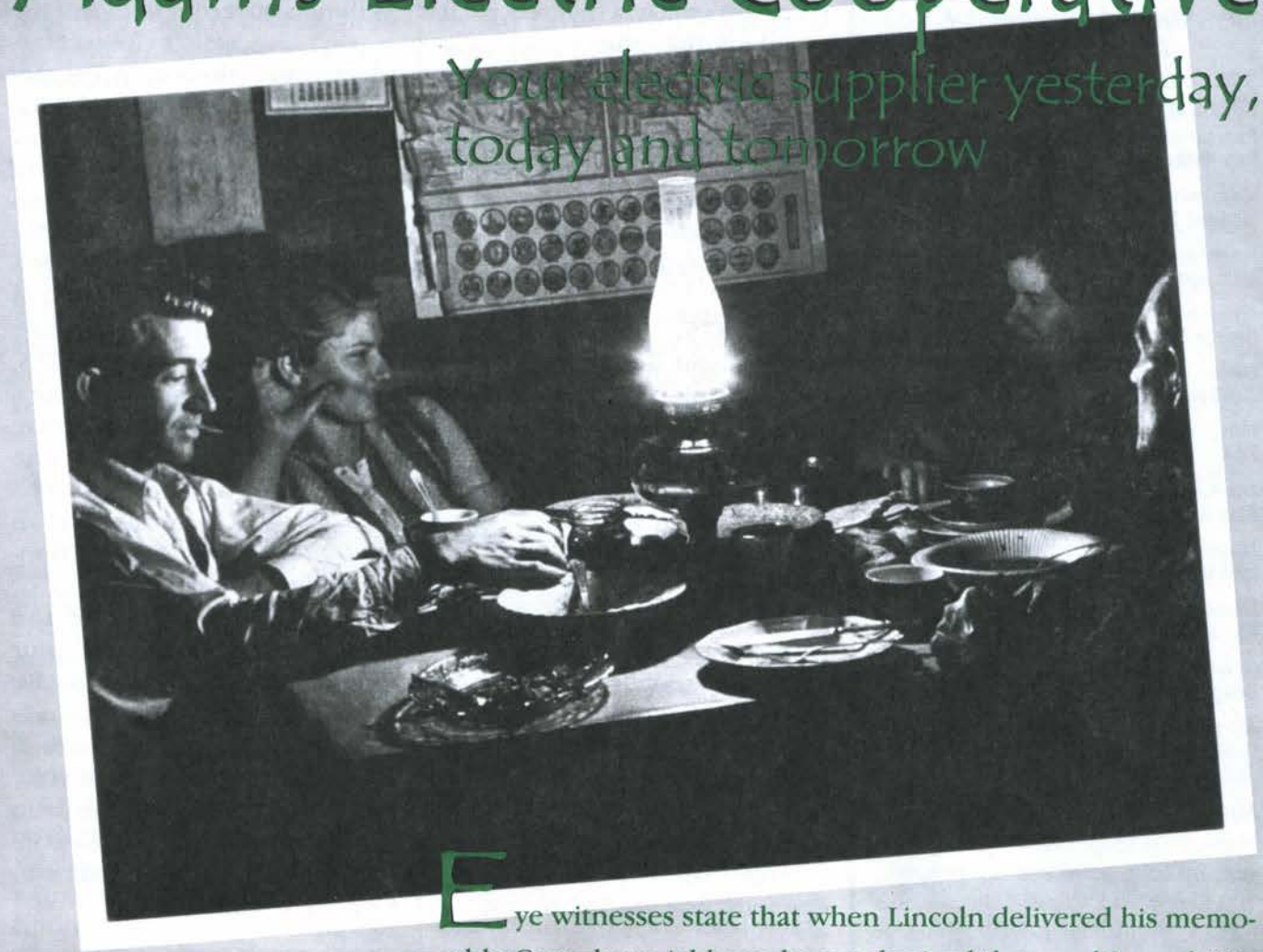
October, 2000
Vol. 49, Number 10

Adams Outlet

News for Members Of Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point, Illinois

Adams Electric Cooperative

Your electric supplier yesterday, today and tomorrow



Eye witnesses state that when Lincoln delivered his memorable Gettysburg Address, he emphasized the word "people" in his three part description of the United States government – "of the people, by the people and for the people." The United States is indeed based on a "we, the people" idea.

