

# Adams Outlet

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

## Youth to Washington 2007



**How can high school students tour Washington, D.C. for free?**

Details on page 8  
Application on page 15

**Recognize any of these girls? They earned a special place in history.**

Read more on page 9

**News from Yesteryear - A look back at Live Line News (the Adams Outlet newsletter from the 1940s!)**

Introducing a new column on page 11



**Adams Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# Ask the Editor

## Member Q&A

Dear Mr. Stalder and everyone associated with the Penny Power grants in any way,



Christmas came early this year for the Clayton Public Library District upon receiving the good news that we were to become recipients of a \$3000 grant for siding for our building.

It's truly amazing what "mere" pennies can accomplish! Grants are an invaluable source of funding for nonprofit organizations. Businesses offering grant opportunities are vital partners in community growth and development.

We are grateful for this opportunity and wish to thank you for this grant.

Sincerely,  
Esther Carstens  
Library Director and the Clayton Public Library District Trustees



The workers at Adams Electric are blessings to all of us. What a great crew. The ice on lines and cold left us without power in the evening. They gave us great service and were back on before 8:30 p.m.  
Betty Moore

Dear Bill/Adams Electric Cooperative,

Thank you so very much for your very generous donation to the Quincy Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association's K-9 Unit

Project. It helps us get closer to achieving our goal of providing the Quincy Police Department and the City of Quincy with a second K-9 Unit.

With the generous support of people, organizations and businesses like Adams Electric Cooperative, we will be able to make a difference in our community.

We are forever grateful to you for your generosity with this project as well as with our Emergency Response Vehicle project last year!

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Mary Jane Bauer  
JoAnn Bauer  
QCPAAA Fundraising Committee

Dear Friends of Girl Scouting:  
Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000 to be used toward the cost of an updated communications system at our Wildwood Girl Scout Center. Wildwood is our outdoor facility located in Brown County, Illinois. With its 1,000 acres of land safety is a priority. A new communications system will assist staff in providing a safe and secure environment for those enjoying camp.

Thank you again for your hard work and efforts to provide this donation to our organization. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Rene Brethorst, Interim CEO  
Erica Douglas,  
Fund Development/  
Communications Director

Laura,  
My granddaughter is interested in the Youth to Washington Program; however, her parents are not members of Adams Electric. Does that matter?

Glad you asked! She is welcome to apply! All sophomores and juniors living in Adams, Brown, Schuyler,

Hancock, Pike, McDonough or Fulton county are eligible to apply through Adams Electric Cooperative. They do not have to be a member of a cooperative to enter. In fact, the way we see it, your granddaughter could one day become a member and it's just as important for her to learn about cooperatives as it is for the students who live on our lines currently. I hope you will pass along the application on page 15 of this issue!

Feel free to email your questions and/or comments to: [ldotson@adams.net](mailto:ldotson@adams.net) (Please write "Ask the Editor" in the subject line.) You may mail your questions and/or comments to: Attn: Laura, Adams Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320.

## Disconnecting Air-Conditioners

AMR meters must have power to the meter; otherwise, the cooperative's system reads the meter as having a problem. **Therefore, if you disconnect your air-conditioner in the winter, please use the switch outside that is mounted on the condensing unit.** Do not turn off your air-conditioner at the breaker. Doing so requires the Co-op to send an employee to check the meter.

If you have questions, call the engineering dept. at (217) 593-7701 or (800) 232-4797.



**Important Notice**  
from Engineering

# Adams Outlet

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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those we serve!"*

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Editor  
Laura Dotson



## An Extraordinary Opportunity



Bill Stalder  
Manager of  
Marketing/Member  
Services

As an experienced "marketing guy," I'm not going to fool myself into believing that a large number of high school aged sophomores and juniors will read this article. But, I know for a fact that many parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles of these students read the Adams Outlet each month from cover to cover. My comments are directed at you.

The Youth to Washington program presents an extraordinary opportunity for area high school students to spend a week in Washington, D.C. with young leaders from all over the United States. As you will learn from reading the feature article in this issue, Youth to Washington is one of the most prolific programs ever established by rural electric cooperatives. It has impacted thousands of students nationwide and continues to grow in popularity.

While only a select few are fortunate enough to win the trip to Washington, Youth Day in Springfield is a wonderful consolation prize. Students enjoy local attractions, gain valuable interviewing experience and learn a whole lot about electric cooperatives in the process. They also have the opportunity to visit the capitol building and meet with state lawmakers and various state officials. Last year, the group enjoyed a tour of the old capitol

building as well as a visit to the new Lincoln Library and Museum.

Now, the question is, "how do I get (insert student's name here) to apply?" Or maybe a better question is, "how do I convince him or her that applying for the Youth to Washington program is worth squeezing in between band practice, play rehearsal, homework, softball practice, choir, and biology club? The application is conveniently located on page 15 of this newsletter. It can also be found on our website at [www.adamselectric.coop](http://www.adamselectric.coop), at our office, or through their guidance counselor, history or English teacher. Members and non-members are welcome to apply! It really is worth the effort.

