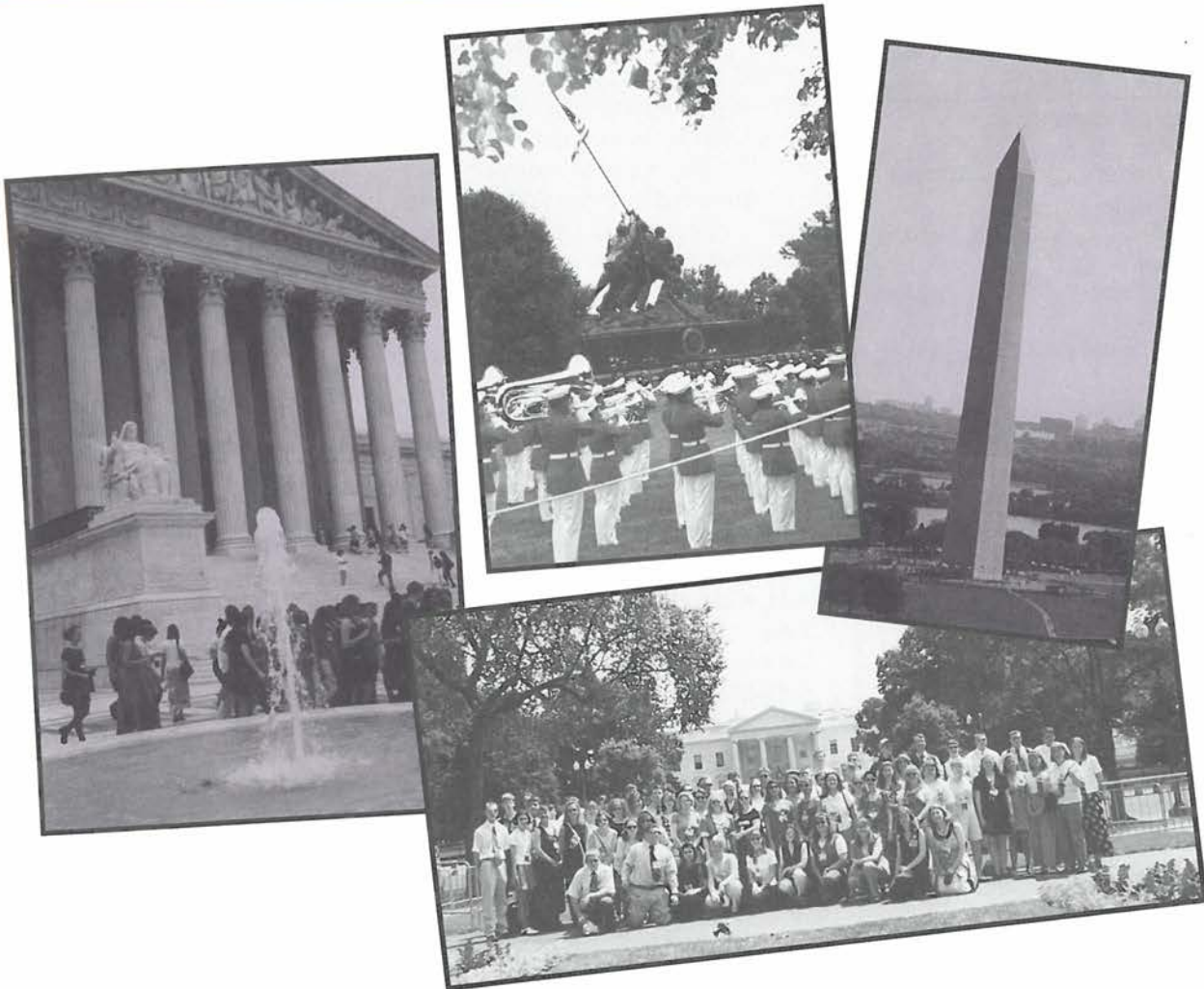


January, 1998
Vol. 47, Number 1

Adams Outlet

News for Members Of Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Camp Point, Illinois



Cooperative Plans 39th Annual Youth to Washington Contest!

Governor Signs Deregulation Bill! See Page 6

Adams Outlet

Editor

David Stuva, CREC



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TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

1. Check your fuses and circuit breakers. Do the neighbors have electricity?
2. If the problem appears to be with the cooperative's lines, call the following phone number. Give your name and map number, which is found on the bottom of your electric bill.
3. For service outages, phone:
1-800-232-4797
Local calls dial direct:
(217) 593-7701
In an emergency, call:
Jim Thompson 222-4935
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by Douglas Aeilts
General Manager

1997: A Year of Changes!

