

October 2002
Vol. 51, Number 10

• Adams Outlet

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



63rd Annual Meeting

Highlights on pages 4-6



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!"

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Bob Willis Mt. Sterling

Vice President

Michael Tenhouse Coatsburg

Secretary

John Kestner Payson

Treasurer

George Schneider Liberty

Director

Jim Benz Quincy

Director

Ed Wagner Mt. Sterling

Director

Alan Acheson Rushville

Director

Lyle Waner Loraine

Director

Richard King Huntsville

General Manager

Douglas Aeilts Camp Point

Attorney

Charles Burton Rushville

ADAMS OUTLET (USPS 005-220) is published monthly for \$2.00 per year by Adams Electric Cooperative, 700 East Wood, Camp Point, Illinois 62320. Periodical postage paid at Camp Point, Illinois and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Adams Outlet, P.O. Box 247, Camp Point, Illinois 62320.

Editor
Laura Dotson



Shedding Light on Energy Choice

by Douglas Aeilts,
General Manager

Everyone wants choices. America is the land of freedom and free markets. We distrust monopolies and have deregulated several major industries for better or worse. The latest is the electric utility industry.

Although Illinois has a reasonable and well thought out deregulation law, the move toward a competitive electricity market has been short-circuited here and across the country.

Some blame the California deregulation experiment that created blackouts, brownouts and skyrocketing electric bills. The Enron scandal has certainly shaken the confidence of investors and consumers, and raised doubts about the integrity and accountability of many companies. But the bottom line is energy marketers today do not see much profit in selling electricity to homeowners, farmers and operators of small businesses in Illinois' recently deregulated market.

1) Why can't I choose a new supplier now?

You, the Members, own Adams Electric Cooperative. Under Illinois' deregulation plan, your Member-elected Board of Directors will decide when, how and if your Cooperative should enter the deregulated market. At this time, your Board of Directors sees no benefit to the Membership in entering the deregulated market. They are taking a "watch, wait and learn" approach.



2) Why hasn't Adams Electric Cooperative entered the deregulated market and allowed choice?

Right now there is no benefit to our Members. Adams Electric Cooperative does a better job of

maintaining rates for all Members by staying out of the deregulated market. There is market strength in numbers and your Cooperative makes a natural aggregator of Member-consumer buying power.

Even if your Cooperative allowed choice, there are no alternative electric suppliers willing to serve small farms, homes and small business owners.

Remember – "choice" means companies can also choose who their customers will be. For now, the alternate electric

suppliers only seem to want to serve large industrial customers. Sixty (60) years ago electric cooperatives were formed because investor-owned utilities did not want to serve rural areas. Many of those same economic factors still exist.

The cost to offer choice to even one (1) Member-customer will be high. At a minimum, the cost for your Cooperative to set up and maintain the necessary systems will be several hundred thousand dollars. There is no reason to ask our Members to pay these increased costs until they can benefit.

3) When, and if I can choose, how will it work?

You will only be able to choose a new "wholesale" power

"...the move toward a competitive electricity market has been short-circuited..."

supplier. This third party will be called an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES). Any person, corporation, generator, broker, marketer, aggregator or other entity that is certified by the Illinois Commerce Commission can be an ARES. Your Cooperative will still provide local electric distribution service and Cooperative employees will handle outage restoration.

Billing changes will make your electric bill more detailed and complicated.

- There will be a generation charge from your new power supplier (ARES).
- There will be a transmission charge for delivering electricity from the generator to Adams Electric Cooperative's substations.
- There will be a delivery service charge for the Cooperative's electric distribution service.
- There will be a customer charge for basic service covering billing, metering, service line maintenance and other costs will be included.

Through December 2006, investor-owned utilities are allowed to add an extra deregulation transition charge to pay for plant investment.

4) What if I don't want to choose a new "wholesale" power supplier?

That is easy. You don't have to do a thing and Adams Electric Cooperative will still serve you. Your Cooperative will continue to provide both local distribution service and electric generation service by aggregating the entire Membership's load.