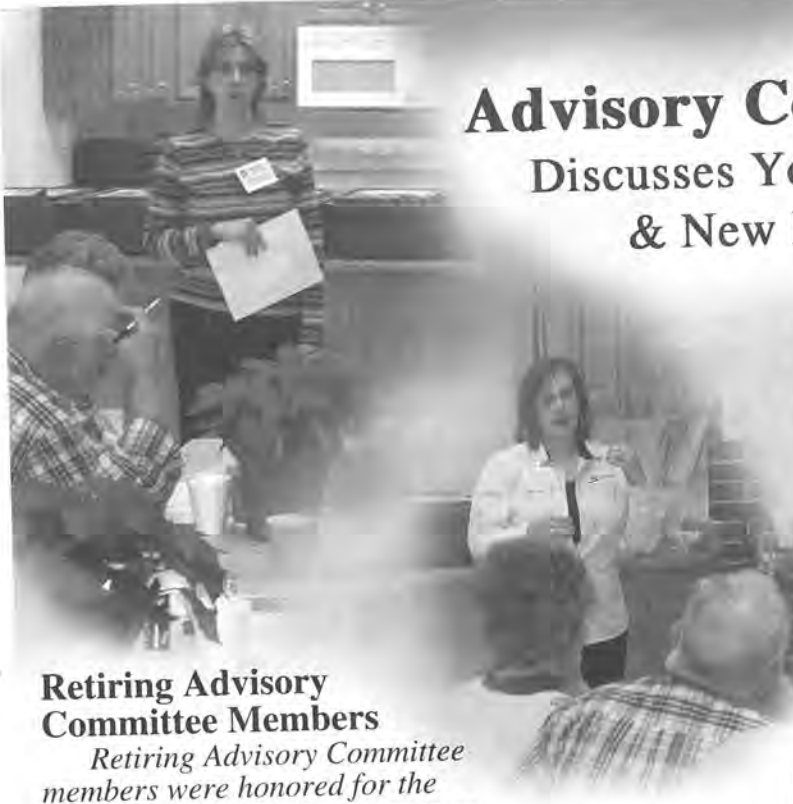
By the way, if YOU are a high school sophomore or junior and you're reading this article, thanks for taking an interest in your electric cooperative and please consider applying for the program. You just might find yourself with an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C.!

**Application Deadline:  
Friday, Feb. 23**



## Advisory Committee

### Discusses Youth Tour, Annual Meeting & New Multi-Purpose Room



#### Retiring Advisory Committee Members

*Retiring Advisory Committee members were honored for the completion of their two-year term.*

*Fred and Cindy Elmore of Rushville  
Fred and Norma Bennett of Golden  
David and Carla Siebers of Camp Point  
Louis Hammer of Mt. Sterling  
Roger and Teresa Kerr of Huntsville  
Daniel and Janice Ellwood of Quincy  
Jerry and Shirley Daggett of Quincy  
Roger and Betty Lynn McNeff of Timewell  
Steve and Candy Reilly of Coatsburg*

Adams Electric Cooperative's Advisory Committee is comprised of two members (individuals or couples) from each director district. Advisory Committee members serve staggered terms and are selected by the board of directors.

On December 11, 2006, Adams Electric Cooperative Advisory Committee members met to discuss the cooperative's Youth to Washington program. Adams Electric Cooperative Communications Coordinator Laura Dotson gave a brief overview of the program's history stating that Adams Electric has been involved in sending students to Washington, D.C., since 1959. The Cooperative introduced Adams Telephone Co-Operative Communications Coordinator Christina Daniels who organizes the program for ATC. Adams Telephone joined the program in 2004 sending two additional students in 2005. Dotson and Daniels reviewed some of their strategies for promoting the program and asked for the committee's assistance in contacting former winners from the 1950's through the 1990's.

During the evening, members of the committee were asked their thoughts on the 2006 Annual Meeting and completed a brief survey. The survey asked for feedback to make improvements, if necessary, to the annual event.

Recently, the Cooperative created a multi-purpose room out of the old appliance show-room space. The room will act as a meeting place for the Advisory Committee and employee meetings. Previously, the Cooperative held meetings in a locker room. Bill Stalder, Adams Electric Cooperative Manager of Marketing/Member Services commented on the much needed space since this was the committee's first meeting in the new multi-purpose room.

## In The News...



King



Benz



Wagner



Waner

in Springfield. President Rick King of Huntsville, Vice President Jim Benz of Quincy, Director Ed Wagner of Mt. Sterling and Director Lyle Waner of Loraine

participated in "What Every Director Needs to Know!" at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The course examined the advancements in automated meter reading, SCADA

technologies, broadband over power lines, and other technologies to help directors stay informed and educated. The course is credit toward the NRECA Board Leadership Certificate.

#### AEC Linemen Assist Illinois Co-ops After Ice Storm

In December, ice storms left numerous families across Illinois without power. As usual, cooperatives banded together to help restore power in those areas

#### Directors Stay Informed on New Technology

Recently, several Adams Electric Cooperative directors attended a director training course

(In The News Continued)

suffering the most. Adams Electric Cooperative sent Journeyman Linemen Brian Anderson, Kevin Knight and Mike Olson and Apprentice Linemen Jon Metz and Brad Smith to assist Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative in Auburn, Illinois. Line Foreman Mike DeWitt and Journeyman Lineman Pat Boylen were called to assist M.J.M. Electric Cooperative in Carlinville. M.J.M. Electric was one of the hardest hit by December's storm. Rick Polley, Manager of Field Services for AIEC and lead contact for the IEC Emergency Workplan said, "This is the worst storm I've worked since I've been here. I've had storms where several co-ops called me for help, but not where much of their system was laying flat on the ground."

