

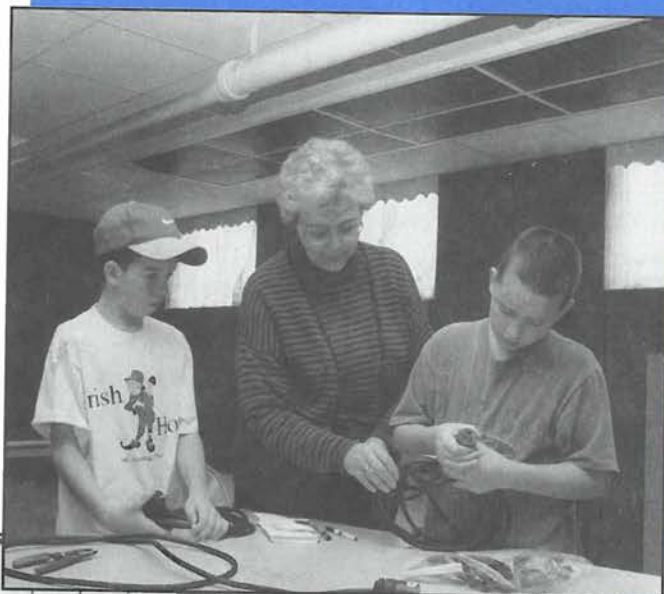
March, 1998
Vol. 47, Number 3

Adams Outlet

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

Multi- County 4-H Electricity School

Story on page 4...



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
Norm Henze 696-4873
Douglas Aeilts 593-7340
David Stuva 593-7350
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by Douglas Aeilts
General Manager

Automated Meter Reading

Electric utility distribution technology has not changed very much over the last 60 years. Wood poles, porcelain insulators, copper and aluminum wires and the electric meter all look basically the same



today as they did in the past. Most of the technological advances in the electric industry have been in the consumer products area. Computers are smaller and more powerful. Nearly all homes have a microwave, VCR, color television or electronic games.

Recent advances in the consumer products area are starting to have an impact on the distribution cooperative.

Over the years, there have been minor technological improvements in the distribution sector of the electric utility industry. These improvements include preservatives in the wood poles, improved lightning arresters, high quality underground cable insulation and radio-controlled electronic load control switches.

Adams Electrical Co-Operative currently operates with a self-read type of billing system. While this system is efficient and cost effective, it isn't compatible with the new deregulated electric industry.

Our existing billing system is dependent on the member reporting an accurate meter reading every month. Our members are very responsible and honest – that is why this system has worked so well. But there are always a few members who don't turn in an accurate reading.

Automated meter reading (AMR) technologies, which perform a number of functions, allow your Co-Operative to automatically read your meter. There are several types of AMR

technologies available. Some technologies use the existing meter and add electronic parts; others replace the existing meter with a fully electronic meter (no moving parts).

Essential to any AMR technology is a communication link between the Co-Operative and the electric meter. Currently there are three communication technologies available – telephone lines, radio and our own power lines. In the future, satellite and other wireless communication options will be available.

AMR technology does much more than read meters. AMR can also notify the Co-Operative of power outages, both temporary and permanent. AMR can also notify the Co-Operative of high or low voltage problems, flickering lights or if the problem is caused by something on the Co-Operative's distribution system.

For the last 10 years, the Co-Operative has used various types of electronic metering for three phase and interruptible accounts. Co-Operative employees read these meters once a month because there is no communication link established.

Recently, the Co-Operative installed its first meter with AMR technology. The meter will be read by cellular telephone.

The Co-Operative is also investigating the costs and benefits of AMR for all 7,300 meters in our three-county service area. Different types may be used in various parts of our service territory. The cost of AMR is dropping as the technology improves. The investment required for your local Co-Operative will likely be more than \$1,000,000. The AMR system needs to be operational before the electric utility industry is deregulated in 2002. We will keep the members informed as the Co-Operative evaluates this new program. ■