Thanks for a successful 1997! Your participation in the Co-Operative's programs and the support you have shown are the foundation of our success.



We strive to add extra value to your membership in Adams Elec-

trical Co-Operative. We are pleased to bring you quality services such as security light installation, rental and repair; competitive heating and cooling rates; rebates for installing geothermal or other electric heating systems; G.E. appliance sales & service and more.

We seek to make the rural area we serve a better place to live and work. That's also why we invest each year in youth programs, such as: Youth to Washington and Springfield essay contests, IEC Memorial Scholarship program and local 4-H electricity programs and work shops.

These investments are made because the Co-Operative believes in the people of west central Illinois and the future of our rural communities.

As we look toward the future, there are more questions than answers. The electric utility industry will be undergoing revolutionary changes and your cooperative will be affected. But one thing is certain - Adams Electrical Co-Operative will continue to be here to provide reliable electric service and improve the quality of life for our members.

The board of directors will be evaluating the new Illinois electric utility deregulation bill, "Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997," recently signed by Governor Edgar. Even though this new bill does not directly affect the Illinois electric cooperatives, every Illinois electric cooperative will be indirectly affected. Electric cooperatives have always been more responsive to our members (customers) than the large electric utilities have been. This is precisely the reason why the Illinois electric cooperatives fought for legislative exemption from mandatory rate relief that might be more damaging than beneficial. Your local board of directors will continue to listen to your comments and concerns. As the board of directors develops the appropriate strategies to respond to the electric utility changes in Illinois, we will keep you informed.

I would like to extend a special thank you to all the

members that cooperated with our tree trimming and right-of-way chemical spraying programs. We had a very ambitious program and hired three contractors to assist our own personnel. The

chemical spraying was concentrated in Brown and Schuyler Counties. Our aggressive tree trimming crews worked in west central and southwestern Adams Counties. In all, we received fewer than ten complaints. This was a direct result of the patience, un-

**“We seek
to make the
rural area we
serve a better
place to live
and work.”**

Continued on page 3...

Year of Change

continued from page 2...

derstanding and cooperation from thousands of members and landowners. Plans are underway in 1998 for additional tree trimming in northwestern and south central Adams County and chemical spraying in southern and western Schuyler County. Written notices will be sent to all members in the affected areas prior to the work starting.

Thanks again for your patronage and your participation in our programs! ■

New Employee in Accounting

Lisa Modrak started work on October 6, 1997, as Adams Electrical Co-Operative's new Bookkeeper/Computer Operator. She is a 1983 graduate of Hazelwood West in St. Louis County and for the last seven years has worked at Tampa Bay Engineering as senior accountant.

Lisa enjoys doing crafts and spending time with her daughter and pets. Lisa and her daughter Chelsea live in Golden and are happy to be near their family again. ■



Cooperative Plans 39th Annual Contest!

An all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 12 - 19, 1998, will be awarded to two area students by Adams Electrical Co-Operative. Any high school sophomore or junior can enter the contest.

Contest Rules

All participants will be required to write a 1,000 word essay. A panel of three judges will evaluate each essay on the basis of content, accuracy, originality and neatness.

Eighteen participants could win a trip to Springfield on Wednesday, April 22, 1998, for "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day".

The cooperative will make all arrangements for the tour which includes: the governor's mansion, state capitol, Lincoln's home, and visiting elected officials and other interesting sites.

Washington, D.C. Trip

The two winners will travel



by bus to Washington, D.C. where they will join 2,000 other students from across the nation. While in Washington, the young people will visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Printing and Engraving, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Supreme Court Build-

ing, Library of Congress, White House and many other historical places.

Two alternates will receive \$50 savings bonds and be eligible for the Washington, D.C. trip if one of the winners is unable to attend. ■

**Contact David Stuva at Adams Electrical Co-Operative
for more details. Ph. 1-800-232-4797**

Last "Original" Director Passes Away

Clara Neuer, 94, of Good Samaritan Home, formerly of Quincy Route 9, died at 5:30 p.m. on January 4, 1998. Burial was in Ellington Home Cemetery.

