ADAMS OUTLET

VOLUME 12 — NO. 12 DECEMBER, 1963

ADAMS COUNTY FARMER GROWS; SELLS CHRISTMAS TREES

Joe Ehrhardt of Route 3, Quincy, at left, selling home-grown Christmas tree to Mr. and Mrs. Carol Ensminger, 67 Center Granview, Quincy. Local harvest assures better selection and fresher, longer lasting trees.

Story on Page 3.

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE POWER IS OFF

1. Check your fuses and switches below meter. If some of your lights work, then the trouble is in your own fuses. Remember to check the main cartridge fuses in the fuse box.

2. If all the lights are off, then check with your neighbor to see if his power is off.

3. If you have not found the trouble, call the appropriate number listed below. Be sure to give your name, location and map number which is to the right of your name on the address side of the billing card. This map number is used the same as a street address in locating your place. Please call in as soon as the trouble is discovered or anything wrong with the line is noticed.

4. For Service Outages — call the following:

During Office Hours — Camp Point LYndhurst 3-7701

After Hours — Saturday — Sunday — Holidays

LYndhurst 3-7129 — James Carpenter

LYndhurst 3-6389 — Dean Searls

If no answer, call —

LYndhurst 3-7704 Answering Service

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THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT....

The most important fact about a co-op is that the people who use it also own and control it.

People who use a rural electric co-op are consumer-members. Together they own the business. When consumers own the business, they can be sure it meets their needs. They know what they want. Through a co-op, they can be sure they get it. There are nearly a thousand rural electric co-ops in the U. S. There are many thousands of other co-ops, too, where people buy from their own organization in order to get groceries, telephone service, housing, medical care, insurance, fertilizer, gasoline, nursery school care for their children, credit, and other needs. And farmers across the Nation market crops through their own co-ops.

WHY DO THESE MILLIONS OF AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT A CO-OP? They know they can serve themselves better or at less cost through their own organization. They own the business, see that it meets their needs, and serve themselves without profit. They believe it is the most efficient way to get the goods and services they want.

HOW IS A CO-OP CONTROLLED? Each co-op member has one vote — just like his neighbor. This way control can be in the hands of all the consumers, not just a small group. Members meet at regular intervals, hear detailed reports, vote on general direction and policy as set forth in the bylaws. From among the membership they elect directors, who meet frequently as a board. The board hires and supervises a manager who, in turn, hires the staff and runs the operation. He is paid to be alert and responsive to the member's wishes, because the members own and control the business.

HOW IS A CO-OP FINANCED? Co-op enterprises are normally financed by the members, who put up the risk capital at a limited rate of interest. The co-op then borrows additional funds from regular commercial sources as needed. The situation for rural electric co-ops is somewhat different because the initial construction cost of an electric system is so great. The average rural electric co-op has an investment in plant amounting to about $2¾ million, to serve an average membership of about 3,750 consumers. This means an amount of about $725 for each member that had to be spent for poles, wire, transformers, buildings, engineering, labor, and other initial costs to get the rural systems built.

Few farmers had this much extra cash lying around in the years which followed the Great Depression. Congress therefore authorized the Rural Electrification Administration to make loans to cooperatives and other electric service organizations so the systems could be built and service provided. These are 35-year loans bearing interest at the rate of 2 percent per annum. In an industry requiring heavy capital investment, 2 percent interest on loans has been an indispensable "equalizer" for the special handicaps of full area-wide coverage of thinly populated countryside. REA borrowers average 3.3 consumers per mile of line, in contrast to the average of 30 to 50 customers per mile for electric companies serving the cities.

Repayment of principal and interest is made on a schedule basis from revenues paid by members on their monthly billings for electric service.

Rural electric co-ops are in this way paid for by the member-owner over a period of time. One could say that the members buy their electric systems on the installment plan, with the Government providing the initial capital as long-term, low-interest loans.

