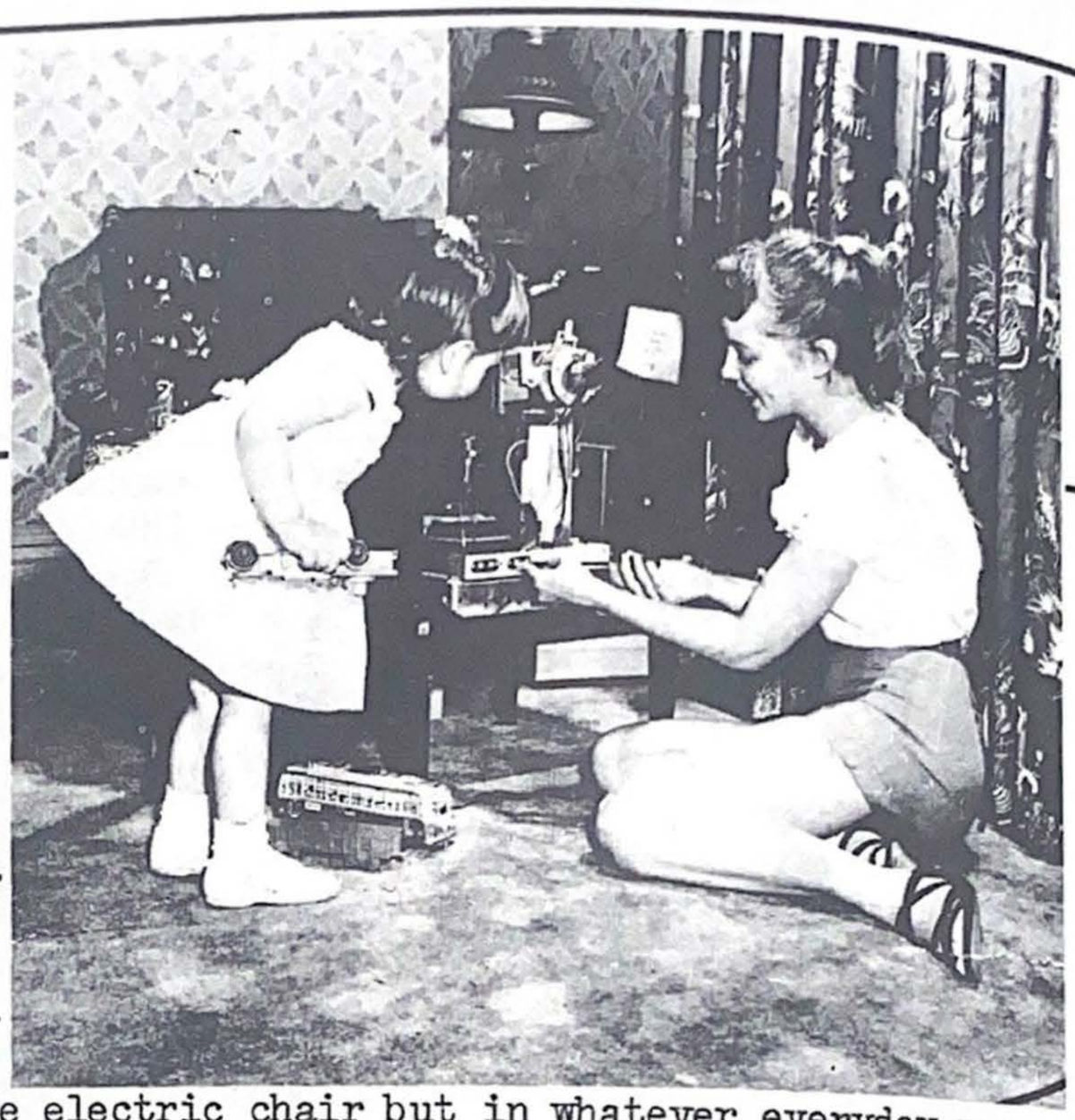
Nutria require simple pens like these. Housing is at the left and water pools are at the right.

Nutria are prolific breeders. They will litter three times in thirteen months--averaging twelve to fifteen kits during the same period. They will breed back within thirty-six hours after the litter is born. The kits are born fully furred, with teeth, and with their eyes open. They are weaned at five to six weeks and are ready to be bred at six to eight months. The animal reaches maturity at nine to eleven months. The female nutria has one of the handiest arrangements in the animal kingdom. Her ten teats are arranged in two rows near the spine on top of her back. This, apparently, is to enable her to suckle her young while in the water.