(continued on page 4)

Adams Outlet

www.adamselectriccoop.com

Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To report an outage:
1-800-232-4797
Local calls dial direct:
(217) 593-7701

MISSION STATEMENT

"Adams Electric Cooperative is committed to exceeding the expectations of those we serve!"

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Editor
Candace Weeks

by Douglas Aeilts
General Manager

Your vote counts!

On Tuesday, November 7, 2000, we have the privilege to vote for candidates who will provide leadership at the local, state and federal level. We have a tremendous right and responsibility as citizens to exercise our right to vote.

How many times have you heard people say "I don't have the time," "I don't care who wins, it won't affect me" or "My vote won't make a difference." If you think that one vote doesn't make a difference you're wrong:

- In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.
- In 1875, one vote brought Texas into the Union.
- In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.
- In 1875, one vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.
- In 1923, one vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi party.

> *"If you think that one vote doesn't make a difference you're wrong"*

In recent history:

More than 39 years ago, John Kennedy was elected in one of the closest presidential elections in history. Just a handful of votes in a few key precincts in vital states, might have altered the outcome of the election and changed history. Kennedy actually defeated Richard Nixon by a margin of less than one-third vote per precinct across America.

In 1982, Jim Thompson was elected to his third of four terms as Illinois governor in one of the state's closest elections ever. Thompson defeated Adlai Stevenson by just 5,074 votes, out of more than 3,673,000 cast.

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, when first elected to the U.S. House, won over a popular candidate by less than one vote per precinct.

Whether it's an election for Cooperative director or President of the United States, your vote counts. Be sure your voice is heard on Tuesday, November 7, 2000. Get to the polls and vote. Better yet, call a neighbor who has difficulty getting to their polling location and make plans to take them with you.

Adams Electric Cooperative's office will be closed November 10th in observance of Veteran's Day

Adams Electric Cooperative 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." 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 (saying 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 to the office wanting more information.

Such practices are misleading to members who have come to trust their cooperative. Adams Electric Cooperative ***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.

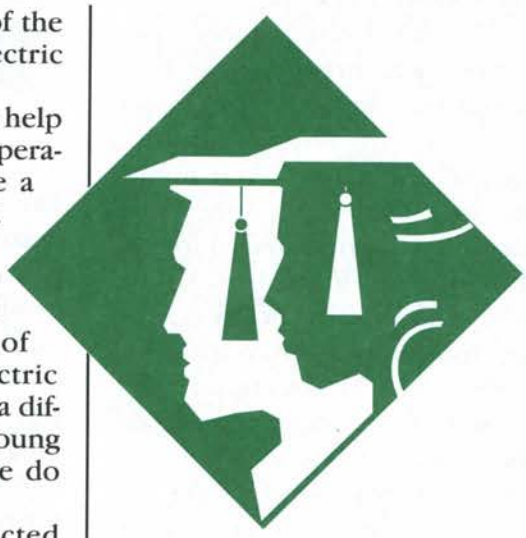
Please don't be misled. Adams Electric Cooperative does not sell insurance. If you ever question whether a service or product is endorsed by Adams Electric Cooperative, please call the office at 1-800-232-4797.

Applicants for IEC Memorial Scholarship Sought

Adams Electric Cooperative is participating in the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. This scholarship program was established to financially assist students of electric cooperative members and is seeking applicants for the 2001 awards.

This is the sixth year that the scholarship fund has been available to high school seniors pursuing a college education in Illinois. Three scholarships of $1,000 each are to be awarded. Two will be awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member. The other is presented to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee. The application deadline is January 1, 2001. The program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

"The fund's purpose is to help the children of electric cooperative members and provide a means to honor deceased rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," says Douglas Aeilts, general manager. "As a vital part of their community, the electric cooperatives want to make a difference in the lives of local young people. This is one way we do that."



The recipients are selected according to grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.