WHAT ABOUT PROFITS IN A CO-OP? Co-ops are organized by people to provide a service to members, not to make a profit. What is left at the end of the year after paying all expenses (salaries, cost of power, interest, taxes, utility bills, etc) is contributed capital and belongs to the consumers. It is credited to the individual members' equity accounts as capital credits and returned in cash at a later date when enough has been repaid on the REA loans to put the co-op in a sound financial position.

YOU CAN'T BEAT ELECTRIC HEAT

Adams County Farmer Grows; Sells Christmas Trees

Joe Ehrhardt of R. 3, Quincy has a rough land crop that takes an average of seven years to mature—it's Christmas trees. Joe conceived the idea several years ago as a result of a conversation at a G. I. Farm Training school. He felt that planting Christmas trees would be better than improving the rough land for pasture. His initial planting was 5000 red and jack pines.

In addition to the G. I. instructor who presented the idea, Joe gives credit to Giles Carr, Adams County Soil Conservation Director, and Reuben Laverdiere of Macomb, District Forester, for their assistance in the program. Laverdiere selected the best planting locations on the farm and showed Joe how to plant and care for the 4" to 6" seedlings.

Today Joe has 15 acres in production or about 15000 growing trees. He rents a planter from the state and plants 3000 additional trees a year. He has also added scotch and white pines to his selection and offers all four varieties for sale during the season. First harvesting of his unusual crop began three years ago.

The Christmas tree program lends balance to Ehrhardt's dairy farming, and provides protection for wildlife. Planting of new seedlings takes place in the early spring—the earlier the better. Shearing an all-important operation to assure proper growth and perfect shape, is done in late May or early June. Shearing must be done at the right time—starting when the trees are about three years old or three feet high and continuing each year until the year of harvest. It is necessary to keep weeds and brush clean between the trees.

Proper shearing is essential for perfect shape. Without shearing only small percentage of trees would be marketable.

Joe Ehrhardt, left, and his father, Leonard, with just a few of the large selection of trees on hand for Christmas tree shoppers.

The trees are graded, priced and marked for harvest just before the Christmas season. They are rough cut in the field and hauled to the Ehrhardts' home where the butts are cut off square and they are displayed for sale. Buyers find 200 to 300 trees on display offering an excellent selection and trees are priced reasonably according to size and quality. Trees large enough for schools and churches are also available.

Ehrhardts' trees are cut 30 to 45 days later than those grown in the North so they hold their moisture better and stay green and hold needles longer. Even so, he highly recommends that butts be put in water or wet sand to preserve the quality of the tree.

The Ehrhardts' farm is located one mile west of Burton just south of State Street. During the Christmas tree season the turn off of State Street is well marked by a large sign.

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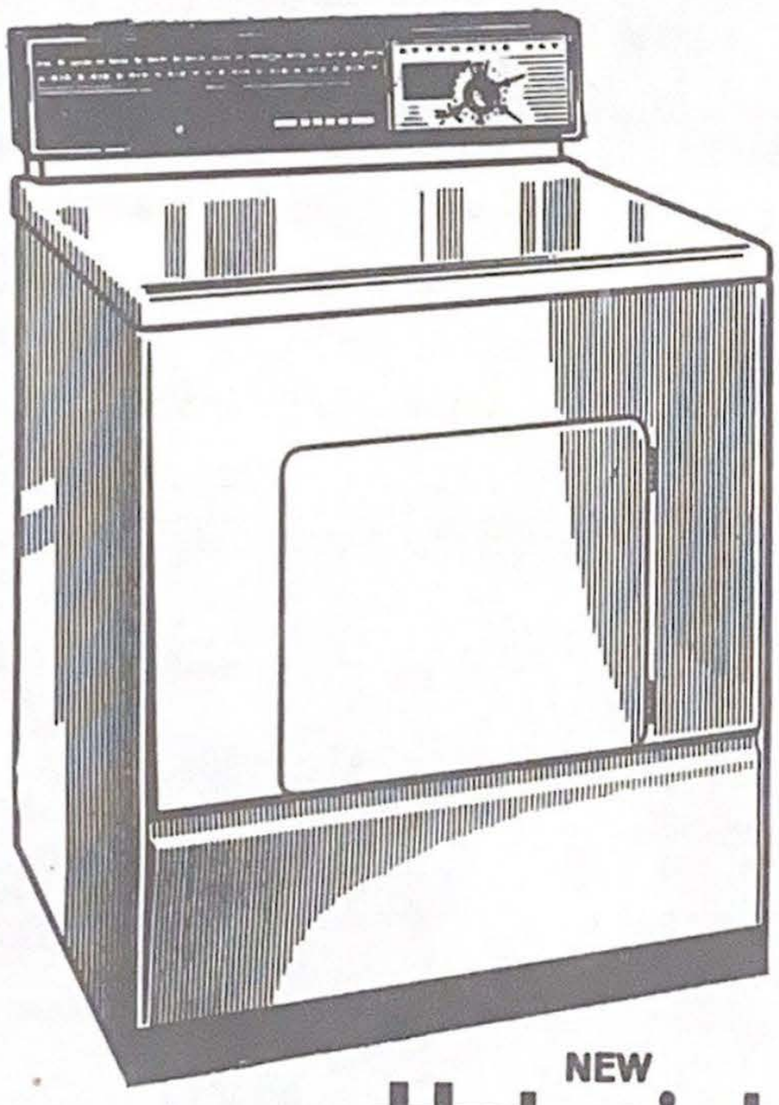
$124.95