Several other cooperatives needed assistance. Help came from 15 Illinois cooperatives and co-ops in Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin.



AEC's Brian Anderson, who assisted RECC after ice storm damage took this photo. "This pole top, a few inches off the ground sticking out of the snow, was still energized. We saw it as we were going down the road, informed Tim (Journeyman Lineman from RECC) and he promptly killed the line. We changed the pole later in the day and restored service to those members," said Adams Electric Journeyman Lineman Brian Anderson.

**SAFETY WARNING TO MEMBERS: ALWAYS** assume a fallen line has power, stay back, and call for help IMMEDIATELY!

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## Grilled Pork Steak Casserole

*Submitted by  
Tonya Fitzjarrald*

4 pork steaks  
2 cans cream of mushroom soup  
2 soup-size cans of milk  
8-10 potatoes, sliced  
2 lg. onions  
Season salt

Brown pork steaks in skillet. In 9x13 pan, layer sliced potatoes to cover bottom of pan, meat, sliced onions, then rest of potatoes. Blend soup and milk. Then pour on top of casserole. Season with season salt. Put on grill for 1 to 1 1/2 hours on low heat or in oven at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Note: Very good and tender.

## Goulash

*Submitted by Charles Breeden*

1 lb. hamburger  
1 can chili beans  
1 cup macaroni, cooked  
Onion to taste  
Sm. can tomato paste  
Tomato juice to taste  
American cheese

Brown and drain meat and onions. Add chili beans, cooked macaroni, tomato paste and tomato juice. Simmer 1/2 hour. Melt American cheese over top and serve.



# Adams Electric Cooperative's Country Kitchen

Is your group or organization selling a cookbook? Send us the details and three sample recipes. We'll feature it for free (space permitting). Be sure to include a contact phone number. Have a favorite family recipe you'd like to share? We'd love to hear from you! Mail recipes to: Attn: Laura, Adams Electric Cooperative, PO Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320  
Or, save a stamp and send recipes with your electric bill!

## Red Potato Salad with Bacon & Dill

*Submitted by Lisa Surratt*

2 1/2 lbs. sm. red boiling potatoes  
2 bunches green onions (only use green parts)  
1 sm. bunch fresh dill  
2 cloves garlic  
2 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 1/2 cup Real Bacon Bits or chopped bacon  
1/2 cup mayo  
1/2 cup butter milk  
Salt & pepper to taste

Boil potatoes until tender. Cool. Dice garlic into oil; chop greens. Add in mayo and buttermilk. Cut unpeeled potatoes in half. Add to above mixture. Follow with bacon, salt and pepper to taste. Toss gently to coat potatoes.

## Cherry Delight

*Submitted by  
Virginia Wheelhouse*

1 can cherry pie filling  
1 sm. box Jiffy white cake mix  
1/4 cup melted butter  
1/2 cup chopped nuts  
1/2 cup coconut

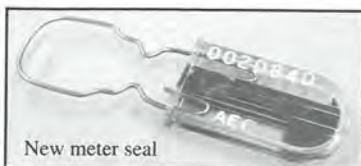
Spread pie filling into 8x8 square pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix over top. Pour melted butter over cake mix. Sprinkle with nuts & coconut. Bake at 350 degrees for 55 minutes or until nicely browned.

## Quick Pecan Rolls

*Submitted by Ruth Tarrant*

2 cups flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2/3 to 3/4 cup milk  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
3 tsp. baking powder  
1/4 cup shortening  
2 Tbsp. melted butter  
Pecan halves

Prepare muffin pans by spreading with a mixture of creamed butter or margarine, brown sugar (using about 3 Tbsp. butter & 6 Tbsp. brown sugar). Place several pecans in each muffin cup. Sift dry ingredients together, cut in shortening, then add milk, stirring only until dough holds together. Turn onto lightly floured board and knead gently for 30 seconds. Roll to 1/4 inch thickness and brush with 2 tablespoons melted butter. Sprinkle with the 1/2 cup brown sugar and roll jelly-roll fashion. Cut into 1 inch slices and place cut side down in muffin pans. Bake at 350 degrees (or 425 degrees depending upon pan used) for 20-25 minutes. Let stand in pan one minute before turning out. Note: Quick pecan rolls are not made with yeast as usual. They're fun to make, and very good for breakfast or anytime. Makes 12 large or 16 small muffins.



New meter seal

## Broken Meter Seals

For reasons of safety and security, all meters are sealed by the Cooperative.

**Only Cooperative personnel are authorized to cut or remove a meter seal. A cut or missing seal may indicate the possibility of tampering and will be investigated.**

If your meter seal is making a noise in the wind and you would like it fixed, please notify the Cooperative.