However, we urge you to stay informed as deregulation moves forward. None of us should take electric power for granted. This is your Cooperative. This is a critical decision. Talk to your Directors. Ask questions. Read this newsletter monthly. Come to your Cooperative's Annual Meeting.

Advisory Committee Met August 15

Members of the 2002 Advisory Committee met August 15, 2002 to discuss Annual Meeting plans. Jim Thompson, manager of engineering and operations, spoke about the advantages of the automatic meter reading (AMR) system and the current status of the installation process.

The main purpose of the Advisory Committee is to discuss Cooperative programs and operations, while providing valuable feedback. Adams Electric Cooperative thanks these Members for their time and effort.



Phone Survey

Satisfaction Development Systems of Utah was hired by Adams Electric Cooperative to perform a Member Satisfaction Telephone Survey.

Approximately 50 Members will be contacted randomly to perform a brief survey of the Cooperative. Information gathered will be held in confidence and will be used to see Member's perspectives of the Cooperative.



Your cooperation will be appreciated!



Over 1,350 people took advantage of the beautiful weather at Adams Electric Cooperative's 63rd Annual Meeting of Members on September 4th.

Children enjoyed rides in the basket truck, pony rides, face painting and a moonwalk.

Robert Willis of Mt. Sterling, Richard King of Huntsville and John Kestner of Payson were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Adams Electric Cooperative's General

More Than 1,350 People Attend Annual Meeting



Above:
Members browse the various vendor booths. Twenty-eight (28) vendors participated in this year's event.

Left:
The appliance department brought a "Showroom" of appliances to one of the shelter houses and offered numerous deals for purchasing appliances at the Annual Meeting.

Manager, Douglas Aeilts, discussed the impact of September 11 on the Nation.

He spoke about the Corporate scandals with Enron, Global Crossing, WorldCom and Arthur Anderson and the direct and indirect impacts on your Cooperative. He reassured Members that the problems of these companies were the people and not their products.

The Cooperative form of governance has stood the test of time. Member participation is key in maintaining the Cooperative's success.

Electric utility deregulation is not dead but

more like a sleeping giant. Following California's failure with deregulation, all twenty-four (24) states that adopted deregulation plans have reviewed their regulations to avoid California's mistakes.

In Illinois, not a single company has registered to sell electricity to residential customers and there is even less desire to sell to rural areas. The Cooperative is committed to providing customer choice and wants to serve every Member.

A contract was signed with Continental Cooperative Services to provide stable power supply costs for the next six (6) years. The contract will start January 1, 2003. The Board is reviewing retail rates for all Members and determining what adjustments may be necessary.

The installation of the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system was provided through our power supply agreement. SCADA is capable of monitoring all twelve (12) substations. It reports power usage, interruptions and quality problems.

With much positive feedback, the new AMR system installations continue.



Meter installations are completed for Members connected to the Burton, Quincy and Ursa substations. This year, Adams, Big Neck and Kellerville substations will receive AMR meters. The remainder of the system will be completed by 2004. The Cooperative welcomes your questions about the new system.

The Cooperative has experienced continued growth with sales in 2001 increasing by 3%. The majority of the growth has been in the Ellington and Melrose townships. CCS/Soyland is building a new substation north of St. Anthony Church to improve reliability of our distribution system.

Manager Aeilts gave an overview of the building

projects of some of the commercial and industrial Members including Timewell Tile, Illinois Youth Center, John Wood Community College, Camp Point Central and TNT Action Sports.

A tremendous amount of preparation is required to develop the economic and community environment. The Cooperative thanks all of our valued partnerships involved.

The EnergyWise Grant Assistance Program funds of \$250,000 have been allocated to 190 homeowners. The Cooperative is applying for additional grant money to continue this popular program.

With the enhancement of product lines and a great team of employees, the Appliance department had record sales in 2001 and is

(Continued from page 5)

on track to break that record again in 2002.

Alert Security was announced last year as a new partnership between four (4) Illinois electric cooperatives. Alert provides high quality monitored security services to residential and commercial customers.