According to Don, there are many advantages to raising registered nutria, just as with other registered livestock. The initial cost is higher but the return is also greater. Don purchased his breeding stock from Nutria Del Rey, Inc. of Burbank, Calif. When you buy registered stock from them they guarantee them to live and litter for one year, and you are eligible for membership in the Affiliated Nutria Breeders Association which markets the pelts of its members. Then, too, fellow ranchers exchange male animals for breeding to keep the blood lines straight.

In addition to operating his stock and grain farm and raising the nutria, Don has been selected by the Illinois nutria ranchers organization to do all of their pelting. Animals from all over the state are shipped in to Don to be killed and skinned. There are now forty-two ranchers in Illinois. In order to do year 'round pelting--nutria can be pelted at any time of the year--Don plans to erect an air conditioned building in the near future.

For Your Safety



Nearly 1,000 innocent victims walk "the last mile" to death by electric shock every year in the United States. A miscarriage of justice?--not at all, for they are not victims of a jury's verdict, but of their own or someone else's lack of knowledge. They lose their lives not in the electric chair but in whatever everyday pursuits electric power is a factor, and though they are guilty of no crime, these unfortunates are just as dead as though they had been strapped in the electric chair and the current turned on.

Nearly every day we read or hear about someone who has committed unpremeditated suicide by ignoring the inexorable laws of electricity that separate the quick from the dead. Recently a young woman in Chicago was electrocuted when she picked up the cord of an electric fan while mopping a floor. The cord was frayed and the floor was wet--a deadly combination.

Every year a few unthinking citizens decide to enjoy the convenience of a radio, hair-dryer or sun-lamp while taking a bath. And every year some of them have their lives snuffed out when the appliance falls into the bathtub. For when a person is sitting or standing in water, an electric shock is hundreds of times more powerful than on a dry surface, according to L. C. Meyer, electric system specialist for Employers Mutual of Wausau.

Quick thinking can often mean the difference between life and death when electric power is running wild, Meyer says. Recently four young men in the midwest were riding in an automobile when a live power-line fell across the top of the car. One by one the group jumped clear of the car, being careful not to be in contact with the vehicle and the ground at the same time. This action saved their lives, for if they had stepped from the auto to the ground they would have been instantly killed.

One of the most popular forms of home entertainment today is television--a harmless pastime if you observe a few common-sense safety rules. First, Meyer cautions, never erect a tall television antenna close to a power line. Several deaths have occurred to date while towers were being erected. In addition, an installed antenna could hit a power line if weakened supports give way in a wind storm.

A more important precaution, and one too often overlooked, is the admonition, "Don't touch the back of your TV set!" Do-it-yourself activities are fine in some phases of home-life, but leave your TV set to an experienced repairman. Even when a set is disconnected and has been turned off for hours, there is often a strong enough charge left in the set to cause serious shock.

ANNOUNCING!

Special FREE OFFER

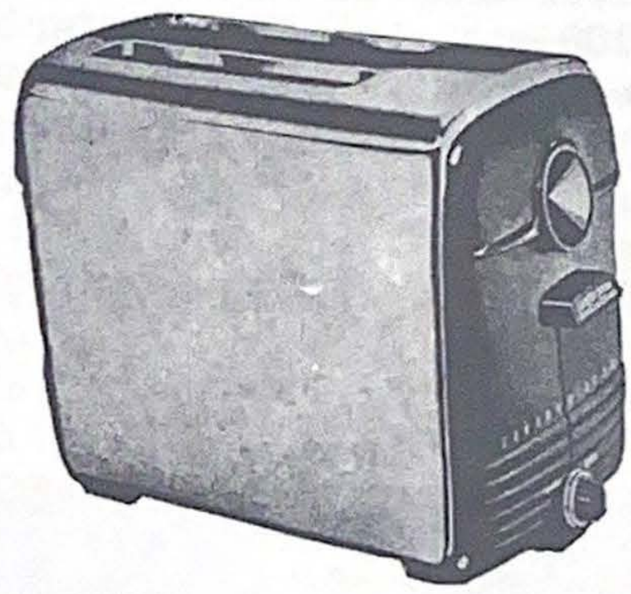
to Electric Co-op Members*

You can have your choice of either of these two wonderful, name brand appliances FREE!