If you notice that a seal has been cut or is missing, please contact the engineering department at (217) 593-7701 or (800) 232-4797. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

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# Youth to Washington 2007

Adams Electric Cooperative has been sending students to Washington, D.C. since 1959. The program originated by a suggestion from Senator Lyndon Johnson at an NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) Annual Meeting in Chicago. In 1957, cooperatives from his state of Texas sent students to Washington to work in Senator Johnson's office. The next year, electric cooperatives in Iowa sponsored students on a summer tour. The program grew.

Several Illinois electric cooperatives joined the effort. Thanks to electric cooperatives and support from local schools 130 students toured Washington, D.C., in 1959.

Today, approximately 2,000 students from 42 cooperatives across the United States gather at our Nation's capital each summer.

This June, four area students will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for a week-long all-expense paid tour of our Nation's capital. You could be one of our lucky winners if you're a high school sophomore or junior. A simple short-answer application is all it takes to get YOU in the running! (Complete the application on page 15 of this newsletter or download a copy from our website at [www.adamselectric.coop](http://www.adamselectric.coop).)

All participants (up to 34) will travel with Adams Electric Cooperative and Adams Telephone Co-Operative chaperones to Springfield in March for Youth Day. After an exciting day of site seeing two winners will be selected to represent each cooperative.

In June, Illinois winners will meet in Springfield and travel by air-conditioned chartered buses to Washington. There, your group will gather with young leaders from across the United States visiting fascinating historical sites like George Washington's home and grounds, Arlington National Cemetery, National Cathedral, Gettysburg battlefields, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, WWII Memorial, FDR Memorial and more! The tour is all expense paid including travel, lodging, meals and admission fees.



*Lucinda Awerkamp, pictured far right with finalists from Notre Dame High School, was one of four winners sponsored by Adams Electric in 1965. The other winners that year included Danny Koch from St. Mary's Academy, Judy Eaton from Augusta High School, and James Funk from Liberty High School.*

*I can't tell you how memorable my REA (Adams Electric Cooperative) trip to Washington was. Everything was first class -- our accommodations, our meals and our itinerary. We had special tours of all the Washington sites, but most memorable for me would have been the meeting with Lyndon Johnson in the Rose Garden and the breakfast with our two Senators, Paul Douglas and Everett Dirksen in the Senate dining room. After the trip, each student was provided with a slide set so we could share our trip in public meetings, like at my high school. It was wonderful to be with other students from all over the state. As the next two years of high school passed, we would see each other at speech contests or athletic competitions between our schools.*

*The trip was a wonderful introduction to Washington -- I go back to the city every chance I get. I would apply to you to go again if I could!*

**– Lucinda (Awerkamp) McClain  
1965 Youth Tour**





*I remember the house chambers were empty the morning we visited... Paul Findley let each of us sit in the speakers chair and look out over the empty expanse. Although there were many lines at attractions, our group seemed to be "pre-registered" and went right on around the lines.*

**- Dan Shriver  
1969 Youth Tour**

*Daniel Shriver as a junior at Unity High School, the year he won the Youth to Washington Tour. Shriver, along with Lane Eichhorn, a student at Augusta High School, won the Youth to Washington contest in 1969.*

*I wish every high school student could experience the awesome "Youth to Washington" tour, a trip with memories I cherish to this day. We not only saw many of the breath-taking D.C. National Sites and Gettysburg, but at some locations, we received special VIP tours, as well as, special time with IL Congressmen and Senators. I really felt important! We also gained a sense of home-state pride, as we represented Illinois amongst students from many other states and other countries.*

*We were very fortunate one day to see the President and First Lady greet the President of Mexico with helicopters, military bands, honor guards, etc. at the White House.*

*Now, as an elementary teacher, I teach a unit on Washington, D.C. and share a few stories,*

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Recognize any of these girls?

They are from left to right, Betty Le-fringhouse from Liberty, Arlene Phillips from Quincy, Marilyn Herrington from Quincy and Beverly Buzzard from Payson. They were the first winners of Adams Electric Cooperative's Youth to Washington Contest in 1959! If you happen to know one of them and have contact information, please call Laura at Adams Electric Cooperative. I'd love to hear from all of our former winners! Reach me at (800) 232-4797 or by email at [ldotson@adams.net](mailto:ldotson@adams.net).



(Continued from page 9)

including my unwise decision of walking down the Washington Monument's 898 stairs in high heels! Looking back, I didn't realize putting some quality time into writing an essay would be so rewarding...the friendships, the VIP trip to Springfield for a day...the week-long D.C. trip...the congratulations letters... the photos... the recognition...it was sooo worth it!

Thank you REA, for offering such a wonderful opportunity to young people.

— **Brenda (Vaughn) Boyd**  
1972 Youth Tour

I have traveled to Washington, D.C. many times over the years in my position with the state of Illinois, and I believe that first trip really made me appreciate our nation's capital and our country's history. Gettysburg and Ford's Theater were my two favorite stops during this trip, and made me have an interest in Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. I now live in Springfield, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln's hometown, and enjoy visiting the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The museum has borrowed items from Ford's Theater for exhibition, and seeing these items bring back great memories of the friendships made during this trip.