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VERA DEAN REPORTS FROM MALAYA

Miss Vera Dean

This is the first in a series of reports from Vera Dean of her International Farm Youth Exchange experience in Malaya. Vera served as the Co-Operative Home Electrification Advisor during the past summer.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaya
October 16, 1963

Dear Friends:

This is an exciting time to live in a country which is a part of the newest nation in the world, Malaysia. I will be writing to you from time to time to share with you my experiences in this interesting and beautiful land.

Malaya lies within the area of the world commonly known as South-East Asia. It is a peninsula at the southernmost part of the Asian continent. Bordered by Thailand on the north and the Indonesian islands on the south, Malaya is almost exactly the size and shape of Illinois.

The climate of Malaya can be described with just two words—hot and humid. The temperature hovers around 90 degrees every day, but the nights are comfortably cool at 70 degrees. The yearly rainfall in Malaya ranges from 100 inches in the coastal plains to 200 inches in the mountainous jungles. There is no distinct "wet" or "dry" season. I think that each season is "wet," for it has rained every single day since I arrived here. The heat plus the humidity equal a generally uncomfortable climate. So be sure to enjoy the cool, crisp autumn and winter weather you have at home.

The main industries of the country are mining tin and growing rubber and rice. Malaya, though a relatively small country, mines one-third of the tin output and produces about one-half of the rubber in the world today. In addition, farmers produce most of the rice needed to feed the seven million inhabitants.

The most interesting characteristic of Malaya is the people who live here. It is a delightfully cosmopolitan land. In just one week here I have met Malays, Chinese, Indians, Aborigines, Europeans, Australians, and several Americans. The beautiful part about it is that, on the surface at least, the different races live harmoniously. In Kuala Lumpur, the modern capital city, people of different races live in the same area of the city, belong to the same country club, and attend the same social functions. I suspect, however, that beneath the surface a racial problem does exist. A later letter will tell more about the people of Malaya.

I am visiting Malaya for six months as a 1963 delegate of the International Farm Youth Exchange. The IFYE program is sponsored in the U. S. by the National 4-H Club Foundation and the state and local Cooperative Extension Service. In Malaya, my visit is being sponsored by the National Association of Women's Institutes. The Women's Institutes are groups of women from rural areas who are learning to become better homemakers and community members. The groups are similar to our local home extension units in Pike County. During my stay here in Malaya, I will be traveling to each of the 11 states. I will be giving talks and demonstrations to Local Women's Institute groups and will stay in the homes of the village people.

I will appreciate hearing from anyone who can take the time to write some news from home. My address is:

Vera Dean
NAWIFM Ibu Pejabat
Jalan Lembah
Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Malaya

I hope to hear from *you* soon!