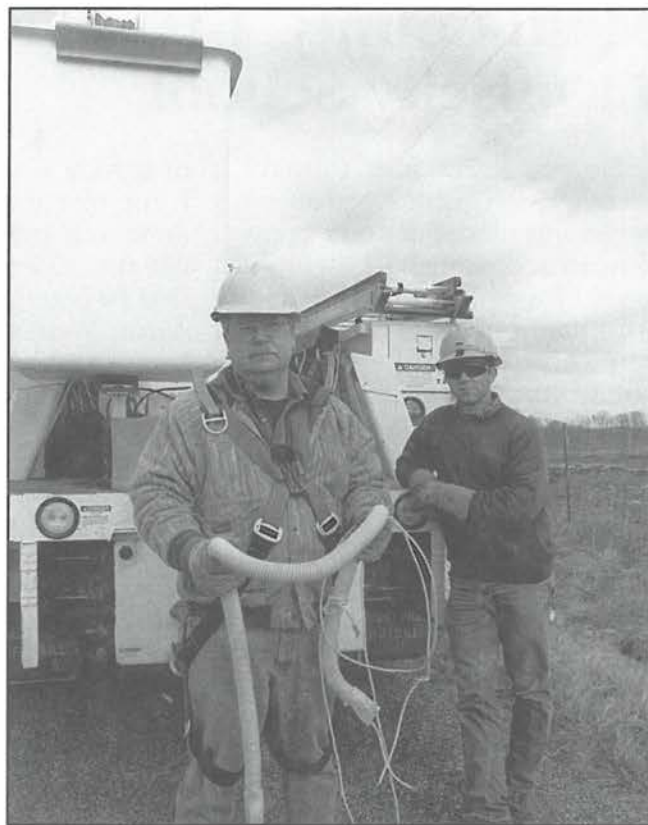
Pranks And Power Lines Don't Mix!

On February 26, 1998, Adams Electrical Co-Operative linemen Donald Ward and Brian Anderson were dispatched to an unusual call. Apparently, someone had thrown an old vacuum cleaner hose and cord over a 7,200-volt primary line. Authorities are unsure whether this was a prank or a malicious act.

Vandalism to rural electric lines causes needless outages for cooperative members. Vandalism can also kill or injure the people who tamper with high-voltage equipment.

If the culprits who damage or steal electric lines are not caught, replacement cost is covered by all Adams Electrical Co-Operative members.

What can you do to help? Please report any suspicious activity or intentional damage to Adams Electrical Co-Operative property to the proper law enforcement authorities. With your help, we can reduce the frequency of these crimes. ■



Linemen Donald Ward and Brian Anderson remove a vacuum cleaner hose from a 7,200-volt line near Rushville. This *prank* could have caused a needless outage or fatally injured the party involved.

Don't Touch Downed Wires!

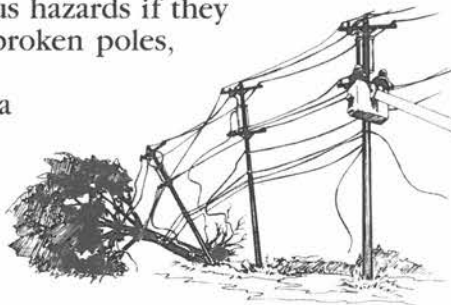
Are you aware that electric lines along roads and through fields are *BARE*? Many people think that all electric wires are insulated. Electric wires such as extension cords or service drops to homes are covered because they can be touched easily. Their lower voltages also make it economically practical for them to be coated. On the other hand, higher voltage wires, which are out of normal reach, are seldom insulated.

The high voltage lines along your road and cross-country are installed in accordance with the national safety codes established for utilities. The wires are located at specified heights and distances to take full advantage of nature's insulators - air and space.

Always assume that fallen wires are energized and deadly. While overhead power lines are normally safe, they may present serious hazards if they sag or fall as a result of ice, wind storms, lightning, broken poles, fires or other reasons.

Also keep in mind that if the line is in contact with a car, wire fence, metal structure or another conductive object, the whole works can become energized.

If you encounter a fallen or sagging wire, **STAY AWAY FROM IT**. Call Adams Electrical Co-Operative and local emergency officials as quickly as possible and let us take care of the situation. Before help arrives, do your best to make sure no one else comes into contact with the wire. ■



Multi-County 4-H Electricity School

Do you know how to make an extension cord? Need a new outlet installed, but don't know how to accomplish it? Joel Post says, "Working with electricity isn't hard once you catch on!"

Twelve-year-old Joel and about 40 other area 4-H members caught on to the idea Monday, March 2, 1998 at the Multi-County 4-H Electricity School held in the Camp Point Community Building. Electrical safety was highly emphasized throughout the day.

The school was co-sponsored by Cooperative Extension Services in Adams, Brown, Schuyler, McDonough and Pike counties, Adams Electrical Co-Operative and AmerenCIPS.

The 4-H participants were divided into four levels of instruction. Jim Wood, Shelby Fuller and Dan Selby from AmerenCIPS, and Jan Barnard of Adams/Brown County Cooperative Extension — with Jeff Woods and Abby Rigg assisting — taught first-year members.

First-year members made a 10-foot extension cord and studied proper fusing and wire size. Everyone got to take their extension cord home. "It was kind

of hard at first. I got one end done and then did the other," said 10-year-old Aaron Weiman from Quincy.

Second-year members received house wiring training from Adams Electrical Co-Operative employees Robert Post and Ed Covey. Assisting were Dan Ritchey and Brett Duesterhaus. Members learned how to wire single-pole, three-way and four-way switches in addition to multi-branching circuits for receptacles. "We're learning how stuff's wired up, what's the right way and the wrong way to do it, and how to do it properly," said Adam Mowen.