— **Dora (Rentmeister) Tyrrell**  
1982 Youth Tour



## Youth Tour Application on page 15

**Deadline: Feb. 23**

Adams Electric Cooperative accepts applications from ALL high school sophomores and juniors (MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS) residing in Adams, Brown, Schuyler, Hancock, McDonough, Pike or Fulton county.



Above left: Jeffrey Hollender of Catholic Boys School and Brenda Vaughn of Rushville High School were the winners of the 1972 Youth to Washington Tour.

Right: Dora Rentmeister of Brown County High School attended Youth Tour in 1982 along with alternate Patrick Binger of Unity High School.

# FEBRUARY

## Calendar of Events

### Storytime & Crafts

Feb. 1, 2, 7, 8, 21-23, 28 (10am), Quincy Public Library. For children 3 & up. Everyone welcome. New stories each week. Reservations (217) 223-1309.

### Krafty Kids

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, Quincy Public Library. For kids in grades 1-6. Reservations (217) 223-1309.

### Drop-In Crafts

Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 (10am-2pm on Saturdays, 1-5pm on Sundays), Quincy Public Library. Simple craft for children. No reservations are required. (217) 223-1309.

### Box City IV

Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24 (9am), Gardner Museum of Architecture & Design, 4th & Maine, Quincy. Students learn about city planning, architecture, and preservation while having fun. (217) 224-6873

### 1st Steps Storytime & Crafts

Feb. 6, 20, 27, Quincy Public Library. For children 18 mos.-36 mos. Everyone welcome. New stories each week. Reservations (217) 223-1309.

### Mother Goose Storytime

Feb. 6, 20, 27, Quincy Public Library. For children 6 mos. -18 mos. Reservations (217) 223-1309.

### The Chocolate Chronicles

Feb. 7, (6-7pm) Quincy Public Library. Actor, historian & teacher from Chicago, Leslie Goddard will present "The History of Chocolate" with samples provided. Reservations required. (217) 223-1309.

### Sleepytime Storytime & Crafts

Feb. 7, 21 (7pm) Quincy Public Library. Family story hour. Come in your PJs for stories, songs & a craft. (217) 223-1309.

### Hungarian State Folk Ensemble

Feb. 8 (7:30pm), Morrison Theater, 14th & Maine, Quincy. Traditional dances of Hungary. (217) 224-5499

### QHS Winter Play

Feb. 8-10 (7:30pm), Quincy High School, 3322 Maine. (217) 224-3774

### Preschool Valentine Party

Feb. 9, (10-11am) Quincy Public Library. Songs, stories, puppet show/or drama & treat for preschoolers & their parents. Reservations (217) 223-1309.

### Wine & Chocolate Festival

Feb. 10 (1-4pm), Colver Family Winery, Barry. Taste the winery's best paired with different chocolates. (217) 335-3279

### Death by Chocolate: A Teen Valentine Party

Feb. 10, (2-4pm) Quincy Public Library. Chocolate contests & fondue bar. Reservations (217) 223-1309.

### 52nd Young Artists Concert

Feb. 11 (3pm), Morrison Theater, 14th & Maine, Quincy. Presented by Quincy Symphony Orchestra & Quincy Area Youth Orchestra. (217) 222-2856

### Sleeping Beauty - Marionette Puppet Show

Feb. 12-17, Quincy Public Library. Reservations (217) 223-1309.

### "I Do! I Do!"

Feb. 15-18, 22-25, Oakley Lindsay Civic Center, Quincy. Presented by Quincy Community Theatre. (217) 222-3209

### Hunting & Fishing Expo

Feb. 17 (10am-5pm), Oakley Lindsay Civic Center, Quincy. Hunting & fishing vendors. Admission: \$3. (217) 223-1000

### Winter Palace Arts/Ball XXIII

Feb. 17 (6pm), Quincy Country Club, 24th & State, Quincy. Formal Valentine's dinner/dance fundraiser for Quincy Society of Fine Arts. (217) 222-3432

### Mother/Son & Father/Daughter Date Nights

Mother/Son - Feb. 17, Father/Daughter - Feb. 18, The East Room, Tony's Old Place, Quincy. Sponsored by Quincy Park District & Staradio. Dinner, dancing, fun activities & prizes. Cost: \$27/couple & \$12 ea. add'l child. Register by Feb. 15 (217) 223-7703

### Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

Feb. 17 (6pm), Colver Family Winery, Barry. Dinner, performance and wine tasting. (217) 335-3279

### KHQA Bridal Extravaganza

Feb. 24 (3pm-7pm), Oakley Lindsay Civic Center, Quincy. Everything to plan a wedding. Over 65 vendors & fashion show. Admission: \$3 includes door prizes & fashion show. (217) 223-1000

### Roast Beef Dinner

Feb. 25 (11am), Golden Community Building, By Boy Scout Troop 42 of Golden. (217) 696-2561

### Ric Bybee and the ByB Flats Clarinet Choir

Feb. 25 (4pm), First Union Congregational Church, 12th & Maine, Quincy. (217) 228-2866

### QHS Concert Band

Feb. 25 (7pm), Quincy High School, 3322 Maine. (217) 224-3770

# FREE

Town-wide yard sales, concerts, car shows, craft shows, parades, festivals, plays, fairs, special sporting events, benefits, activities for children, bake sales, demonstrations, or something else? Tell us about it! Space permitting.