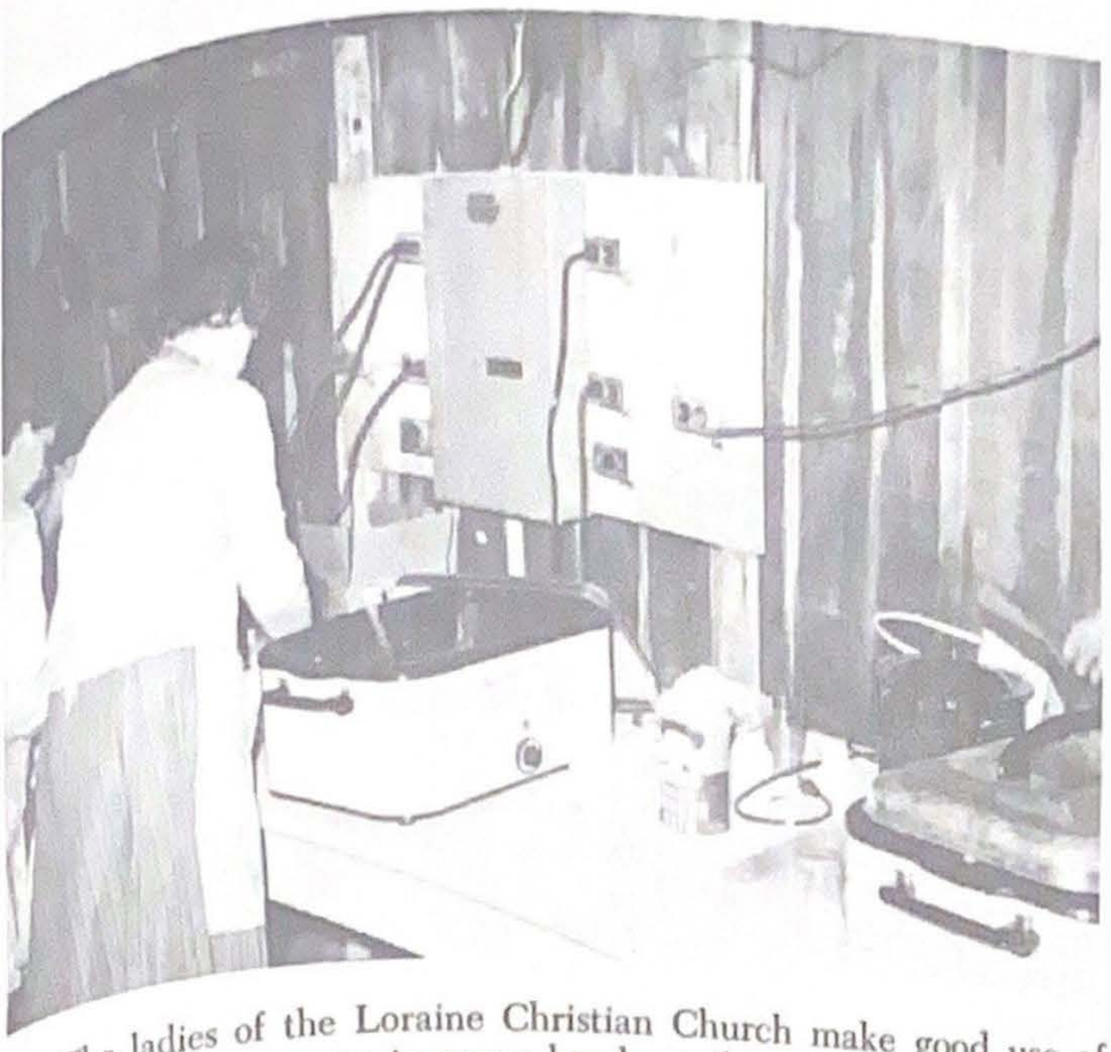
Your IFYE,
Vera Dean

WALTZ THROUGH WASHDAY WITH AN ELECTRIC WASHER AND DRYER

Weary washdays, frozen fingers, and cold clothes can now be a thing of the past, thanks to modern technology put to work for you—in the form of electricity coupled with today's washday appliances. Automatic washers and electric clothes dryers have been available to rural people for several years. Many families have not purchased a clothes dryer because a dryer has worked best only if an automatic washer were used. An automatic washer has been out of the question for many rural families because of water shortage. Recent improvements in both washers and dryers have helped to eliminate these disadvantages to rural families.