Contact Candace Weeks at 800-232-4797 if you want an application or more information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship program.

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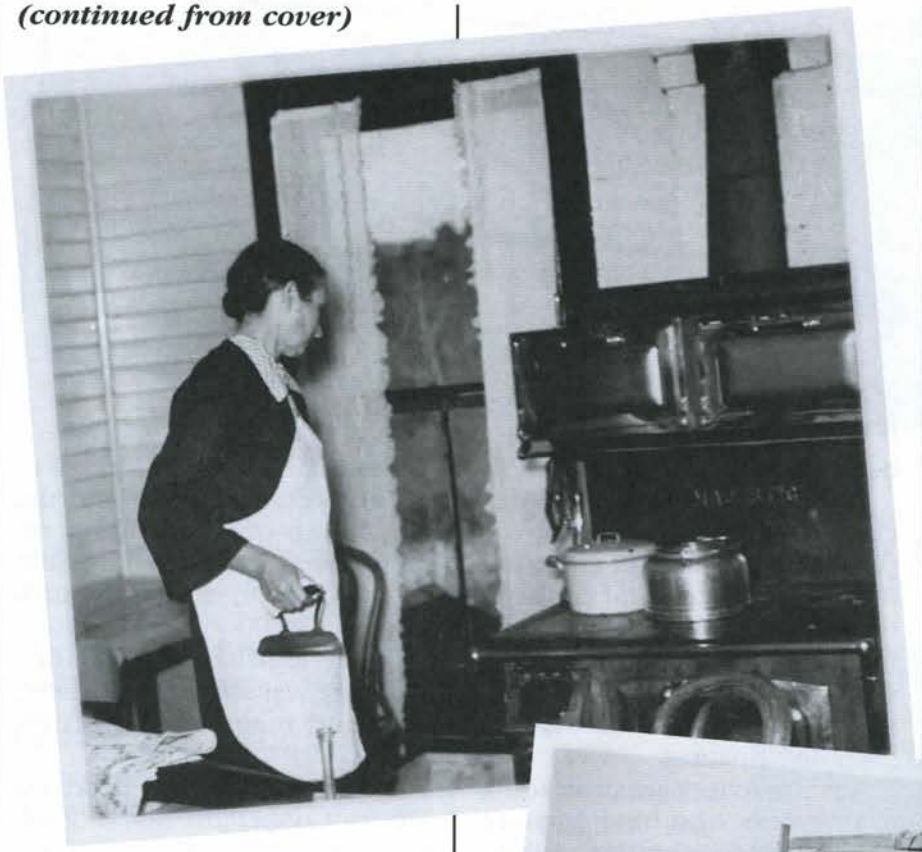


"In the beginning, Adams Electric Cooperative served a little over 700 members with 384 miles of line. Today, over 60 years later, Adams Electric Cooperative is 7,574 members strong and has 2,147 miles of line."

Today all over the wide expanse of this nation, millions of people have put the idea of "we the people" to work, providing many different kinds of goods and services to meet the common needs of people.

The first United States cooperative was organized by Benjamin Franklin in 1752 to insure a group of Philadelphian's against the loss of their homes by fire. They formed the Philadelphia Contributorship for the Insurance of Homes from Loss of Fire. This mutual society continues today, the oldest cooperative-style service in this country.

Since then, cooperatives have been organized to provide practically every product and/or service imaginable – electricity, telephone service, food, health care, day care, credit, farm marketing, insurance and even legal services.

President Roosevelt issued an Executive Order on May 11, 1935 making federal funds available to provide rural electric service and creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

The early intent was to establish "an orderly program of loans on an interest-bearing, self-liquidating basis" to provide incentive for power companies to extend service to rural areas.

At that time only about 10 percent of the country's farms had electric service. It soon became evident that existing power companies were not going to use the federal loan program to remedy the lack of rural electrification. Because there were so few residents per mile of line, power companies said it was not feasible to provide electricity to the rural areas. The existing companies made it clear that they expected the farmers to bear the cost of constructing electric lines and then deed it back to the power supplier. Keep in mind that this was a time when many didn't have the money for the

necessities of life, let alone money for something that could be classified as a luxury.