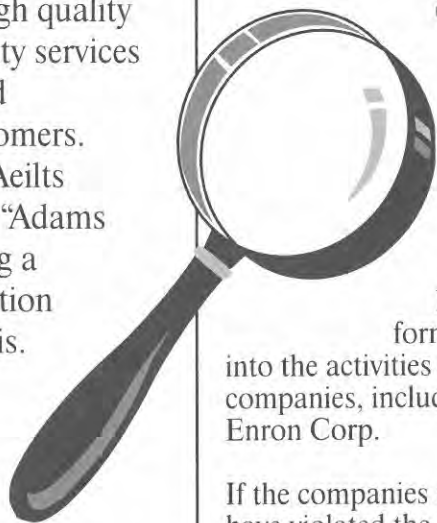
Douglas Aeilts closed by saying "Adams Electric is making a positive contribution to Western Illinois. The very reason this Cooperative was organized in 1938 is just as valid today as it was then. To enhance the quality of life in the areas that we serve while exceeding the expectations of those we serve.



National News

FERC Opens Market Abuse Probe of Enron, Other Firms

By Bill Pritchard, *Electric Co-op Today*



Citing evidence of possible price manipulation in the Western energy market, federal regulators have launched a formal investigation

into the activities of six energy companies, including affiliates of Enron Corp.

If the companies are found to have violated the Federal Power Act, they could lose their market-based rate authority, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said. Furthermore, they may have to refund profits gained from any violation of FERC rules, regulations or tariffs, it said. FERC also said it would hold hearings on the possible misconduct and establish dates for refunds, if warranted.

"The evidence is getting much stronger that there was manipulation in California," said NRECA CEO Glenn English. "Obviously this cries out not only

for rebates to those consumers, but also legislation to provide transparency in the marketplace."

Evidence of possible price manipulation is contained in an interim report by FERC staff, which has been investigating allegations of Western market abuses for the past six months.

Named in the report are Enron affiliates Portland General Electric Corp., Enron Power Marketing, and Enron Capital and Trade Resources Corp. Also targeted for investigation are El Paso Electric Company, Avista Corp., and affiliate Avista Energy, Inc.

The report said, "Enron, as a corporate entity, displayed great eagerness to experiment with all aspects of market rules and protocols in an effort to 'game the system' or to provide false information." It recommends including specific prohibitions in market-based rate tariffs against deliberately supplying false information, or omitting important information.

Besides finding enough evidence to support a probe of the companies' actions, the report also said FERC should be given greater authority to penalize companies that violate its orders and rules.

Co-op Fact:

New England has the fewest electric co-ops of any region: Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, none; New Hampshire, one; and Maine and Vermont, two each. Most of the region had been electrified by the time The Rural Electrification Administration was created in 1935. *Source: Rural Electric Magazine*



October

Calendar of Events

Barry Apple Festival

October 3 - 6
Downtown Barry
(217) 285-2971



Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive

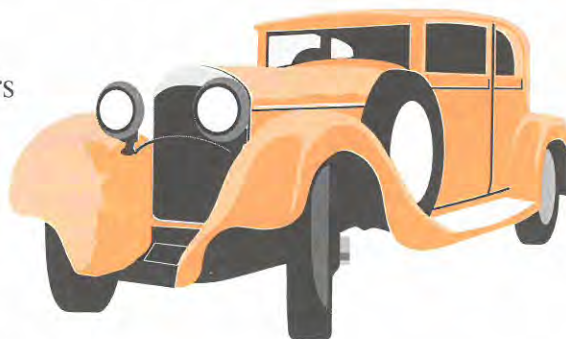
October 5, 6, 12, 13
Fulton County, Illinois
For more information
visit www.spoonriverdrive.org

5th Annual Farmer Jack's Haunted Hayride & Flashlight Nights In The Maze!