Born May 19, 1903, in Ellington Township, Mrs. Neuer was a daughter of Leonard E. and Polly Belle Myers Shriver. She married James C. Robertson on August 21, 1923, in Broken Bow, Nebraska. He died June 28, 1938. In August of 1941 she

married Elmer C. Neuer in Palmyra, Missouri. He died February 15, 1961.

Mrs. Neuer was a 1921 graduate of Quincy High School. She was a member of Ellington Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Women, Melrose Homemakers Extension and the Adams County Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Neuer worked in her church two days a week for 18 years. She was one of the origi-

nal directors who voted in the organization of Adams Electrical Co-Operative.

Survivors include four sons: Keith and Donald Robertson, both of Quincy, Lee Robertson of Elgin, and Kenneth Robertson of Estes Park, Colorado; a daughter, Mrs. Daryl (Bonnie) Davis of Loveland, Colorado; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. ■

*Reprinted from the May 1988 50th Anniversary
"Special Edition" of the Adams Outlet.*

First director was a 'troubleshooter'

By David Stuva

Clara Neuer still remembers the day the lights came on for the first time. In fact, she is one of the reasons electricity came to the farms in rural Adams, Brown and Schuyler Counties. At age 85, Clara is the only surviving original director of Adams Electrical Co-Operative.

Clara's involvement with the rural electrification program officially began by accident. On April 20, 1938, a group of 450 farmers attended an organizational meeting at the Farm Bureau office in Quincy. Clara and her husband, James Robertson, attended this meeting in hopes of bringing electricity to their farm west of Fowler.

A nominating committee

asked the various organizations present to select individuals to nominate as co-operative directors. The Adams County Home Bureau promptly chose Clara, who was later elected to serve as one of the seven directors on the new board.



Clara Neuer was elected to the first Board of Directors of Adams Electrical Co-Operative. She was instrumental in bringing electricity to rural Adams, Brown and Schuyler Counties.

Each director was responsible for signing up members and easements in their area. Clara was working in Ellington and Mendon townships, but found herself assisting

in other areas.

"I always listened and didn't clash with anybody. Eventually I was helping the other directors sign up the members they considered hopeless." She laughs, "They called me a troubleshooter because I could

crack the nuts that no one else could break!"

According to Clara, lights and convenience were the biggest selling points of electricity. "Some people told me that electricity and the cooperative wouldn't work. But I was always optimistic and eventually proved them wrong."

Later in 1938, her husband James died suddenly. She was left with a farm and four young boys. Clara survived this difficult part of her life and later married her second husband, Elmer Neuer. She continued to serve as a director of Adams Electrical Co-Operative until 1941.

Today Clara lives in a modern home with electric appliances, but she doesn't take electricity for granted.

"If you have never lived without electricity, you cannot realize what a difference there is now. When you got up in the early morning, you had to light a lantern to do chores," Clara pauses to recollect the scene, "and then in the evening you had to again carry the lantern. After those kinds of experiences, you learn to appreciate throwing a switch!" ■

January

Sale

Super Capacity Laundry Pair!

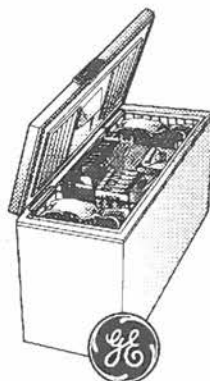


12-cycle with exclusive Auto HandWash cycle.
7-cycle dryer with Electronic Sensor Dry system.

Washer WPSQ3120 **\$559.95**

Dryer DPSQ475 **\$469.95**

21.7 Cu. Ft. Capacity Chest Freezer



Adjustable temperature control with audible alarm.
2 removable sliding baskets.
Interior light and lock with self-ejecting key.
Upfront defrost drain.

FH22DX **\$529.95**

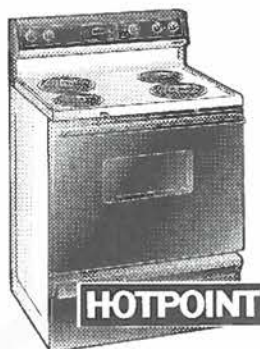
21.7 Cu. Ft. Capacity Side-by-Side Refrigerator



Adjustable glass shelves.
Gallon storage on door.
Meat pan with adj. temperature.
Equipped for optional icemaker.

CSX22GAZ
\$939.95

30" Electric Range with Self-Cleaning Oven



Easy to clean upswept cooktop.
Electronic clock and timer.
Auto oven shut-off turns the oven off after 12 hours.
Frameless black glass oven door with window.

