

Clinton County Connection

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Across the manager's desk



What makes Clinton County Electric different from the IOUs or the municipal utilities? Although there are several similarities, there are some striking differences between Clinton County Electric and IOUs and the municipal utilities.

First, the similarities: (1) all three sell electricity to customers at the lowest price possible and it's kind of hard to tell one kilowatt from another; (2) all three types of utilities claim to provide prompt and efficient service; (3) all three are quick to take advantage of new technology and new business practices; and (4) all three types of utilities get some sort of subsidy from the federal government.

But what makes Clinton County Electric different is what has made us different since the beginning. Clinton County Electric is a cooperative, owned by those we serve, and we are locally controlled. Your cooperative is accountable to you, our customer, not just because it makes good business sense, but because we are dependent on you to tell us how you want us to run your business. This is what local control is all about. That's what makes us different. That's what makes us strong. That's what gives us a competitive advantage. But to reap the benefits of this competitive advantage, there must be more, and there is. Reminding our consumers that they own their utility, and treating them like owners, is the surest way to distinguish ourselves from the competition.

Most businesses exist to make money. Take out the profit motive and you're left with just one thing – service. That's what Clinton County Electric does best and will keep on doing. The hard-working men and women at Clinton County Electric – from the line crews who maintain the system, to your locally elected board of trustees – they all remain fully committed to maintaining the high level of quality service you've come to expect over the years.

Unlike big corporate utility companies that are closing local customer-service offices, we believe that personal contact is one of the most important ways we can maintain good service and consumer satisfaction. You can stop by our office and talk to someone you know about any part of your electric service. And, when you call us, you'll speak to someone close by who knows you. Our #1 PRIORITY is always you – our consumer/owner.

As a consumer-owner of Clinton County Electric, you have a lot of power. You can vote for your board of trustees. You can make your opinions heard at area and annual meetings because you are the owner. And that's a huge advantage over the big companies whose customers have no say in the management of the company. We take the time to listen to our members, to find out what you need and want. Co-ops like Clinton County Electric are unique in the business world.

Come in or call us. My door is open. We want to know what you need and what you want from us. Being an owner-member, we need you to get involved by letting us know how to better serve you.

Identity Theft

Identity Theft is alive and thriving in Clinton County! Someone calls you, tells you he's from the local bank and wants to update your information. He (or she) then asks for your routing number and your bank account number. Bingo! They've got you now! Before you know what's happening, they've taken several hundred dollars out of your checking account.

This very thing has happened several times lately in Clinton County. Be on the alert!

The best way to counteract this little piece of fraud is to NEVER, NEVER give out bank account numbers over the phone. If someone calls you with this story, tell them you will call the bank at a later date with this information, or hang up the phone. Then call your bank to verify that they did indeed call and that they do indeed need this information. The banks in Clinton County tell us they never do business this way. So be on the alert.

Also, never give out your social security number in response to an unsolicited phone call or letter. The phone call or letter may

look friendly and/or official, but check it out with a trusted friend or your banker first.

In addition, it is dangerous to print your Social Security Number, your phone number or your driver's license number on your pre-printed checks. You have the right to refuse requests for your SSN from merchants and service providers.

Keep a close watch on your bank statements and credit card bills. If you notice anything suspicious, contact your financial institution immediately. Report the problem quickly and in writing. Contact your credit card company even if your credit card bill does not arrive on time. This could be a sign someone has stolen your mail and/or account information and perhaps has changed your mailing address to run up big bills in your name from another location.

Federal and state laws may limit your losses if you're a victim of fraud or theft, but you can avoid the hassle and inconvenience of having to straighten things out, if you act promptly if you suspect someone has stolen your ID.

Missing Persons

We are trying to locate the following former members in order to issue them a Capital Credit check. We have tried mailing the checks, but the addresses have changed and the checks have come back to us. If you know any of these former members, or any of

their relatives, please contact us, or have them contact us at P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230, or call 526-7282. If the former member is deceased, a check can be issued to heirs.