## Event Listings

### Deadlines:

March Events.....Feb 1  
April Events.....Mar 1  
May Events.....April 1

June Events.....May 1  
July Events.....June 1  
August Events.....July 1

Send event title, date(s), time(s), address, town, brief description, cost (if any), and contact phone #

Mail to: Attn: Laura, Adams Electric, PO Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320 or Call: (800) 232-4797

# Introducing... News From Yesteryear

Digging through some old files, I came across the very first issues of Adams Electric's member newsletter, referred to then as *Live Line News*. The first issue was dated April 18, 1940, only two years after the very beginning of Adams Electric Cooperative. I must say, it's been quite interesting! Things were very different.

Back then, it was our hope that members would read their meters all on the same day. Of course, there weren't nearly as many members...around 900 in 1940...a little more than 8,000 today. The average monthly bill was only \$3.69. That's \$44.28 for a whole year! (Today, the average monthly residential bill is \$122.)

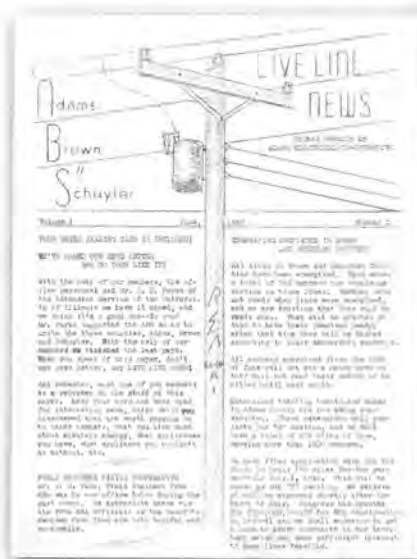
An "Honor Roll" listed members using the most kWh's. Oscar Weiss used 888 kWh's in April 1940 ranking him at the top of the list. The average was only

45 kWh's per month...today, the average is 1,059 kWh's.

Members were encouraged to inform Adams Electric when they purchased new appliances. Electric brooders, refrigerators, and ranges were exciting and names of members new to these items were printed in the newsletter.

Years ago new appliance owners were turning off their refrigerator in the winter. The newsletter encouraged them to keep their refrigerators turned on, reminding them that the kilowatt usage was so little that it was actually harder on the appliance to turn it off.

There was a great need to teach members about electricity. The cooperative organized kitchen parties, home lighting, feed grinding and other demonstrations to teach members how to accomplish tasks "electrically."



As I unwrap our history from these old newsletters, I'd like to share some of my findings. I hope you'll enjoy the new column *News From Yesteryear*.

Laura Dotson  
Editor of *Adams Outlet*

## Reprinted from Adams Electric Cooperative's **Live Line News, July 1940**

Roy L. Sharrow, President of the Adams Electrical Cooperative, has turned poet to boost the REA project in Adams County. Following is one of his poems entitled, "A.E.C. Progress in Rhythm":

The thing everyone wants to know –  
How soon will electric current flow?  
Now come with me while I pull back the curtain  
To show you that this thing is very certain.  
At first, promotion work we had to do.  
The Farm organizations brought the most  
of that to you.  
Then a Board of Directors had to be elected  
A Superintendent, Engineer, and Attorney  
were selected.  
Next in order the memberships we signed  
And some of them were hard to find.

For, they said, "We'll wait till we see the poles."  
And couldn't believe the truth of the things we told.  
A lot of right-of-ways had to be secured.  
To keep the lines from making a detour.  
A contractor full of pep was hired to build the lines  
And as you tour the country, you'll think  
they're mighty fine.  
For 500 miles and more stretch across the land  
As wiring contractors work on every hand  
To get the houses ready for that eventful day,  
When someone in Authority will have  
this word to say.  
Go home and turn your switches and you  
will have electric power.  
And when at eventide, you pause to give your thanks  
Don't be like some who are sometimes  
classed as cranks,  
But in your prayers, remember your farm organization  
Which lent a helping hand to form your corporation.

## The Good Old Days Life When I Was A Child

by Bonnie Milbert

The "Good Old Days" weren't always easy days. Those days were full of hard work and not so easy times. One thing I was always sure of, though, was that my mom would be home when we got home from school and that every Sunday was God's day. We got up and went to church on Sunday morning, came home to a wonderful Sunday dinner, then went back to church on Sunday evening. In the summertime, our family had lots of visitors on Sunday. My mom was a great cook and we had plenty of food that she had grown in the garden or meat my dad had raised and butchered. Our house was kind of the hub of the family. My dad was the oldest of his siblings and my mom was the youngest of hers and also the only girl. All my cousins loved coming to our house and we loved having them spend their "vacation" with us. Many times on Sunday afternoon if we didn't have company, we'd go to a neighbor's house and sit on the front porch to visit. I loved Mrs. Weber's house because she had this great box of toys that her children played with. This was in the 50's, and the toys were already old.