RB757GT **\$549.95**



Robert Post
Service Technician

Appliances can be seen at the Camp Point Showroom between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Adams Electrical Co-Operative
Your Full-Service Appliance Dealer Since 1959
phone: 800-232-4797



Mike Olson
Service Technician

HOTPOINT

Governor Edgar Signs Deregulation Bill!

For the past two years Illinois electric cooperatives have pushed for language in the state's electric utility deregulation legislation that will benefit co-op members. Just before midnight, November 14, 1997 the Illinois House of Representatives passed legislation which will do just that. Following a lead established by the Senate in late October, the House approved H.B. 362 by an overwhelming majority. Governor Jim Edgar signed the bill into law on December 16, 1997.

The bill is 261 pages long, very complicated and detailed. In comparison, the five pages dealing with not-for-profit utilities is relatively simple and to the point. It was one of the few portions of the bill that stirred relatively little controversy. The language simply protects the right of self-determination for democratically controlled, not-for-profit utilities, including electric cooperatives and municipal utilities.

"This was the most important legislative issue ever undertaken by Illinois electric cooperatives," said Earl Struck, president and chief executive officer of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, the state trade organization which acted as the cooperatives' voice in shaping the bill. "We're pleased that legislators recognized the importance of not-for-profit electric cooperatives and our position on deregulation legislation," Struck said. "We're very gratified that they accepted our proposal."

"It contains the guiding principles we fought to preserve, including cooperative choice in regard to entering the deregulated market, and affirmation of

the Electric Supplier Act, which prevents duplication of electric facilities and guards against needless adverse environmental and economic costs," said Douglas Aeilts, Adams Electrical Co-Operative Manager.

"But probably most significantly, the bill supports our members' right to act as the guiding force behind their local electric cooperative. It allows cooperatives to 'opt in' to the deregulated utility market if and when they find it prudent to do so," Aeilts continued. "Simply put, the bill gives our cooperative several options under deregulation. It allows our members, through their locally elected board of directors, to decide what's best for their future."

Aeilts pointed out that a lot of promises are being made regarding lower electric rates. "These claims usually talk about huge rate reductions over a very short time. We need to remember that cooperatives were formed because the large investor-owned utilities didn't feel our area was a viable investment. The only difference between now and then is that some businesses, which look attractive to the investor-

"the bill supports our members' right to act as the guiding force behind their local electric cooperative"

owned utilities, have settled in our area. Whether or not the lower rates offered to high-profit business customers will also be extended to residential customers is anybody's guess."

Investor-owned utilities will be required to make several residential rate decreases beginning in August 1998. However, many electric cooperative members

have already received rate decreases. Adams Electrical Co-Operative members received a 7.73 percent rate reduction in June 1997. Illinois' generation and transmission cooperatives have already passed on savings and are working hard to cut costs, pay off debt and prepare for competition for bulk power contracts. On the local distribution side of the business, cooperative employees continue to prove they can offer the best quality electric service at the lowest cost.

Industries served by investor-owned utilities will be capable of choosing an alternative to their current power supplier beginning in 1999. Commercial customers served by those utilities will be phased into the competitive market starting the same year. The phase-in process should be completed for those customers by the end of the following year. Residential customers of investor-owned utilities will be able to purchase power from an alternative wholesale energy supplier in 2002.

Aeilts went on to say that electric rates on the open market will ultimately depend on how efficiently power producers can ship electricity to their consumers and basic changes in supply and demand. "In fact, it's possible deregulation could mean an actual rate increase for some customers. There will be winners and losers. That is why we will be very careful in analyzing the best course for our cooperative and the members we serve".

As the electrical industry changes, consumers and businesses should not forget the importance of reliability, supply and the quality of electric service. "These issues are just as important as lowering rates. The legislation signed by Governor Edgar will allow us to continue doing what we've always done — offer our members the best possible service at the lowest cost," said Aeilts. ■

Another Satisfied Customer

When Larry, Kathy and Dalton Bruns built their new home south of Augusta, they chose quality G.E. and Hotpoint appliances. The Bruns' purchased a CTX18G Hotpoint Refrigerator, an IM3 Hotpoint Icemaker, a JBP75 G.E. Range, an HDA900 Hotpoint Dishwasher and a JE1540 G.E. Microwave.