An automatic washer of necessity requires much more water than does a conventional washer. (However, it gets the clothes cleaner and makes them last longer.) Manufacturers have considered the water shortage present in many homes, for "suds savers" have been developed to be attached to automatic washers. The attachment includes a hose to be installed over an extra tub to hold the wash water between loads of clothes. After one load of clothes has washed, the water and suds drain into the tub. The rinsing cycle is completed as in any automatic washer. When a second load of clothes is put into the washer, the original wash

CO-OPERATIVE SERVES FARM SALES



The ladies of the Loraine Christian Church make good use of adequate electric power to serve lunch at the recent Bryan Lierly sale. The portable electric roasters shown in the picture were also provided by the Co-operative.

A specially equipped 100 ampere panel board which is furnished and installed free of charge by your Co-Operative is another service provided members. This panel board is equipped with six heavy duty 115 volt receptacles and two 230 volt receptacles to provide ample power for a temporary location. The panel is widely used at farm sales, when there may be a lack of adequate electrical capacity.

In addition to the panel board your Co-Operative has several large electric roasters, coffee makers, and a portable electric grill which are also loaned when needed for sales, church or community suppers. There is no charge on the use of any of the equipment, just contact the office at Camp Point LY 3-7701, and schedule your sale or church dinner.

water can be drawn back into the washer by pressing a switch. The wash water can be reused for as many loads as desired—until it is too cool or too soiled to allow clothes to come clean. The suds saver is available for almost all kinds of automatic washers.

A second possibility for coping with a water shortage is a semi-automatic washer made by at least one manufacturer. This washer is just like a conventional (wringer) washer with one important exception—the necessity for a wringer is eliminated because the clothes spin to damp-dry. The spin cycle permits a more efficient use of an electric dryer as it takes more moisture from the clothes than does a wringer. The semi-automatic washer may be helpful to those with a water shortage which makes impossible the use of a regular automatic washer.

An electric clothes dryer is one appliance which can do more than any other in making your winter washdays an easy one. The dryer, of course, removes moisture from the clothing which you place in it. The following are needed to efficiently remove the moisture from clothes:

- HEAT—to hold and transform the moisture
- AIR—to carry heat and moisture
- CIRCULATORY ACTION – to move the air through the clothes.

The length of time needed to dry clothes in an electric dryer depends on these three factors present in the dryer *and* on the amount of moisture present in the clothes to be dried.

Will an electric clothes dryer work with a wringer washer? If the washer has a good wringer on it, you will find that clothes dry satisfactorily in a regular automatic dryer. The more moisture removed from the clothes by the washer, the less will be the drying time in the clothes dryer. In considering the purchase of a clothes dryer, you will want to check your wringer to see if it is doing the best job possible in removing moisture from the clothes.

Electric clothes dryers have been improved immensely in recent years. Research has determined the optimum temperature for drying clothes. Older dryers and many commercial dryers dry clothes at a very high temperature which is injurious to clothes. New types of heat and air circulation within the dryer have been introduced to shorten drying time. Additional cycles have been added especially for use with new fabrics. The gentle tumbling action in the dryer actually makes your clothes last longer.

Why not take the work out of washday this winter? A fine clothes dryer is available for as little as $124.95 through your electric co-operative, and low monthly payments can be paid with your electric bill if you desire. Let your electricity put an end to your frozen fingers *this* winter!

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Convenient bedside control hangers.