Me and my twin sister were the youngest, so our job after school every day was gathering, washing, and casing eggs. My dad had made a

contract with a hatchery, so we had 2000 chickens. We also had to fill buckets of chicken feed for Dad to fill feeders. Of course, the feed room was full of hungry mice. I was so scared of them, but I guess more scared of what Dad would do if we refused to go in! I don't remember Dad ever spanking us, we just knew not to refuse.

If we finished chores soon enough, we got to play a while before doing home work. We didn't have TV until I was at least five or six. The hours we spent in front of a television in one year didn't equal the hours kids watch in a week now.

We didn't have an indoor bathroom until I was in high school in the 60's. I remember changing from the wall, crank telephone to a dial phone in 1965. We were not allowed to use the telephone unless it was very important and absolutely no long distance calls. Of course I didn't know anyone to call long distance anyway.

We're called Baby Boomers now and I can see why we got that name. We lived in the age when everything was being invented to better our lives. No wonder our parents chose to have big families, they could give them things that their parents only dreamed about. Today is a scary time in history. With all the progress, so much has been given up. There are things I'm so grateful to enjoy now, but I'm also grateful that God allowed me to grow up in the "Good Old Days."

## Share Your Stories!

Wouldn't it be nice if you could get a discount on your electric bill? Here's your opportunity! We want to hear from members like you. Look at the list below. Send us your stories and photos. Feel free to enter as many categories as you'd like. If we pick your entry, we'll give you a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Here are the current categories:

### The Next Best Thing

Electricity has allowed us many advancements in technology. What do you think will be the next greatest invention?

**DEADLINE: Fri., Feb. 9**

### When the goin' gets tough...

What's your secret to saving money? What do you do to stretch a dollar?

**DEADLINE: Fri., March 9**

### My Cooperative

From your point of view, what's the best thing about being a part of a cooperative? How have you benefited by being a member of Adams Electric?

**DEADLINE: Fri., April 13**

Send your entries to:

**Attn: Laura Dotson  
Adams Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 247**

**Camp Point, IL 62320**

or email them to:

**ldotson@adams.net**

If we publish your entry, you will receive a \$5 electric bill credit. One entry per household, per category. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your entry returned.



*Bonnie (Allison) Milbert going for a ride with her older sister Sharon in 1956.*

## We Might Call You

Please be sure to keep your phone number up to date at the Cooperative. It is extremely important to have a current primary phone number on file to reach you in case of a power outage, a billing question or to notify you when work must be done on your property.

**If there is any chance you changed your phone number since you've been a member of Adams Electric, but forgot to notify us with the change, please do so now.** Write the correct phone number on the back of your next electric bill. Please be sure to indicate whether you are updating a home phone number, work number or both. If preferred, you may call the office with your changes at (217) 593-7701 or (800) 232-4797.



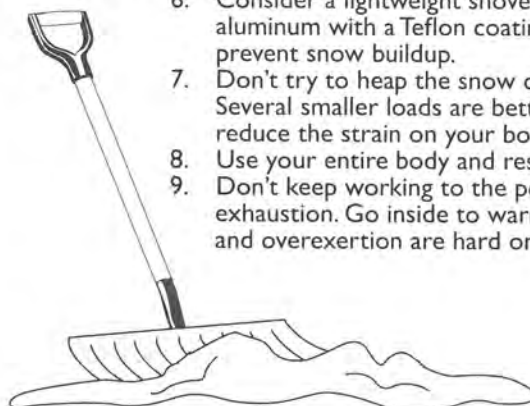
## Snow Shoveling Tips

Please consider these guidelines:

If you have any health problems or are in poor shape, don't shovel. Before the snow hits, make arrangements with someone to clear snow for you.

For those shoveling:

1. Locate your shovel before winter and keep it handy.
2. Stretch and warm up your muscles before you start.
3. Avoid caffeine or nicotine before beginning. They may increase your heart rate and cause extra stress on your heart.
4. Dress in layers to help perspiration evaporate. Wear shoes or boots with rubber soles to reduce slipping.
5. Choose a shovel that fits you comfortably.
6. Consider a lightweight shovel made of aluminum with a Teflon coating. It will prevent snow buildup.
7. Don't try to heap the snow on the shovel. Several smaller loads are better and reduce the strain on your body.
8. Use your entire body and rest often.
9. Don't keep working to the point of exhaustion. Go inside to warm up. Cold and overexertion are hard on the heart.



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## Restricted Air Flow May Cost You Thousands

by Doug Rye, the "Doctor of Energy Efficiency"  
- the King of Caulk and Talk

"Easy ways to save money on your utility bills" has been the theme of my columns recently and we will continue that this month. If you have not read the last few columns, you should get on the ball and do so. The columns are written to help you, not to sell you something.

This month's column is for those of you who have a central heating and cooling system. If you do not have this in your house, you might choose to skip this column and go straight to the recipe section.