4-Quart Electric Mirro-Matic Pressure Pan

- It fries, boils, stews, braises and steams as well as pressure cooks.
- All-purpose electric saucepan.
- Simply set pressure control and dial the correct heat shown in the recipe to conform with setting on the control.
- Choice of 5, 10, 15 pounds pressure, all controlled automatically without even watching.

Mirro-Matic electric pressure pan includes tray, direction and recipe book, and cord. Regularly sells for $19.95.



This new Westinghouse automatic toaster regularly retails for $19.95.

- Gleaming chrome toaster that toasts moist or dry, white or rye bread, to a golden crispness.
- An ideal extra Christmas gift for your family or for a friend.

Your choice of either of the items shown — by purchasing an automatic electric clothes dryer and following these simple rules:

1. Purchase your electric dryer from your favorite appliance dealer.
2. Have dealer fill in blanks on coupon below.
3. Have co-op representative inspect installation and sign coupon.
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I, _____ (Member's Name) certify that I am a member of _____ (Co-op Name) Electric Cooperative and have purchased an electric dryer (not exceeding 6000 watts) from the undersigned dealer

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(Dealer's signature & Address)

_____

I also certify that my electric cooperative was notified and the installation has been inspected and I am entitled to the gift item checked.

_____
(Cooperative representative's signature)

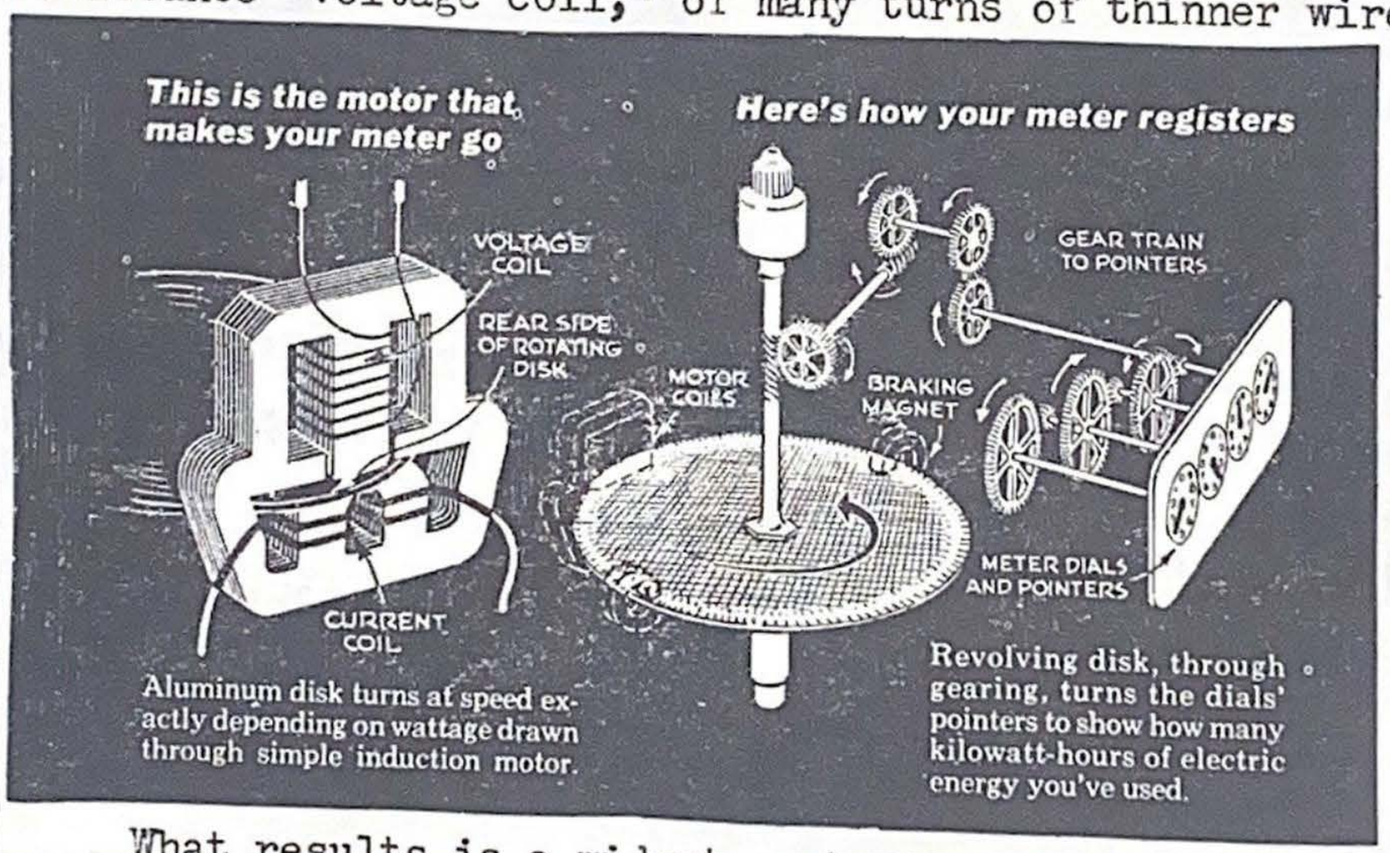
Date_____