October 18, 19, 25, 26, 27
Apple Basket Farms, Barry
I-72, Exit 20
For the brave and not so brave
of heart! Ride thru 140 acres
of orchard for the time of your
life. Simply Spooktacular!
(217) 335-2670
Admission Fee

Early Tin Dusters Fall Color Run

October 18 - 20
Street Rod Show for cars
1948 and older with
all donations going to
handicapped people.
The event is held in
Uptown Quincy and
Upper Moorman Park
and features more than
600 cars!
(217) 964-2426



Persimmon Festival

October 26
Nauvoo
(217) 453-6648

Pike County Fall Color Drive

October 19 & 20
Pike County, Illinois
(217) 285-2971

Pumpkin Walk

October 31
Nauvoo
(217) 453-6648

Quincy Community Student Theatre Production "Charlie & the Chocolate Factory"

October 24 - 27
Oakley-Lindsay
Center
Quincy
(217) 222-3209



Halloween Walk

October 31, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Rushville

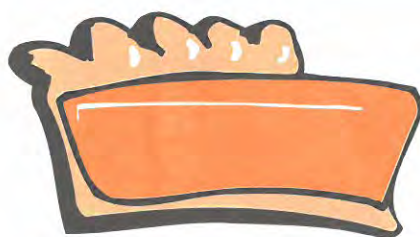


Adams Electric Cooperative's Country Kitchen



Calling all area cooks!

If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share with others and/or if your organization has a cookbook they would like highlighted in the Adams Outlet, please submit the recipes or cookbooks to: AEC, Attn: Laura Dotson, PO Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320 Happy Cooking!



No Bake Pumpkin Pie

*Submitted by Nancy Hufendick,
4-H Alumni*

9" baked pie shell, cooled
2 c. canned pumpkin
2 small boxes instant
vanilla pudding
Pumpkin pie spice to taste
(4 tsp.)
1-1/3 c. milk
8 oz. frozen whip topping,
thawed

Mix pudding and milk, add
pumpkin and spice. Fold in 2/3
container of whip topping. Pour
in pie shell. Top with remaining
whip topping and sprinkle with
nuts if desired. Refrigerate.

Caramel Dip

(For Apples, Ice Cream, etc.)

*Submitted by Barb Duesterhaus,
Mother of Bret, Erin, Jill and
Blake, Quinsippi 4-H Club*

2 c. brown sugar
pinch of salt
3/4 c. white corn syrup
1 stick oleo
1 can Eagle Brand Sweetened
Condensed Milk

Mix above ingredients together
and cook, stirring constantly. Let
boil for 5 minutes. Take off
heat and serve over
sliced apples. Good
with chopped
pecans or over
ice cream. Can
be refrigerated
and reheated.
(We usually double
this batch and serve
it from a warmed
crockpot.)



Pizza Cookies

*Submitted by Deanne Donley,
Country Cousins 4-H Club*

1/2 c. sugar
1/2 c. peanut butter
1/3 c. brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 stick margarine
1 egg
1-1/2 c. flour

Topping:

1 c. chocolate chips
or M & M's
2 c. mini-marshmallows

Mix the first 6 ingredients
together, then add flour. Stir
until you get a dough. Press or
roll onto a pizza pan or cookie
sheet. Roll dough to edge of
pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10
minutes. Remove from oven.
Sprinkle on topping and return
to oven for 5-8 minutes. Cut like
pizza slices when cool. This is
a delicious and colorful cookie.
The recipe can be doubled and
other goodies like butterscotch
chips, nuts, and coconut may
also be sprinkled on top.

More great recipes like these can be found in:



Protected Under
18 U.S.C. 707

Celebrating 100 Years of 4-H Cookbook

Published by the University of Illinois Extension Council

This keepsake book includes hundreds of recipes from area 4-Hers, alumni,
volunteers and others who support 4-H. The price is \$10 each. It's available at
the Adams County Extension Office, 330 S. 36th St. in Quincy and at the Brown
County Extension Office, 109 W. North St. in Mt. Sterling.

Proceeds will support Extension/4-H programming in Adams & Brown counties.

October is Cooperative Month

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

This is the mission statement of your electric cooperative. This is what we firmly and faithfully believe in and work by. October is the month set aside as Cooperative Month, a time to remember who and what our Cooperative stands for.

The first United States cooperative was organized by Benjamin Franklin in 1752 to insure a group of Philadelphians against the loss of their home 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 the 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 organizational 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 and 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.