This was just not acceptable to the hundreds of thousands of rural Americans that needed and wanted electricity. As friends and neighbors banded together, cooperatively, they literally lit up the countryside!

On April 20, 1938, a group of 450 area farmers attended an organization meeting at the Farm Bureau office in Quincy. All of these people had one hope in common that night, they wanted electricity for their home and farm. During that momentous evening a group of people were elected to the board of directors of what was to become Adams Electric Cooperative.

Each director was responsible for signing up members an attaining easements in their area. These dedicated, optimistic people had to be troubleshooters – convincing fellow neighbors that electricity and the cooperative would really work. The biggest selling factors for the directors were lights and convenience. Electricity would change the way people lived and worked for the rest of their lives.

On a chilly March day – March 29, 1939, to be exact - a group of about 50 men and women scarcely seemed to notice the cold. History was about to be made at a rural Adams Electric Cooperative substation in Adams County.

With the pull of a switch at the substation, every room in a nearby farm house was flooded with brilliant, welcoming light. "The crowd cheered and rejoiced," wrote a reporter for the Quincy Herald-Whig, "for this was the beginning of rural electrification in Adams County."

In the beginning, Adams Electric Cooperative served a little over 700 members with 384 miles of line. Today, over 60 years later, Adams Electric Cooperative is 7,574 members strong and has 2,147 miles of line.

People come and go through the years. Work and businesses change. But the working principles that Adams Electric Cooperative was founded on are still strong and true today.

The seven cooperative principles are:

Voluntary and Open Membership – Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

"The crowd cheered and rejoiced," wrote a reporter for the Quincy Herald-Whig, "for this was the beginning of rural electrification in Adams County."

Democratic Member Control – Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights – one member, one vote.

Member Economic Participation – Members contribute equitable to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

Autonomy and Independence – Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

Education, Training and Information – Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Cooperation among Cooperatives – Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for Community – Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

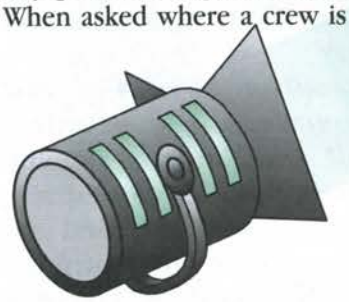
Though many of the founding members and employees of Adams Electric Cooperative are gone, their family, friends and neighbors are carrying on the tried and true cooperative way, working together to keep the lights burning bright in your homes and businesses.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Joyce Bockhold

Joyce Bockhold, a 19 1/2 year veteran of Adams Electric Cooperative, has done a little of everything at the Cooperative. Joyce worked seven years in the billing department, nine and a half years in the accounting department and has spent the last three years in the engineering and operations department.

Trying to keep track of 21 men and what their schedules are for any given day would be enough to make any person cringe, but not Joyce. When asked where a crew is working or if someone is in a specific area she can tell you. Joyce has many different responsibilities, some include receiving JULIE locates, working with inventory, work orders, purchasing materials, assisting with interruptible accounts, working with the Basin answering service and helping with safety promotion. When a major outage hits and members are frustrated about the inconvenience, Joyce is calmly and efficiently handling the members' calls and talking with the line crews.



When not juggling many different schedules at work, Joyce is keeping track of her husband Henry and their two sons, 16-year-old Joe and 14-year-old Mike. The Bockhold's, who have been married for 21 years, are members of St. Joseph's Church. Joyce is a confirmation teacher at St. Joseph's. In her spare time, Joyce enjoys helping her husband Henry farm, attending their son's many different activities and spending time with family.

When asked what her favorite thing about her job was, Joyce immediately said the people. "I like working with people, whether they are members on the phone or helping the line crew and supervisors I work with. I thoroughly enjoy the people of Adams Electric Cooperative!"

Meter tampering is dangerous and illegal

Electricity is one of those unusual things – you can't see it, smell it or taste it, but you must respect it or it can cause you harm. Adams Electric Cooperative takes electrical safety very seriously.

Tampering with an electric meter is dangerous. Making an unauthorized adjustment of an electric meter is risking electrical shock and even death.