What makes the pointers go around? How do you read them? Here's the inside story of

How Your Electric Meter Works

Whenever you turn on a lamp or appliance, a little aluminum disk in your electric meter revolves. It drives the pointers, on the meter dials, that tell how much electricity you use. You can see the disk going 'round, in a slot at the front of the meter. To see more, you'd have to take the meter apart, and your electric co-op would take a dim view of that. But your meter's ingenious works are worth looking at, and the drawing below shows you what it is like.

Your meter measures kilowatt-hours of electrical energy. Ten hours' use of a 100-watt table lamp, for example, adds up to 1,000 watt-hours or one kilowatt hour. Of course your meter doesn't know or care whether you use the energy in a lamp, a heater, or a power tool, it just does the tallying. Two sets of connections tell the meter what it does need to know: How many amperes of current you're drawing from the wires, and the voltage of the electricity entering your home. All the current you use passes first through the meter's "ampere coil," a turn or two of heavy wire, which is connected in series with the household wiring. Connected across the power-supply wires is the meter's high-resistance "voltage coil," of many turns of thinner wire.



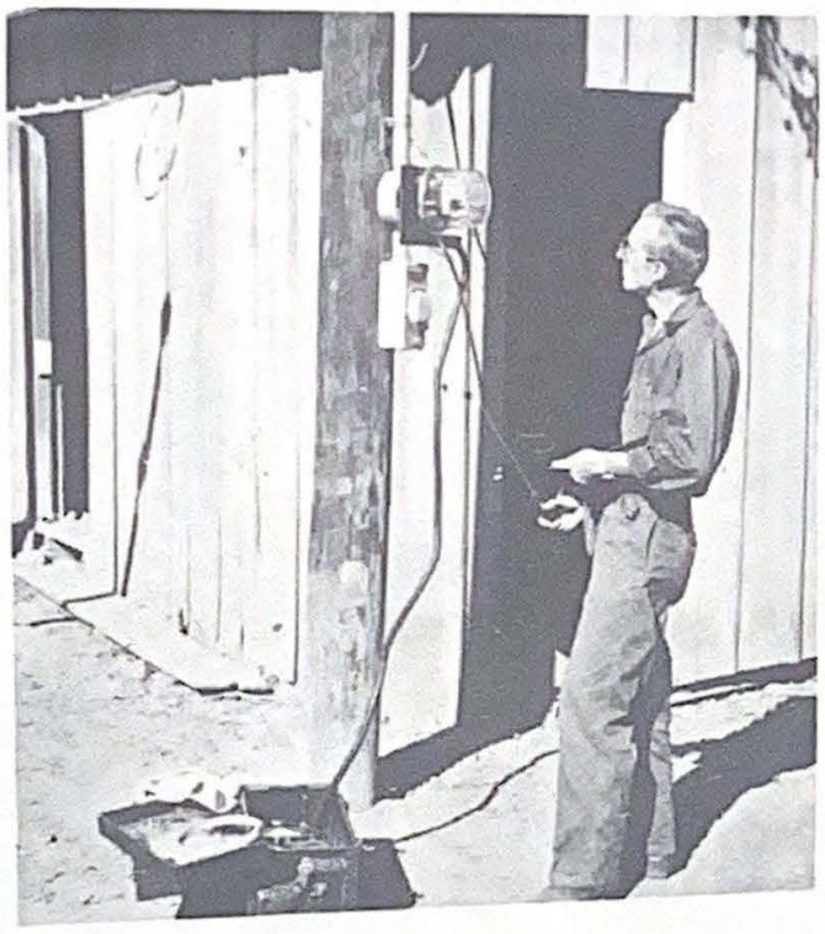
Heart of the meter is a small induction or eddy-current motor. The meter's revolving disk, of solid aluminum, forms its rotor. A pair of electromagnets, whose windings are the ampere and voltage coils, make up its stator, and C-shaped permanent magnets provide a brake, overcome by the driving force.