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 7,700 Members strong and has over 2,150 miles of line.

Adams Electric Cooperative, serving you yesterday, today and tomorrow.

2002 Annual Meeting Prize Listing

Vendor

Prize

Winner

GRAND PRIZES

Maytag
General Electric

Maytag Atlantis Washer
G.E. 9 cu. ft. Chest Freezer

Albert Jansen, Quincy
Virginia Clayton, Rushville

AEC Appliance Dept.
AEC Appliance Dept.

George Foreman Grill
3-in-1 Baking Racks

Brenda Zanger, Mendon
Sheldon Jones, Huntsville
Lawrence Kauffman, Augusta
Geraldine McCaskill, Timewell

AEC Appliance Dept.

Amana Turkey Lifters

Ronnie Briggs, Mt. Sterling
Tim Keyes, LaPrairie
Harry Vonholt, Clayton

AEC



\$25 Bill Credit

John Beck, Mendon
John Christ, Quincy
Norma Cook, Mendon
Jimmy Gooding, Loraine
Melvin Moellring, Coatsburg
Keith Neisen, Quincy
Eugene Steinkamp, Camp Point
Dixie Wallace, Clayton
James Woods, Camp Point

Ledbetter, Toth & Assoc.
Fletcher-Reinhardt Co.
Electric Lab & Sales
Drake-Scruggs Equipment
Allgeier Martin & Assoc.
Treated Materials
United Utility Supply
DUECO Inc.
Daffron & Associates
Corporate Express, Inc.
WTJR - Channel 16

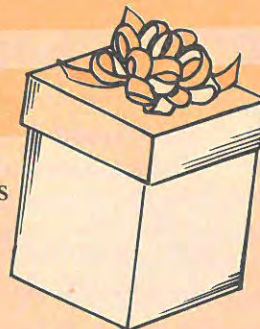
13" TV & VCR
12" Oscillating Fan
Bagel Smart Toaster
Portable Work Lamp
Electric Whistling Kettle
Cuisinart Frozen Yogurt Maker
Black & Decker Skillet
Digger Derrick Toy Truck
Cooler
Adjustable Keyboard Drawer
One Night's Lodging
at Shepherd Inn
\$50 Air EVAC Certificate
Daily Planner
Cookbook
Shower Gel

Gary Taute, Golden
Harold Musick, Camp Point
William Dreyer, Liberty
Lee Farlow, Camp Point
Leland Daugherty, Mendon
Donna Voss, Fowler
Wanda Acheson, Rushville
Henrietta Davis, Timewell
Gary Evans, Camp Point
Mary Ellerman, Quincy

Air EVAC
Weight Watchers

Mary Kay Cosmetics
Schuyler Co. Homemakers
Education Association
Adams Co. American
Red Cross

Cookbook
First Aid Kits



Loren Elston, Mendon
Connie Louderback, Paloma
Ralph Mast, Quincy
Virginia Heberlein, Liberty
Leroy Venvertloh, Quincy

Harold Fearneyhough, Liberty

Florene Fitzjarrald, Huntsville
Jason Tutor, Loraine
Jerry Stone, Quincy
Arnold Eilers, Augusta
Leo Heberlein, Liberty
Robert Neisen, Fowler

Gem City Electric and AEC

7' Pole and Light Fixture

Winners from drawing at Adams County Fair

Winner of the George Foreman Grill
from AEC Appliance Dept.

William Green, Camp Point

Winner of the Driveway Alert
from Alert Security & Energy Services

Ruth Shupe, Mendon

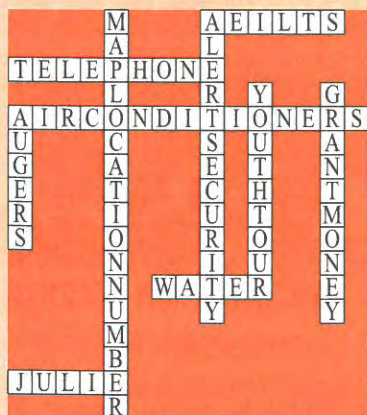
*Thanks for visiting our
booth at the fair!*

Winner from the Crossword Puzzle

The Crossword puzzle appeared in
the August Adams Outlet.