Third-year participants solved various electrical situations and practiced their house wiring skills. They were taught by Randy Rigg and Kevin Knight from Adams Electrical Co-Op-



Randy Rigg, Adams Electrical Co-Operative, explains the process of checking a freezer compressor.

erative and were assisted by Rodney Woods.

The advanced class was a "job shadowing" program. Randy Rigg explained how to repair several used appliances. Jim Thompson took the group to a substation and also to Central High School to see the school's generator. "We're wiring a house this year. It's helping me a lot," said Andy Gallaher, who came to his fourth electricity school. "It may help me in my career."

The local media provided excellent coverage of the 4-H school. Several students were interviewed by KHQA-TV, WGEM-TV and the Quincy Herald-Whig. A special thanks goes to Prairie Farms Dairy, Quincy, for providing the students with milk for lunch. ■



Third-year electricity school students learn to wire single pole, 3-way and 4-way switches from Kevin Knight, Adams Electrical Co-Operative.

Cover: Jan Barnard, Adams County Cooperative Extension Service, helps a first-year member check his 10-foot extension cord.

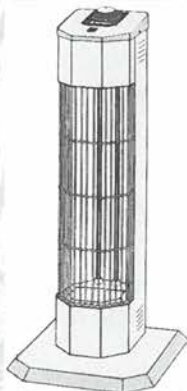
Robert Post, Adams Electrical Co-Operative, was the instructor for the second-year class.

Spring Savings

Quartz Upright Heater

- 1500 watt setting
- Tip-over safety switch
- Automatic on/off setting

\$35.00



Super Capacity 16-Cycle Heavy Duty Washer

WPSQ4160T

- Auto HandWash cycle for fine washables
- 5 automatic fabric care selections
- Exclusive extended spin
- QuietPackage sound insulation

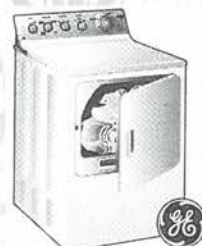


\$599.95

Super Capacity 7-Cycle Heavy Duty Dryer

DDSR475ET

- Electronic Sensor Dry System
- 4 heat selections
- Optional Extra Care
- Dryer interior light.



\$469.95

14.0 Cu. Ft. Capacity Upright Freezer



FP14SX

- 3 refrigerated cabinet shelves with top cold plate.
- 5 door shelves.
- Drop-front bulk storage retainer.
- Interior light and lock with self-ejecting key.

\$499.95

GE Profile Dishwasher



GSD4320ZBB

- Electronic touch controls for easier operation.
- China/Crystal developed in consultation with Lenox.
- QuietPower III insulation package.

\$549.95

25.2 Cu. Ft. Capacity Dispenser Refrigerator



TFX25JRY

- Dispenses crushed ice, cubes and chilled water.
- Modular door bins store gallon containers.
- Adjustable glass shelves.

\$1179.95

30" Electric Range with Self Cleaning Oven



RB75XGT

\$549.95



Randy Rigg
Lead Technician

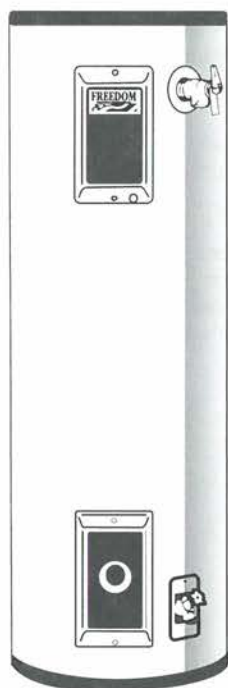
Appliances can be seen at the Camp Point Showroom between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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



Robert Post
Service Technician

HOTPOINT



Adams Electrical Co-Operative offers a complete line of high quality and energy efficient electric water heaters.

All prices include FREE delivery!

Freedom Water Heaters:	Sale Price:	Warranty:
F5 40 gallon	209.95	(1 Year Parts and 5 Year Tank Warranty)
F5 52 gallon	219.95	
F5 82 gallon	369.95	
F8 40 gallon	309.95	(1 Year Labor 8 Year Parts and Tank)
F8 52 gallon	319.95	
FLT 40 gallon	409.95	(1 Year Labor Lifetime Parts and Tank Warranty)
FLT 52 gallon	419.95	

Note: All lower elements are always covered by warranty!

You could be saving up to \$96 on your electric water heating each year!

If you use at least 400 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month and can answer "yes" to the following statements, you may qualify for a controlled electric water heating credit:

- ☒ I have an electric water heater at least 30 gallons or larger.
- ☒ I volunteer to allow a load control switch to be placed on the water heater.
- ☒ I agree to let the cooperative control the water heater during peak demand periods.