R.C. Achenbach
Timothy E./Cynthia Bequette
Carlyle Lake Water Slide/Charles Voss
DC Robben Oil Prop.
Mrs. Mamie Dieckmann
O. Fred Eckels
Otis Jr./Anchalee Farmer
Ethel Fochtman
Steve/Deena Gemoules
Laine Houghton
Marlene L. Kolbe
Roy Lambert
JoyCarol L. McMaster
Richard P/Vera E. Mueller
Nine LTD/Frank Simmons
Raymond Palm
Cora May Schaller
Maxine Stewart
James L. Thomas
Robert W./Darla M. Whaley
Paul/Evelyn Wiebler
Phillip/Cheryl Yates
Vinc Gebke

Ronald L./Shirley R. Alberts
Henry/Sandra Bertrand
John T./Sheila E. Casserly
Dennis DeLuca
Darrell R./Vera F. Diveley
Robt. B./Virginia Ellis
Steven Fear
Charles/Leslie Foltz
Mark E. Ginter
Illini Federal
A.J./Benita Kopec
Herbert F./Margaret Marshall
Tom Minugh
Stephen Myers
Dan A. Norquest
Don H. Raymond
Norman D./Ann Snyders
Mildred Stokes
James F. Voss
Gregory Wiebler
Frederick A. Winchester
Ronald/Evelyn S. Young

Leslie Bendorf
Thomas/Barbara Bryant
Jerome/Barbara Cohen
Robert/Sharon Dickinson
Pat Doza
Charles/Deborah Eubanks
Fish & Feather Bait Shop
Walter/Mary E. Garner
Ernest W. Holt
Lawrence Klasing
John Kuhn
William Mc Collum
Terri S. Monroe
Phillip/Stacy Neal
John L./Christa Oxford
Joe Reinsmith
Thomas E. Stenerson
Lester/Dorothy Strange
Kenneth W./Marilyn Wacholtz
Michael G./Hope Wiebler
Clyde/Ada Yardley
Roger Zimmermann

Accountants Association re-elects officers

Officers of the IECMA Accountants' Association were re-elected during the group's annual meeting May 5-6 in Springfield.

They are: Lynn Lauer, Corn Belt Energy Corporation, President; Ralph Kuhl, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Vice-President; Tara Neison, Adams Electric Cooperative, Secretary; Scott Traser, McDonough Power Cooperative, Director-at-Large; and Mike Henry, AIEC, Treasurer.

COOPERATIVE BIDS FAREWELL TO ATTORNEY

Norman Conrad, who served the Cooperative as its corporate attorney for many years, is leaving Clinton County for the fast-paced big-city life of Springfield. Norman has accepted the position of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives general counsel, replacing Michael Hastings, who left the AIEC to become President/CEO of Jo-Carroll Energy.

Norman resigned as CCEC's attorney the first of January 2005, to become Clinton County Assistant States Attorney. He subsequently resigned that position when he was offered the position at AIEC.

Norman and his wife Carol will be moving to Springfield soon.

Good luck to Norman and Carol on their new venture!

COMING PHOTO

Be COOL and SAVE

It's hot outside, and we're now in the peak season for energy usage. To reduce bills and stay cool, follow these easy tips:

- Add insulation to your home and apply caulk or weather proofing around doors and windows to keep cool air from escaping.
- Keep air conditioning units and heat pumps clear of brush and debris so they can operate more efficiently.
- Clean or change your air conditioner's filter once a month.
- Close drapes during the day to keep the hot sun out.
- Avoid using the stove or oven. Instead, use the microwave, toaster oven, grill outdoors, or make a cold meal.
- Adjust your air conditioner's thermostat to 78 degrees, or the highest temperature you can stand.

For more energy saving tips, contact your local cooperative.

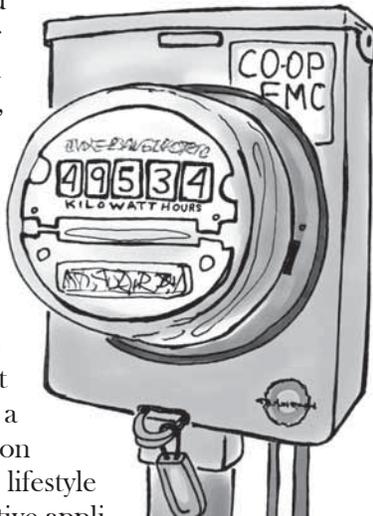
My Meter Must Be Bad – I Couldn't Have Used That Much Power!