One name was drawn to
receive \$10 off his/her electric bill.

Congratulations
Royllyn Wilson, Liberty



Electrical Safety

Check cords

Frayed cords expose wires that can spark on contact. Inspect cords at least once a year.

Check outlets

Never overload outlets. Overloaded outlets carry too much electricity which can generate heat. Never piggy back appliances on extension cords.

Check smoke alarms

Check your smoke alarms every month. Replace batteries once a year.

Prepare a family exit plan

Know the exit plan and where to meet outside. Make sure everyone knows more than one way out of each area of the house. Practice the drill.

Jim "Krut" Krutmeier Retires

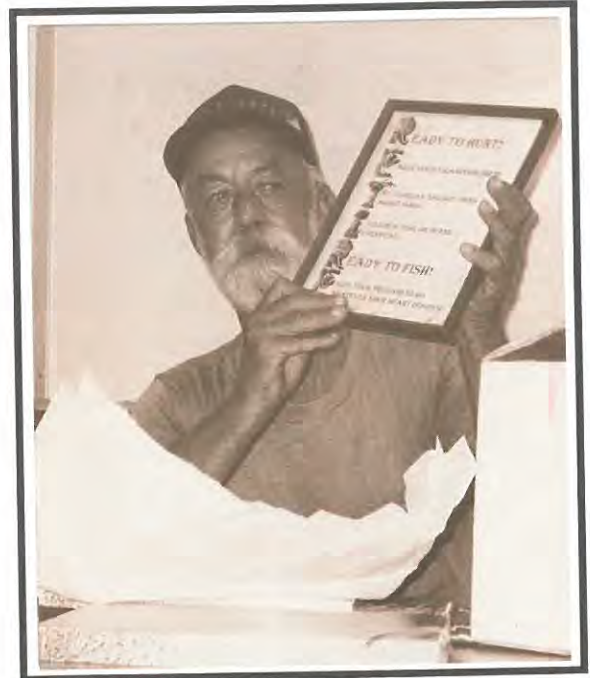
On September 10, 2002, Jim Krutmeier retired after 11 years of service to Adams Electric Cooperative. Jim began his employment on May 6, 1991 in tree trimming. After working in forestry the first 5 years, Jim became the warehouseman in April of 1997.

Jim said he wants to get back to basics. "Fishing, hunting, gardening and crafts will be my priorities."

He also looks forward to spending more time with his family. Jim and his wife Kim look forward to two new grandbabies. Jim has 3 children: Brenda, Kelly and Jayme.

As Jim spoke about his retirement plans, he smiled and said, "I'm going to be busier now than I was here!"

The board of directors and employees wish Jim a happy and enjoyable retirement.



Above: The employees of Adams Electric surprised Jim with a going-away party to celebrate his retirement.



Get the Dirt on Saving Energy

Lower your utility bills with dirt. Really. Harness renewable energy from the earth with a geothermal energy system from Waterfurnace. Peters is the number one Waterfurnace dealer in the nation, so call and find out more about this amazing technology that will **save energy and money!**

- Save up to 60% on Cooling Bills • No Unsightly Outdoor Unit •
- 20-25% More Efficient than Other Brands • Low Maintenance •
- Industry's Best Warranty • Economical Hot Water •
- Quiet • Safe • Clean • Environmentally Friendly •



Comfort...

IT'S THE PETERS PROMISE!

24-Hour Emergency Service
Free Estimates • Payment Plans
Ask About Utility Rebates and
Special Offers!



www.petersheatingandair.com
4520 Broadway • Quincy • 222-1368
1401 W. Washington • Pittsfield • 285-1600
1975 Keokuk St. • Hamilton • 847-2777
Other locations in Kirksville, Hannibal and Troy, Missouri

Students Encouraged to Apply For 2003 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Adams Electric Cooperative is participating in the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. This scholarship program, in its eighth year, was established to financially assist students of electric cooperative Members. Currently, Adams Electric is seeking applicants for the 2003 awards.