Note: Electric water heaters on our "Controlled Heating Cooling" rate or "Interruptible" rate do not qualify.

It's simple. Ask today about the controlled electric water heating credit and start saving money — \$8 credit every month!

Phone (800) 232-4797

Adams Electrical Co-Operative Does NOT Sell Insurance!

Many Are Confused By Reserve National Insurance Company's Hospitalization Plan For Rural Cooperative Members

A company from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma solicits business using direct mailings to "postal patrons." The company uses the wording "National Association of Rural Cooperative Members." This is very similar to the electric cooperatives' national association (NRECA - National Rural Electric Cooperative Association). Many members are misled and believe they are dealing with an actual national representative of their local cooperative.

The company, Reserve National Insurance Company, has

a history of blanketing certain areas of Illinois and other states with similar mailings. The material usually arrives in a plain envelope addressed to "Postal Patron." Frequently, the mailings are followed by a company representative contacting the member in person.

The letters carry a small disclaimer at the bottom which says the plan is not affiliated or endorsed by any particular rural cooperative. That, however, hasn't eliminated confusion over who is selling the insurance, nor telephone calls from members wanting more information.

Such practices are misleading to members who have come to trust their cooperative. Adams Electrical Co-Operative does not share

members' names or addresses with advertisers or anyone else wanting to contact cooperative members.

Reserve National is licensed to do business in Illinois and the material in question makes no false claims. Unfortunately, little can be done to stop these mailings.

Many legitimate insurance plans are available through direct mail and magazine advertisements. *Illinois Country Living* magazine offers life and health insurance coverage endorsed by NRECA. Advertisements for these plans include a brief letter of endorsement from NRECA's executive vice president and general manager, Glenn English.

Please don't be misled. Adams Electrical Co-Operative does not sell insurance. If you ever question whether a service or product is endorsed by Adams Electrical Co-Operative, please call the office (800-232-4797).



Available Security Lighting

General Area Lighting

Non-metered Light

100-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$7.14
250-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$12.00
400-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$17.50

Metered Light

100-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$2.00
250-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$5.00
400-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$5.50

Directional Flood Lighting

Non-metered Light

250-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$12.00
400-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$17.50

Metered Light

250-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$5.50
400-watt high pressure sodium.....	\$5.50

Special Business or Subdivision Lighting is Available Upon Request

For More Information Contact:

Adams Electrical Co-Operative

P.O. Box 247 • Camp Point, IL 62320

(217)593-7701 or 1-800-232-4797



The Co-Op Corner

These are a few of the thank you notes we have received in the past months.

David and Ed,

Thank you for giving up valuable time at work to attend our career day on Tuesday. We really appreciate the time you shared with our students.

**Bob Brady, Principal
Central Junior High**

Dear Sirs,

I want to thank you for the wonderful service we had with the REA. My late husband and I enjoyed being with your cooperative. So I want to thank you very much. As soon as I get ready to use your electric again, I will call you.

Thank you so very much,
Violet L. Schoonover

Service Department,

I just wanted to thank you again for your quick response in coming to my rescue during the holidays when my refrigerator quit cooling. I especially appreciate the use of the "loaner." I don't know where I would have been at Christmas without it!

Sharon Main

Dear Mrs. Weeks,

Thank you for dropping off my oven heating element after work. You helped me out a lot. I was to bake a birthday cake the next day. Have a happy New Year.

Marilyn Bottorff

Thank you so much for the use of your electric panel for our soup supper. It was a real success.

**Congregation
of Burton Church**

Thank you for calling back when the power was off for two hours. I probably would have been late for work. I leave the house in the dark every morning.

Bus Driver – Janet Norris

Dear David Stuva,

The Robertson Family wants to thank Adams Electrical Co-Operative for the scholarship donation in memory of Clara Neuer. She would have been very pleased to know that she was helping some young person with their education. She was always proud of her part in getting electricity to the rural area. Thank you for the extra copies. They will be given to the family.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Keith Robertson

Dear David,

A big thank you to you and the Adams Outlet for featuring Clara Neuer recently. My mother and dad were close friends with Clara and Jim Robertson when the boys were small. Keith and I are the same age. We played together as kids. Thanks again!

Betty Schaberg

Thanks for your service and Randy Rigg's help!

Betty Hollembeak

(Betty purchased a new G.E. wall oven, G.E. cooktop and a Hotpoint dishwasher from Adams Electrical Co-Operative.)

Dear Sirs,

Thank you so much for the delicious supper and the enjoyable visit at the cooperative office. I feel as if I know you all and will look forward to the next meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Inez Quesenberry

(Advisory Committee Member) ■