We here at the cooperative hear those words very frequently, especially when the weather changes to extremes in winter or summer. Usually we'll be experiencing two weeks of very, very cold, or very, very hot and humid weather, until the bills come out and the weather will turn nice for a couple of days, making all of us forget just how cold, or hot, it really was during the last part of the previous billing period.

Although we have had instances in the past where there actually was a faulty meter, these times have been very infrequent. Most of the time, an increase in a member's energy consumption is due to weather changes, lifestyle changes or upgrades, defective appliances, poor, or no, insulation, drafty windows and doors, or a sudden use of a new electrical item, not normally utilized. Some of these culprits could be defective freezers and/or water heaters; or the use of engine block heaters and space heaters in the winter. Leaking hot water faucets can raise your KwH consumption considerably. We have also found that a stuck switch on a water pump has caused a bill to go sky-high.

Usually, when a meter goes bad, it stops. That means it isn't registering any KWHs, not more. But all of this doesn't mean that a meter can never go bad. If the cooperative and the member cannot come up with a logical and reasonable reason why the consumption is so high, the cooperative will install a test meter next to the actual meter. This test meter will be kept on for 3-5 days. When the co-op removes this meter, the engineering department will verify the regular meter's accuracy by comparing it to the test meter. The engineering department will then contact the member with the results.

That's why, when you call in with a high consumption complaint, the billing department at the cooperative asks you so many questions regarding your recent lifestyle changes etc. It's not because we want to annoy you, it's because that's usually the reason why your consumption is high.



Avoid Estimated Meter Readings

To get an accurate reading of your energy usage, the cooperative needs to have access to your electric meter.

Here are some ways to make sure your bill is as accurate as possible:

- Always keep the path to your meter cleared;
- Never build decks or other outdoor structures over meters;
- Never tie up your dog to the meter;
- And never fence in your meter in any way.

Remember, if we can't get to your meter and have to estimate your meter reading, we normally estimate on the high side. To avoid this, the cooperative must have easy access to the meter.

Keeping Your Cool

A lot of your energy dollars go to keeping your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

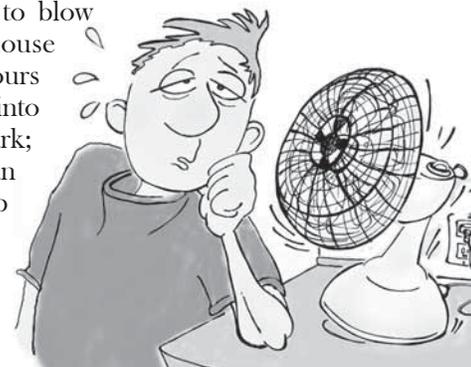
But you can control these costs, no matter the weather. Here are a few tips:

1. Check your filter at the beginning of the cooling season and periodically throughout the season. A clogged filter can use up to 5 percent more energy than a clean one.
2. Have a professional check your A/C system before it gets real hot. A maintenance check now will save you costly repairs later.
3. Set your thermostat as high as possible - 78 degrees is recommended. You save 2 percent for every degree you raise your thermostat in the summer.
4. A programmable thermostat or timer for your window unit keeps you from cooling your home when no one is there to enjoy it.
5. Cool only the rooms you use - but don't close all the vents! Closing too many vents reduces efficiency.

If you don't have an air conditioner, you can keep cool with these tips:

1. Keep the heat out by drawing shades and curtains on hot days;
2. During the hottest part of the day, avoid activities that add heat and humidity to your home, like using your clothes dryer or oven;
3. Exhaust fans, if you have them, can help reduce humidity in your home, but use only as needed;
4. Use regular fans to blow air out of the house during daylight hours and pull cooler air into the house after dark;

For a window fan to work properly, keep another window open in the area the fan is meant to ventilate.



Outage Report – May and June, 2005

Individual outages:

Lines outages:

Date	Time Off	Area Affected	Members Affected	Cause/reason	Date	Time Off	Area Affected	Members Affected	Cause/reason
5/1	1 hr.	Hoffman Area	1	Coon	5/2	1 ¾ hr.	All Trenton & Albers Subs	1,019	Power Supplier
5/2	1 hr.	D'ville - oil well	1	Unknown					
5/3	2 hrs.	D'ville - oil well	1	Unknown	5/5	¼ hr.	North of Trenton -Pine Lakes Subd.	10	U.G. Primary hit with backhoe
5/11	¾ hr.	Centralia area	1	Coon	5/11	1 ½ hrs.	NW of St. Rose-Fricker Rd.	54	Planned Work-Moving House
5/13	¾ hr.	Trenton area	1	Tree limb on transformer	5/11	1 ¼ hrs.	Northwest of New Baden	14	Storm
5/14	1 ¼ hr.	Hoffman Area	1	Meter loop burned up	5/12	1 ¼ hrs.	East of Mascoutah	3	Farm Equipment hit pole
5/15	1 ¼ hr.	Germantown Area	1	Squirrel	5/19	2 hrs.	NW of Shattuc to Boulder area	56	Planned-Maintenance of lines
5/16	0 hr.	Carlyle Area	1	Member's equipment					
5/20	3 hrs.	Germantown Area	1	Unknown	5/20	1 hrs.	Northeast of Hoffman	3	Storm/Lightning
5/20	5 hrs.	Hoffman Area	1	Squirrel	5/24	¾ hr.	West of D'ville	67	Farm Equipment hit line
5/23	¾ hr.	Albers Area	1	Unknown	5/30	1 ½ hrs.	North of Carlyle	10	Squirrel
5/25	0 hr.	Boulder Area	1	Light flickering - Member's wiring	5/30	1 hrs.	Northeast of Hoffman	15	Squirrel
				Bird	6/3	1 ½ hrs.	So. Of New Baden, along D'ville Rd	19	Planned for County Road Widening
5/26	1 ¼ hrs.	North of Carlyle	1	1 leg of service burned out in meter socket	6/6	1 ¼ hrs.	So. Of Carlyle to Camp Joy & Royal Lake	101	Unknown
5/26	1 hr.	North of Trenton	1	Member's control below meter bad	6/6	½ hr.	Southeast of Lebanon	3	Unknown
5/27	0 hr.	Carlyle	1	Coon	6/6	½ hr.	Northeast and Southeast of Mascoutah, from Sub toKaskaskia River	65	Lightning
5/31	1 hr.	Centralia Area	1	Member cut thru own triplex					
6/1	¾ hr.	Albers Area	1	Member cut thru his own U.G.	6/7	2 ½ hr.	North of Carlyle to Harbor Lt Bay & Shattuc I, Shattuc II, Ferrin, Keyesport & Becky Substations	156	Storm/Oak tree fell into Line Forest Cove Est.
6/5	1 hr.	Mascoutah Area	2	Defective equipment on member's side	6/7	¾ hr.	Northwest of Albers	2,140	Power Supplier
6/6	2 hrs.	Patoka Area	1	Member's side	6/8	1	East of Bartelso	22	Storm
6/7	0 hrs.	New Baden Area	1	Member's wiring bad	6/8	1 ¼ hr.	East of Bartelso	5	Storm
6/7	0 hrs.	Summerfield/Trenton Area	1	Member's side	6/11	1 ¼ hr.	Bartelso Sub, East Phase	64	Storm
6/7	0 hrs.	Royal Lake	1	Unknown	6/13	Time ranging from 3:15 PM to 1 AM & from East of Carlyle to Mascoutah, storms Wreaked havoc causing a total of 450 members to be out of power in a wide time frame			
6/8	1 ½ hrs.	Bartelso Area	1	Storm	6/14	1 ¼ hrs.	East of Breese	7	tree fell into line (probably from storm Night before)
6/8	¾ hr.	North of St. Rose	1	Member's wires twisted					
6/8	1 hr.	Shattuc Area	1	Bad Transformer	6/17	1 hr.	Southeast of New Baden	32	Unknown
6/9	¾ hr.	Shattuc Area	1	Unknown	6/20	¾ hr.	Northeast of Summerfield	9	Tree Trimming Company dropped tree Thru line
6/14	3 ¾ hrs.	Wesclin H.S. Football Field	1	Unknown	6/20	2 hrs.	Bartelso Area	23	Tree fell on line - broke pole off
6/14	2 hrs.	North of Aviston	1	Storm	6/21	1 ¼ hrs.	South of Beckemeyer	10	Unknown
6/15	2 ¼ hrs.	Albers Area	1	Unknown	6/22	½ hr	Line along Fall Rd to D'ville	70	Planned - Rebuilding line crossing I-64
6/17	2 ¼ hrs.	North of Aviston	1	Member cut into U.G. Pri w/backhoe	6/23	¾ hr.	East of Hoffman	11	Truck hit pole
6/21	½ hr.	North of Breese	1	Member caused short in breaker box	6/24	1 hr.	Bartelso Substation	18	Storm/Lightning
6/22	1 ¾ hrs.	Germantown Area	1	Unknown	6/24	1 ½ hrs.	North of Huey to Carrigan Subd.	19	Storm/Lightning
6/23	¼ hr.	Beckemeyer Area	1	Unknown					
6/23	1 ¼ hrs.	Stolletown Area	1	Member dug thru U.G. Service	6/24	2 hrs.	South of Germantown to Clubhouse area	8	Storm
6/23	1 ¾ hrs.	Breese Area	1	Member's wires shorted out	6/25	0	Southeast of Mascoutah on Highbanks Rd	0	Overload caused brown-out
6/24	2 ½ hrs.	North of Breese	1	Defective Transformer	6/26	¾ hr.	Northwest of Trenton	8	Unknown
6/24	1 ¼ hrs.	Germantown Area	1	Storm/Lightning	6/28	1 ¼ hrs.	Along Fall Rd to Damiansville	70	Planned - Rebuilding Line
6/24	0 hrs.	Germantown Area	1	Member's side					
6/26	1 hr.	Boulder Area	1	Unknown					
6/28	1 hr.	Damiansville Area	1	Unknown					
6/28	2 hrs.	New Memphis Area	1	Transformer burned up					
6/29	1 ¾ hrs.	Boulder Area	1	Overload					
6/30	0 hrs.	North of Breese	1	Bad Main Breaker, Member's side					

Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner

RECIPES

Recipes taken from the August issue of Illinois Country Living magazine.

Chocolate Peanut Butter Chip Cookies

Sharon Mendenhall

- 2 C. flour
- ¾ C. cocoa
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1-1/4 C. margarine, softened
- 2 C. sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 (12-oz.) bag peanut butter chips
- ½ tsp. salt



Beat margarine and sugar together until light and fluffy. Add eggs, beating well. Add vanilla and beat until smooth and creamy. Gradually add flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt. Stir in the peanut butter chips. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 8-9 minutes. Yield: 48 cookies.

Calzones

Judy McClure

- 1 tube refrigerated pizza crust
- ½ C. ricotta cheese
- 2-oz. sliced pepperoni
- 1 C. cooked ham, diced
- 1 C. shredded Mozzarella cheese
- Basil
- Parmesan cheese



Unroll the pizza crust, stretching it into a 14x11-inch rectangle. Spread ricotta cheese on half of the dough lengthwise to within 1 inch of the edge. Sprinkle the pepperoni, ham, and Mozzarella on the crust. Fold the unfilled side of the dough over the filled half and press the edges together. Transfer to a greased baking sheet. Bake at 400° for 20-25 minutes. Sprinkle with basil and Parmesan cheese, if desired. Slice and serve with spaghetti sauce for dipping.

Health Notes

■ Standing on one leg can help you feel calm and relaxed. That's because your brain ignores distractions and concentrates on the unfamiliar sensory input sent by your muscles in order to help you keep your balance.

■ Memory loss is not always caused by Alzheimer's - in 10 to 20 percent of cases, vascular dementia is to blame. To reduce your risk for the condition, control high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes - and don't smoke.

■ A study found that people 55 and older reap many benefits from running as few as six miles a week, including greater bone density, less pain and the ability to stay active longer.

■ Healthful foods such as fruits and vegetables make up only 10 percent of Americans' diets; sweet and salty snacks, soda and alcoholic drinks, more than 30 percent.

■ Eating a salad with low-calorie dressing before your main course helps you consume about 107 fewer calories, a study found.

■ To give your walking stride more power, really extend your ankle and push off of your toes with each step. You should feel your hips driving forward and back.

■ More than half of U.S. children take a brown-bag lunch to school three to five days a week. 73 percent of these pack snack cakes or cookies and another 73 percent pack fresh fruit and/or veggies; 72 percent eat meat or cheese sandwiches; 71 percent pack chips; and 59 percent peanut butter sandwiches.

■ Suck in your abdominal muscles for 10 seconds when you think of doing it. Doing this regularly will help you tone and flatten your belly.