It's illegal to tap or bypass electric meters. Anyone convicted is subject to imprisonment, a fine or both. In addition, the person responsible for the service used may be billed for service used fraudulently and possibly subjected to additional charges.

If you see a meter that appears to have been tampered with, please report it to Adams Electric Cooperative as soon as possible!

When someone steals electricity, it hurts good paying, honest customers and adds to the cost of electricity. Remember, it's dangerous and illegal to tamper with your electric meter!

Grain bin safety

Storage and handling of a large volume of grain or feed is common on many operations. Automated equipment has made handling of grain much easier and faster. However, the storage structures and handling equipment create hazardous work areas.

- Label grain bins to warn of the hazards of entrapment.
- Lock entrances to grain handling areas to keep children and bystanders out.
- Install ladders inside bins.
- Do not enter grain bins that are being loaded or unloaded. Flowing grain can trap and suffocate you in seconds.
- If it is necessary to enter a bin, shut off and lock out power before entering. Use a safety harness and safety line, and have other people outside the grain bin to assist in an emergency.
- Be very cautious of grain that may have gone out of condition. Crusted grain may have cavities beneath the surface that can collapse – leading to entrapment and suffocation.

Got those Saturday morning blues? Don't want to do laundry or those 101 other pesky household chores?

We've got just the answer!

Come check out our booth and the kitchen at KHQA's 2nd Annual Tri-States Women's Show, October 21, 2000 at the Oakley-Lindsay Center in Quincy, Illinois from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

One of the highlights of the show will be two live performances and four hours of book signing with Mr. Food. The appliances that Mr. Food will use during his live presentations are being furnished by Adams Electric Cooperative!

Check out some of our appliance specials that are now available:

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

Adams Electric Cooperative

phone: 800-232-4797

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Ask about our selection of used washers and dryers.

Your Full-Service Appliance Dealer Since 1959

$178,000 in Capital Credits to be Returned

Soyland Power Cooperative recently retired over $1,100,000 in capital credits to the seven (7) distribution cooperatives that were members of Western Illinois Power Cooperative (WIPCO). With our share of these funds, your Cooperative will pay out approximately $122,000 of the WIPCO capital credits each Member earned from 1972 through 1977. WIPCO merged with Soyland in 1989.

In addition to the WIPCO capital credits, your board of directors previously authorized paying the remaining portion of 1976 and 1977 distribution capital credits in 2000 totaling approximately $56,000. Settlement of estates will also be continued. The combined total of $178,000 will be refunded to our members this fall. The checks will be mailed during November 2000.

Members of Adams Electric Cooperative receive electric service at cost, with any margins returned to them in the form of capital credits. A separate account is set up for each Member and the amount of margins earned each year is carefully recorded.

Each year, the Cooperative invests this money in the plant (poles, lines, transformers, etc.) until the financial condition and the amount of equity (ownership) of our system is sufficient for it to be repaid.

Adams Electric Cooperative has paid all capital credits accumulated from 1939 through 1976. These capital credits totaled $1,922,939. The amount of capital credits earned is in proportion to the amount of electricity a Member used.

The return of capital credits on a regular basis depends a lot on the Cooperatives overall financial stability. Capital credit retirements remain one of a Members most tangible indications of true ownership in their electric utility.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions and/or civil sanctions.

/s/ Candace Weeks, Editor

Attention Executors and Lawyers:

Capital Credit Payments to Estates

Adams Electric Cooperative is offering an option of returning capital credits to the estates of deceased members. Capital credits earned from 1978 through 1999 can be advanced on a discounted basis.

Estates can now receive payment on capital credits earned, allowing the estate to be closed. This policy is intended to prevent the confusion associated with annual capital credit payments.

If estates choose to receive future capital credits now, they will be refunded on a 7 percent, 25-year discounted basis.

Your board of directors is striving to serve the current membership fairly while, at the same time, offering options to executors of estates. Please realize you are being offered an option to settle the capital credits of your estate in lieu of waiting for your capital credits to be retired on an annual cycle.

For more information on what documentation is needed for settlement of capital credits, call the office at 1-800-232-4797.