What results is a midget mechanical brain, beautiful in its simplicity, that solves the familiar equation; watts=volts x amperes. For the ampere and voltage coils' combined effect turns the disk at a speed exactly proportional to the number of watts you're using. Every revolution of the disk indicates an exact number of watt-hours consumed. In the modern AC meter, pictured above, one revolution equals 3.6 watt-hours. So, to register one kilowatt hour, the disk revolves 277 times.

Today a typical household AC meter has a rated capacity (although it does not mind a substantial overload) of 15 amperes at 240 volts, which is equivalent to 3,600 watts. That much wattage spins the disk at 1,000 revolutions per hour or 16 2/3 R.P.M., just half the speed of an LP record player's turntable. A 200-watt electric blanket or ventilating fan turns the disk at less than one R.P.M., slower than the second hand of your watch.

Testing Your Meter Takes Tools, Skill

On the previous page we have tried to give you layman's explanation of how your meter works. The fact is that electric meters are very accurate instruments, and a very dependable mechanism and therefore is only checked by your co-operative every five years. To get an unbiased test on your meters we have a contract with the Electric Meter Laboratories of Mattoon, Ill. to do the testing. In addition to checking the meter and filing a report in our office, the meter tester also files reports of trees on wires and of line damage he notices while driving between meters.

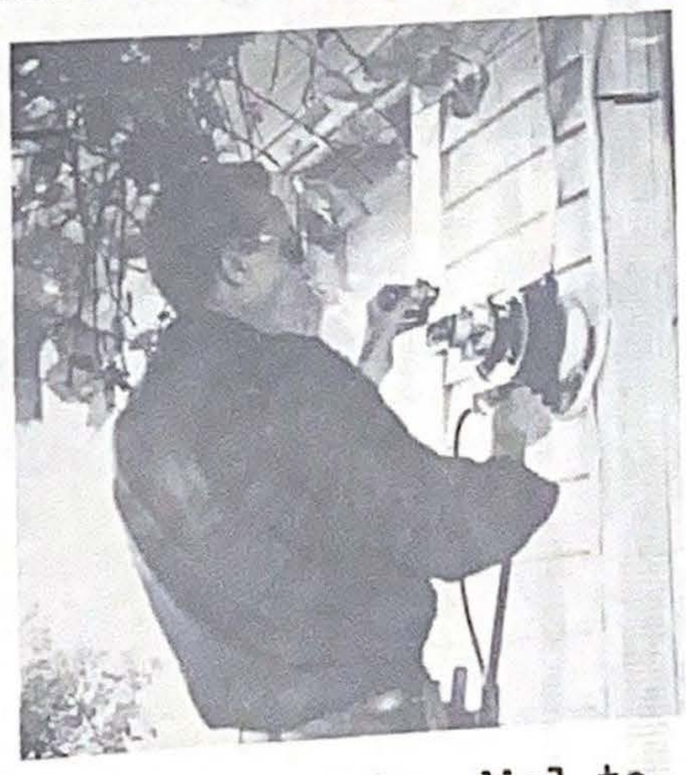


Here you see Robert Henne, an employee of Electric Meter Labs., checking a meter in the Camp Point vicinity. Bob has a regular routine that he follows so that every meter tested is in perfect operating condition and its accuracy verified when he leaves. You experience only a few seconds service interruption when the testing block is plugged into the meter socket and again when it is removed. The member does not pay for the power used to carry out the test.