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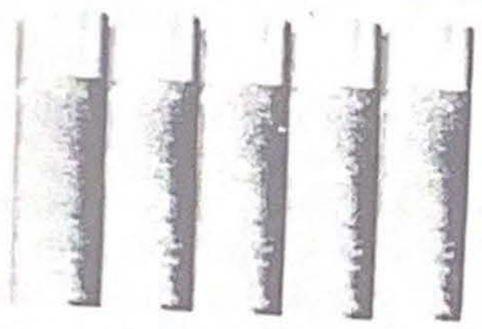
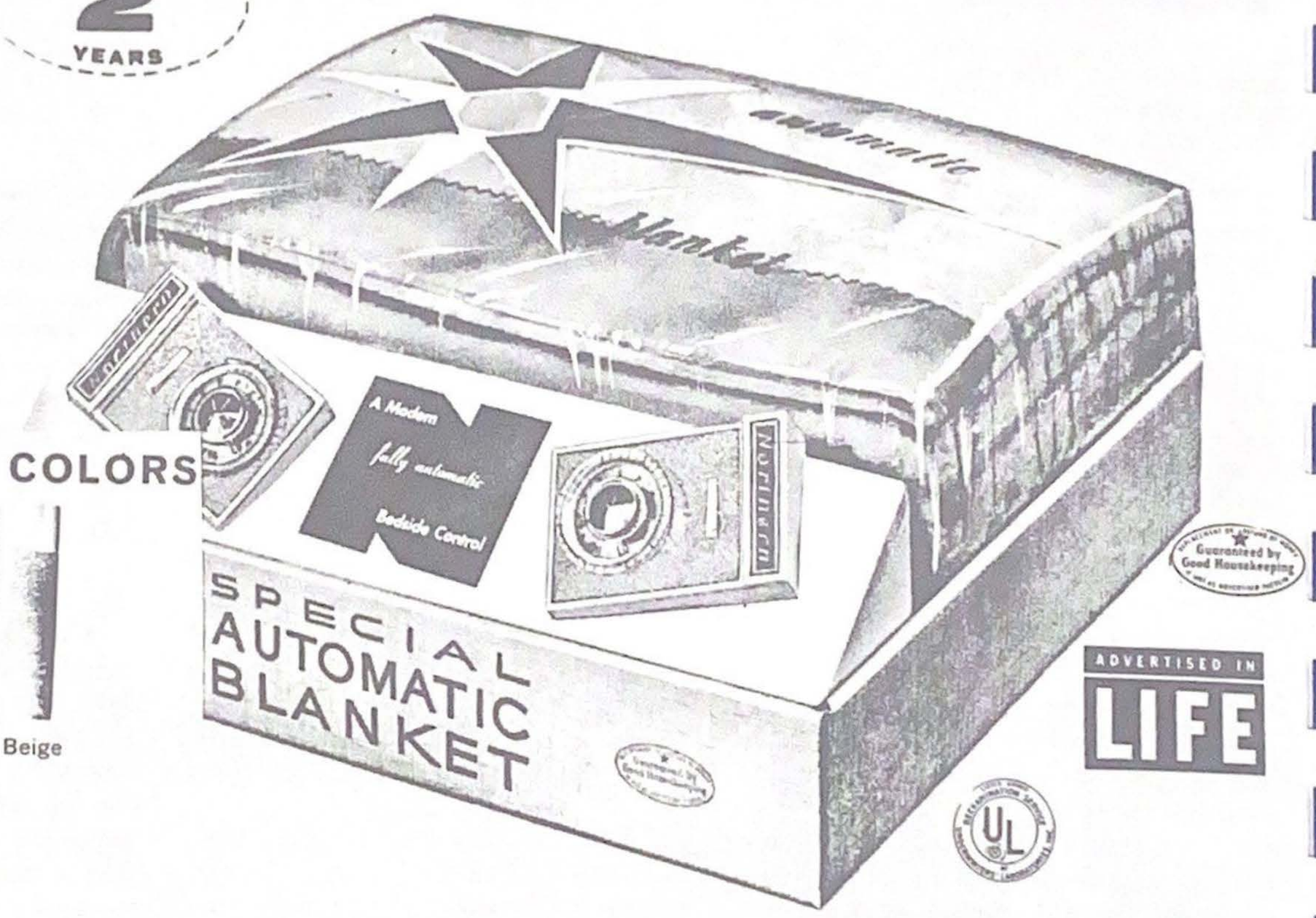


Pink Blue Light Green Beige



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