■ Let a container of ice cream soften for a few minutes, then spoon it into half-cup servings in paper cups. Cover each cup with aluminum foil and place back in freezer. Grab one whenever you want a snack. This will help keep you from eating large servings of this cold treat.

■ Increase your serenity with this acupuncture trick: For 30 seconds, tap the top of your head with your fingertips while breathing deeply. This sends relaxation signals to your muscles and diffuses anxiety.

■ Boil your contact lens case for five minutes once a week. This will sterilize the case and kill bacteria, which will help prevent eye infections.

Other Facts

■ **OUTOFMONEY** - 24 percent of Americans believe the U.S. will become a cashless society in as few as 20 years.

■ **DRIVE DEFENSIVELY** - An average of 117 people die on U.S. roads EVERY DAY. There are more deaths during summer and fall than during winter and spring, and the most fatalities occur on the 4th of July because of drunk driving. More deaths occur on Saturday than any other day of the week.

■ Colds and the flu are spread by casual contact and through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. To reduce your chance of catching colds and flu germs:

1. Wash your hands frequently throughout the day;
2. Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth;
3. Stay as far away as possible from the sufferer;
4. Open a window to increase ventilation.



DANGERS of Digging



Don't get shocked by what you find in your backyard - start every planting or building project with a call to J.U.L.I.E. Cable, phone, gas and electric lines can be buried just beneath the surface. When planting that tree or setting that post, you could dig into an earthworm, a cable line, or a 7,200-volt electric line. Call J.U.L.I.E. at (800) 892-0123 at least 48 hours before your work will begin, and keep you and your family safe.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative
618 . 526 . 7282 • Breese, Illinois • www.cceci.com

Cycle Billing

Sometimes we get requests from members who want to get their electric bills at different times of the month because of varying paydays. At the present time, we are not set up to do cycle billing.

All of our bills are printed and mailed at the same time from our main computer center in Lake St. Louis, Missouri. Your meters are read the 1st or 2nd of each month and the bill is then computed for mailing somewhere around the 12th or 13th of the month (e.g. we read your meter on July 1st, and the bill you received on July 13th was for June 1st to July 1st consumption). These bills are then due on the 25th of the month. We are not set up, at the present time, to do the billing any other way.

We have had members call in and state that with just a simple keystroke on our computer, we could change this if we want to. But, rest assured, this is absolutely not the case.

Every member on our system has the same billing date. It is not cost-effective, at this time, to change to another way of billing.

Thanks for your understanding.

Do Not Call Registry

If you are still bothered by unwanted phone solicitors, you can still register for the federal

Do Not Call registry.

You can register on-line at www.donotcall.gov or by calling 1-888-382-1222. Enrollment requests will be effective three (3) months after the date you registered.

You should call from the number you wish to register. Cell phone numbers can now be registered also. Phone numbers remain off the registry for five years unless removed or changed by the subscriber. Business numbers are not covered under the law.



Financial Information

BALANCE SHEET

As of June 30, 2005

ASSETS (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant	\$18,112,727
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>7,173,253</u>
Net Utility Plant	\$10,939,474
Cash & Temporary Investments	43,030
Investments in Associated Organizations	615,245
Accounts Receivable	147,749
Materials & Supplies	348,977
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses	2,545,641
Total Assets	<u>\$14,640,116</u>

MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):

Members' Capital Credits	\$5,825,259
Other Equities	210,879
Long-Term Debt	8,060,354
Consumer Deposits	110,569
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income	433,055
Total Members' Equity & Liabilities	<u>\$14,640,116</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2005

INCOME:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services	\$5,220,454
Other Income	<u>21,870</u>
Total Income	<u>\$5,242,324</u>

EXPENSES:

Cost of Electric Power	\$3,662,598
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	432,812
General & Administrative Expenses	468,230
System Depreciation	263,834
Interest Expense	<u>193,795</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$5,021,269</u>

NET MARGINS

\$221,055

Life By Candlelight

Dinner by candlelight may be romantic, but how would you like to just burn candles instead of turning the lights on. Let's put the value of electric lighting into perspective.