Preliminary steps prior to testing the meter include cleaning out the meter socket and the back of the meter, and tightening the contacts. Bob makes minor repairs to the meter on the spot, and cleans the inside of the meter unless it is exceptionally dirty. The sapphire jewel bearings are cleaned in an odd manner--the upper bearing with a piece of pith-wood and the lower bearing with an orangewood stick. These are the same type of bearings found in watches. Meters showing signs of lightning damage; very dirty meters or meters with rusted parts, are removed and repaired in the laboratory. If the members are home they are notified that a new meter has been installed.

The actual testing of the meter consists of checking the number of revolutions of the meter disk against the number of revolutions of the test meter. The test equipment is designed so that known load settings are available. Each meter is tested twice before and after it is cleaned—under a light load ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ampere), and at full load (15 amperes for most meters).

It is estimated that it will take a year and a half to test all of the meters on our project. Members are requested to co-operate with the meter tester and confine vicious dogs to their quarters while the test is being made.



Bob removes meter dial to be sure that it registers properly.

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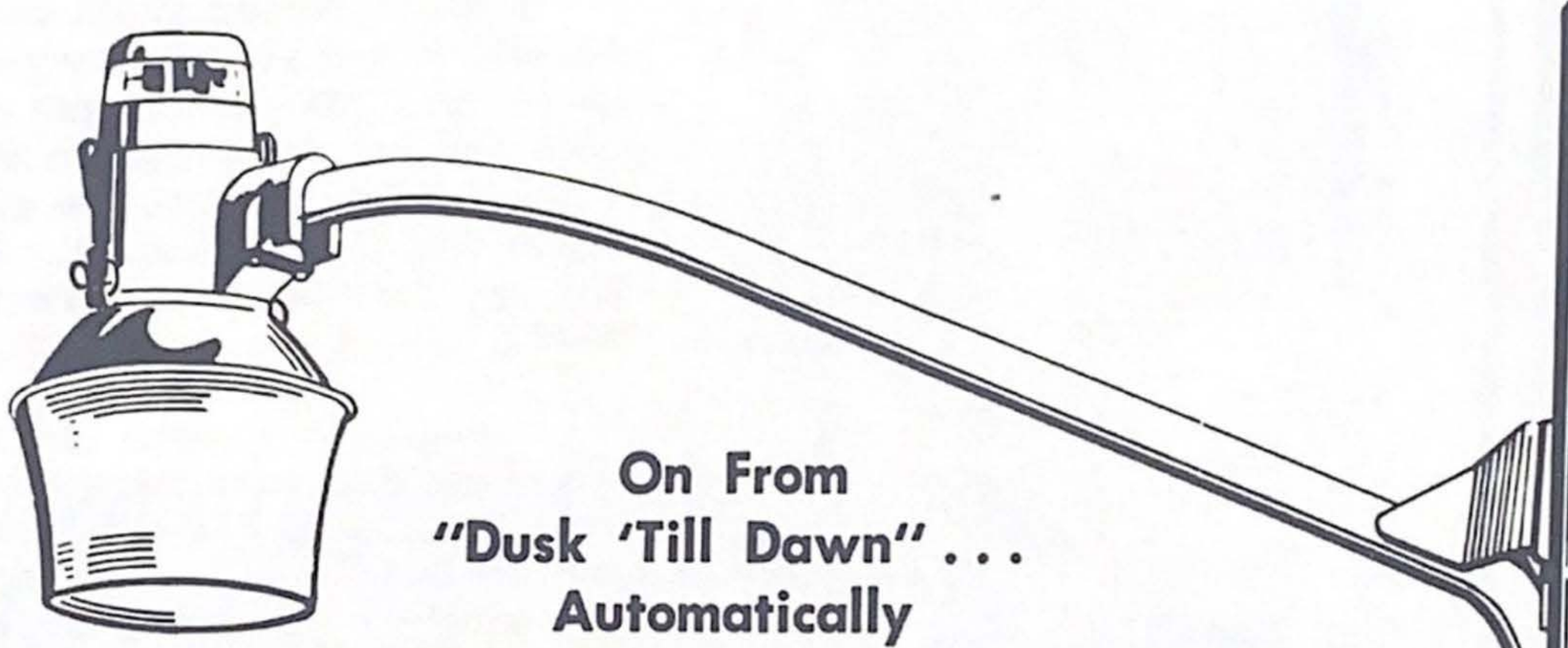
Working Hours

Effective November 28, 1957 the Co-operative's working hours Monday through Friday will be:

8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Closed Saturday



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