This column may save you a few cents each month, a few dollars each month or it may save you several thousand dollars, as is evidenced by the following true story:

A reader of my column called me at the office recently and told me that her air conditioner was not cooling her house. She said her husband always took care of the house, but he had recently passed away. She said she didn't know what to do so she called me. Actually, I get lots of similar calls and I always wish I could personally go to each house to deal with them. Our conversation went something like this:

**Me:** Is your thermostat set to cool?

**Caller:** Yes.

**Me:** Is it turned down low enough to come on?

**Caller:** Yes, it is now.

**Me:** If you turn the fan switch to on, does the fan come on?

**Caller:** Yes.

**Me:** Where is the indoor unit located?

**Caller:** In the hall closet.

**Me:** Please look in the closet and tell me what you see.

**Caller:** The unit is there, but it is very wet in the closet.

I'm thinking to myself, "Now we are getting somewhere. If it is wet,

then the condensate pan is most likely stopped up. A common problem."

**Me:** Would you go outside and see if water is dripping out of the condensate line?

**Caller:** (After a couple of minutes) Yes, it is.

**Me:** Is it a pretty fast drip?

**Caller:** Yes.

I think to myself, "Well, if there is good condensate flow, the cooling coil must be cold, so the air conditioning compressor must be working. In that case, perhaps the cooling coil is frozen solid. For that to happen, the unit would likely be low on freon gas. Actually, this is what I figure the problem to be now. But not so fast, Doug. Remember that her husband took care of the system. The only other reason that the coil might freeze is restricted air flow."

**Me:** Ma'am, where is your return air filter located?

**Caller:** I don't know what you mean.

**Me:** That is the grill where the air in the house goes back to the unit in the closet. Is there a large grill in the hall wall or ceiling?

**Caller:** Yes, in the wall.

**Me:** Does it have two little clips at the top where you can open it?

**Caller:** Yes.

**Me:** Open it and there should be a filter behind it. Do you see it?

**Caller:** Yes.

**Me:** Take it out. Can you see through it?

**Caller:** No, I can't and it is very wet and falling apart in my hand.

**Me:** Leave the filter off and turn the fan switch on and let it blow across the coil for about 30 minutes and call me back.

**Caller:** O.K.

Ring, Ring.

**Me:** Doug Rye.

**Caller:** Mr. Rye, it is me again.

**Me:** Are you standing by the unit?

**Caller:** Yes, I am.

**Me:** Does the unit sound a little different from before?

**Caller:** Maybe.

**Me:** Now turn the switch on the thermostat to "cooling" and then set it to 72 degrees. Then call me back in 30 minutes and tell me if it is cooling your house.

Ring, Ring.

**Me:** Doug Rye.

**Caller:** Mr. Rye, it is working.

**Me:** M'am, go to the home center and buy several new air filters. Check them regularly. When you see them getting dirty, change them. That may be every month or every six months depending on your situation.

We lucked out on this one. It is certainly possible that some heating and air company would have tried to sell her a new system for thousands of dollars. I am glad she called and I was able to help her. Remember this. An air conditioning unit performs at its very best and lasts the longest when there is absolutely no restriction to the air flow. This includes the air filter. Put your magazine down now and check your filter. After you have done that, go directly to the recipe section.

*Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. Source: Rural Arkansas Magazine*

**All High School Sophomores & Juniors!**

# Youth to Washington 2007

**Application Form**

# Win a Trip to Washington!

This application should be completed and returned to Adams Electric Cooperative by **Friday, February 23**. Applications postmarked after Feb. 23 will not be considered.

**Contest Guidelines:**

- Area high school sophomores or juniors are eligible to participate.
- A total of 18 students from all eligible schools will be selected to represent Adams Electric Cooperative at the March 28, 2007 Youth Day in Springfield, Illinois.
- On March 28, 2007, following the Springfield tour, all Youth Day winners interested in participating in the Youth Tour to Washington, June 8-15, will be interviewed by a judge from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two winners will be selected to represent Adams Electric Cooperative at the Youth to Washington Tour. One alternate will be selected.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use additional paper to answer the following questions:**

1. Personal Achievement (Non-School Activities): Please provide information regarding your participation in non-school related activities, such as community, religious, or other non-school related organizations. Please list the organizations, number of years and accomplishments/remarks.
2. Personal Achievement (School Activities): Please provide information regarding your participation in school related activities. Please list the organizations, number of years and accomplishments/remarks.
3. Special Awards or Recognitions Received: Please provide any other information you feel is useful regarding special awards, recognitions or accomplishments.
4. Future educational goals.

**Short Answer Section:**

5. What do you hope to learn most about our governmental process and why?
6. What is the difference between a cooperative and a company?
7. How do Adams Electric Cooperative and Adams Telephone Co-Operative differ? How are they the same?
8. Please explain why you feel you should be chosen to represent your cooperative on the Washington, D.C. tour.
9. If selected to represent Adams Electric Cooperative at the 2007 Youth to Washington Tour, how would you encourage participation in the Youth Tour program at your high school?

I understand that if I should be selected as one of the winners of this contest, I would take the all-expense paid tour of Washington, D.C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number

I hereby give my consent for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the "Youth to Washington" contest and take the all expense-paid tour\* to Washington, D.C. if selected as a winner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

\*The entire tour will be properly chaperoned. Additional information regarding this program may be obtained from Laura Dotson at Adams Electric Cooperative.

**Contact information: Adams Electric Cooperative - Laura Dotson, Communications Coordinator**  
**P.O. Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320 • (800) 232-4797 • ldotson@adams.net**

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their dedication to delivering affordable and  
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On behalf of the entire team  
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