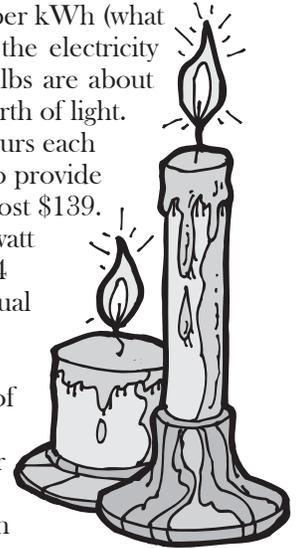
Based on surveys, it has been determined that the average light bulb is used 3,000 hours per year (about eight hours/day). A typical 60 watt bulb lasts about 1,000 hours, so you would use three of them a year. At .09 cents per kWh (what CCEC charges for residential users), the electricity would cost \$16.20 per year. Light bulbs are about \$1.50 a piece or \$20.70 for a year's worth of light.

Twenty-five candles that last six hours each cost \$6.95, it would take 500 candles to provide 3,000 hours of light, and most would cost \$139. A candle emits 12.5 lumens and a 60-watt bulb emits 1060, so we have to burn 84 candles at the same time to have an equal amount of light.

Now our true cost for the same amount of light, for the same amount of time, is actually \$11,676.

And we won't talk about indoor air quality, cleaning costs, or fire risks.

Being able to just flip a switch isn't such a bad bargain after all.



Watch Out For New Epidemic

Methamphetamine (meth) production and use is a growing epidemic in rural Illinois.

Meth can be produced virtually anywhere, including places where you may be fishing, farming or clearing brush. If you find an area where you think meth is being produced (a meth lab), or if you encounter someone who is high on meth, leave the area immediately and call the nearest law enforcement agency. Don't try to handle the situation yourself, and don't pick up any containers, or try to smell their contents. It could prove deadly.

Meth doesn't just affect the people who take it; it can affect an entire community, including you. Meth is everybody's business.

For more information about meth, contact the local sheriff's office. Clinton County Sheriff's Department phone number is: 594-4555.

Go ahead – make my day!

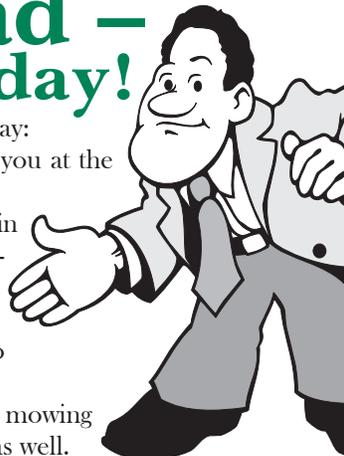
How to make someone's day:

Let someone go ahead of you at the grocery store or bank.

Learn the names of people in service jobs - Hardees, drycleaners, supermarkets.

When driving, don't honk your horn unless you're trying to prevent an accident.

If you're raking leaves or mowing your lawn, do your neighbor's as well.



Puns for Your Punny Bone!

A jumper cable walked into a local bar the other day, and the bartender said, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything!"

Two peanuts walked out of a bar, One was a salted.

A grasshopper walked into a bar and the bartender said, "Hey, we've got a drink named after you!" The grasshopper said, "That's really stupid! Who'd want a drink named Harry?"

My friend went to buy a pair of camouflage trousers the other day, but couldn't find any.

Two termites walked into a bar. One asked, "Is the bartender here?"

What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fish. (Now you can groan!)

Carlyle Lake News

■ **September 17 & 18** – Mid-September regatta hosted by Carlyle Sailing Assn. Eldon Hazlet State Park.

■ **September 29** – Blood Drive - Carlyle Lake Visitor Center.

■ **October 21 & 22** – Haunted Trail. A ride down to Little Prairie Nature Trail where the ghosts and Goblins hide. All proceeds benefit 2006 Fireworks Spectacular.

■ **November 13** – Youth Pheasant Hunt. Young Hunters must be accompanied by adult. Contact Illinois Department of Natural Resources for more info. 594-3015.

■ **December 2** – Christmastown USA Kickoff. Holiday refreshments. Ornament Making. Visit from Santa.

INDOOR HOME SAFETY

Cords & plugs

Tens of thousands of fires are caused each year by electrical problems inside the home.

Make sure your home is safe. Inspect cords and plugs often and replace worn ones. To prevent damage, pull by the plug not by the cord when unplugging an appliance or tool. Overloaded outlets and extension cords can overheat increasing the risk for fire. Limit the number of appliances plugged into each outlet. To learn more, visit www.safeelectricity.org.

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Clinton County Connection

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