This year, four (4) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. Three of the four scholarships will be awarded to the child of an electric cooperative Member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee. Deadline for applica-

tions to be returned to the Cooperative is January 1, 2003.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Douglas Aeilts, general manager. "Adams Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a



short essay, which demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact Adams Electric at 1-800-232-4797, or ask your high school guidance counselor.

BUFORD WARD CHEVROLET

2003



Impala

WE'LL BE THERE !



Buford Ward

CHEVROLET
24th St. & Locust • Quincy, IL
217/228-6500

Do you remember the days before electricity?

Tell us your memories.

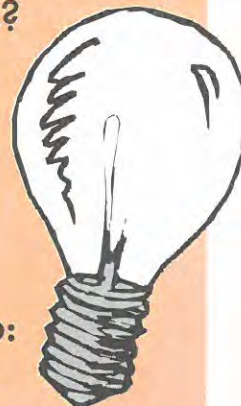
What was life like back then?

What were your family's first "electric" purchases?

Please include
your name
& phone number.

Send your stories to:

Laura Dotson
Adams Electric Cooperative
700 E. Wood St.
Camp Point, IL 62320



Farmers Urged to Watch For Overhead Power Lines, Other Electrical Hazards During Harvest Season

URBANA, IL

Dozens of farm workers are killed by electrocution each year as their large farm machines and extensions make contact with overhead power lines. With harvest season getting underway, Safe Electricity urges farm workers to take note of electrical lines when moving equipment like portable grain augers, oversized wagons and large combines, and to use a qualified electrician for electrical system repairs.

"The rush to harvest can cause farm workers to skip important safety steps," said Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. "Tragic deaths and injuries can be avoided if precautions are taken, like making sure everyone who works on the farm knows the location of power lines and keeps farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them."

"Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest," said Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist. "Moving portable grain augers poses the largest risk, because those on the ground moving the equipment provide a direct path for electricity if there's a contact."

"Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet. Variables like wind and other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result," Aherin said.

Farm workers are also advised not to use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins and to use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

"It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line," Hall said. "It's almost always best to stay in the cab, call for help and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

"If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result," Aherin said. "Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire."

In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

"Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the voltage diminishes the farther

out it is from the source," Aherin said. "Stepping from one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A large difference in voltage between both feet could kill you."

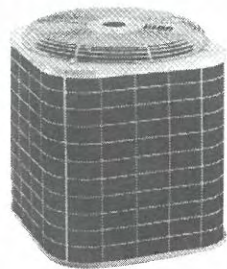
"Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Never should the operator simply step out of the vehicle—they must jump clear."

Prevention of electricity-related tragedies is the goal of Safe Electricity, a statewide program created by a coalition of nearly three dozen organizations including Illinois electric utilities, electric cooperatives and the University of Illinois. All are members of the Illinois Electric Council (IEC), a non-profit industry forum which launched the safety awareness program last year.

In addition to public service announcements and other outreach efforts, Safe Electricity has an online electrical safety center, www.safeelectricity.org. The section on Agribusiness provides tips and detailed information for farm workers. Residential safety, contractor safety and teacher resources and youth games and activities can also be found on the Web site.



WHO REALLY PLANS FOR EMERGENCIES?



Model 561

Low monthly payments,
big cooling savings,
and a dependable
Bryant air conditioner –
It's the "Whatever It Takes
Package" for this summer.



Heating & Cooling Systems

Lowest Prices of the Season!



Mendon • 936-2764
Quincy • 224-2665 (COOL)
or 224-4328 (HEAT)
www.brueningheating.com

Need A Bigger Freezer?

We've got just the thing!



All in-stock  freezers

ON SALE

COUPON

\$30

Haul away
yourself & save
an extra

Offer good on in-stock freezers thru Oct. 31, 2002
at Adams Electric Cooperative, 700 E. Wood St., Camp Point



**Adams Electric
Cooperative**

700 E. Wood St., Camp Point

1-800-232-4797