The Bruns' moved into their new house in September, 1997. Their 1,800 square foot home is a Preferred Custom Home from Steve Hill.

Larry is an electrician for Brown Electric in Quincy and Kathy is a customer service representative/teller for the State Bank of Augusta.

"I really like the layout of the kitchen, everything is right at my fingertips," says Kathy. "The glass cooktop range is extremely easy to clean and also serves as extra counter space when it's not in use. The light color cabinets and all white appliances give our kitchen a very

open and bright appearance," adds Kathy.

"We were sold on Adams Electrical Co-Operative's ser-

vice department," Larry adds. "Buying local was an important factor for us. This is the first time we've bought appliances from the cooperative and we have been very satisfied with everything." ■



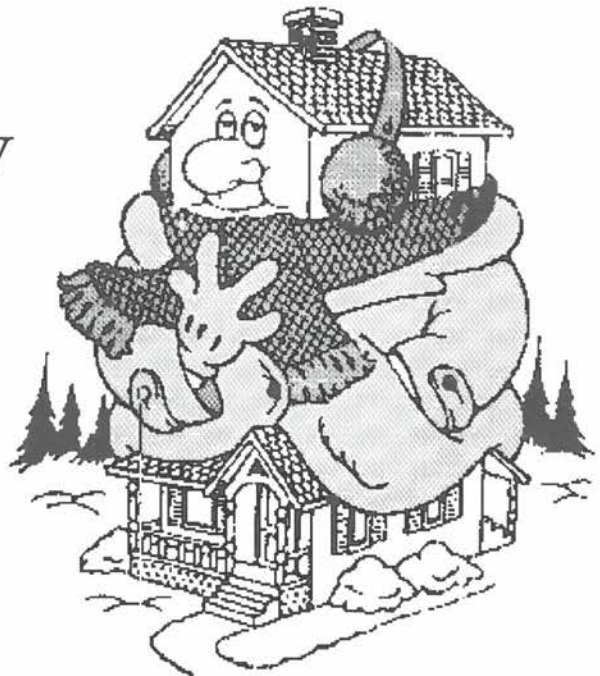
Adams Electrical Co-Operative's full service dealership was an important consideration for Larry, Kathy and Dalton Bruns when they bought their new appliances.

The Homebuilder Association of Quincy & Quincy Mall

Presents

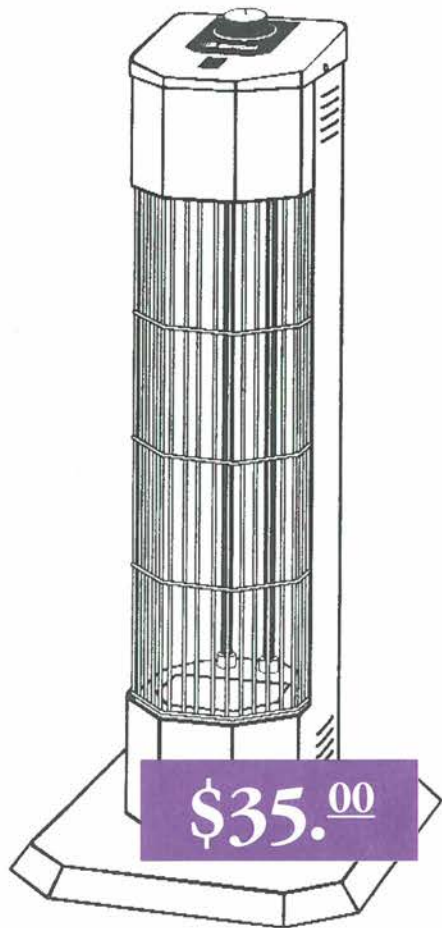
1998 Cabin Fever Weekend

Saturday and Sunday
February 21 & 22, 1998



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Deluxe Quartz Heaters



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- ✓ Top Mounted, Automatic Thermostat –*Easier to see and Easier to adjust*
- ✓ Overheat Safety Feature and Safety Light
- ✓ 100% Silica Tru Quartz Heating Elements (*Replaceable*)
- ✓ 120 volts
- ✓ 1500 Watts (5120 B.T.U.)
- ✓ Automatic Safety Tip-Over Switch - *Shuts heater off if accidentally tipped over*
- ✓ Chrome Wire Safety Grill
- ✓ Convenient Rear Mounted Chrome Carrying Handle
- ✓ UL Approved

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