



# Clinton County Connection

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Mike Johnson

## A blessing from heaven

Seventy-five years ago, Francis Boeser was a teenager living life, like all his neighbors, without electricity. He reminisces about taking a flash light up the steep steps to his bedroom at night and sleeping under a feather bed in hopes of keeping warm in the winter. When his mother would call him for breakfast, he would pull the feather bed down just a tad and was able to see his breath in the cold morning air. He would look around, spy his pile of clothes, and then make a mad dash to get them on in hopes of getting to the warm kitchen as soon as possible.

After making his way outside, Francis remembers taking a lantern up into a hay loft filled with loose hay for the cows. Despite the extreme fire hazard, Francis doesn't recall hearing about an excessive amount of barn fires. Next on his chore list was milking the cows. After milking them by hand, he recalls having to manually draw water from the well to place the milk cans in to cool the warm milk. Their water-well did have a one-cylinder engine to aid them in drawing water from the well, but if the engine didn't work, it became a manual process. This way of life was all they knew, because it was all they had. However, all that was about to change.

In the mid 1940s Joe Heimann enlisted Cyril Haas to visit with the Boesers and surrounding neighbors to inquire how many would be interested in receiving electricity. With a majority of the folks on board, lights would soon dot the countryside of St. Morgan.

Francis recollects how the Boesers decided they would put electricity in both the house and the barn all at the same time. Each room in the house had a light bulb that could be turned on using a pull chain. As far as his bedroom upstairs, there was a string that ran all the way down the stairs so the light in his room was able to be turned on from the bottom of the steps, or at the top by the bulb. He



also remembers staring at the yard light in awe of how much it lit up the dark of night, and wondering if they could afford to let it burn all night long. Lanterns in the barn were also gone. There were now a couple of bulbs in the barn to light the way.

He believes the first appliance they purchased after the lights came on was a refrigerator. However, it took quite a few years after the installation of electricity before the Boesers got to enjoy extreme luxuries like a heating source other than wood burning, air conditioning, an electric washer and dryer, etc. Even without all of what we now call "the basics", Francis described the lights coming on as a "blessing from heaven," a quote that speaks for itself.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative would like to thank Francis and his wife Ruth for taking time to share their story. In honor of Clinton County Electric Cooperative celebrating 75 years of dedicated service to its' members, we would like to feature stories like this throughout the rest of the year. Therefore, if you remember when the lights came on and are interested in sharing your story, please contact Carrie Trame at Clinton County Electric Cooperative by calling 618-526-7282.

# Scholarship winners

Clinton County Electric Cooperative proudly offers two \$500 scholarships to senior students from Carlyle, Central, Christ Our Rock Lutheran, Mascoutah, Mater Dei and Wesclin High Schools. Congratulations to the following sons and daughters of Cooperative members who were awarded \$500 scholarships this past May on behalf of Clinton County Electric Cooperative:

Carlyle High School: **Courtney Fauke, daughter of Murray & Sharon Fauke; Hunter Johnson, son of Trey & Krista Johnson**

Central High School: **Alexis Strieker, daughter of Jeff & Alicia Strieker; Madison Richter, daughter of Neal & Sandy Richter**

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School: **Jordan Ramsour, son of David & Julie Ramsour**

Mascoutah High School: **No Applicants**

Mater Dei Catholic High School: **Ariel Isaak, daughter of Craig & Tammy Isaak; Lexi Kohnen, daughter of Dennis & Laurie Kohnen**

Wesclin High School: **Emily Fuhler, daughter of Mike & Lynn Fuhler; Brooke McDonald, daughter of Steve & Leanne McDonald**

## Infrastructure Improvement

Clinton County Electric Cooperative has been committed to our Infrastructure Improvement Initiative. One of the major components of that initiative is our Copper Replacement Program. These pictures illustrate the work being done by our contractor replacing about 1.1 miles of old copper wire along Sand Ridge Road.



# Live Line Demo at the Lake



*Foreman Gary "Goober" Albers introduces himself and welcomes everyone to the Live Line Demonstration at the Corps of Engineers' 2014 Earth Day Celebration held at Carlyle Lake on April 25, 2014.*

*Lineman Brian Taylor demonstrates what happens if an animal comes in contact with a grounded breaker. Taylor went on to explain that animals coming in contact with grounded breakers are often the cause of power outages.*



*Clinton County Electric Cooperative is an advocate for safety. In this picture Lineman Brian Taylor roasts hotdogs to illustrate what happens if a human touches a live wire. Taylor then stressed the importance of staying away and keeping others away from downed power lines and proceed to tell an adult who will in turn notify the proper authorities.*

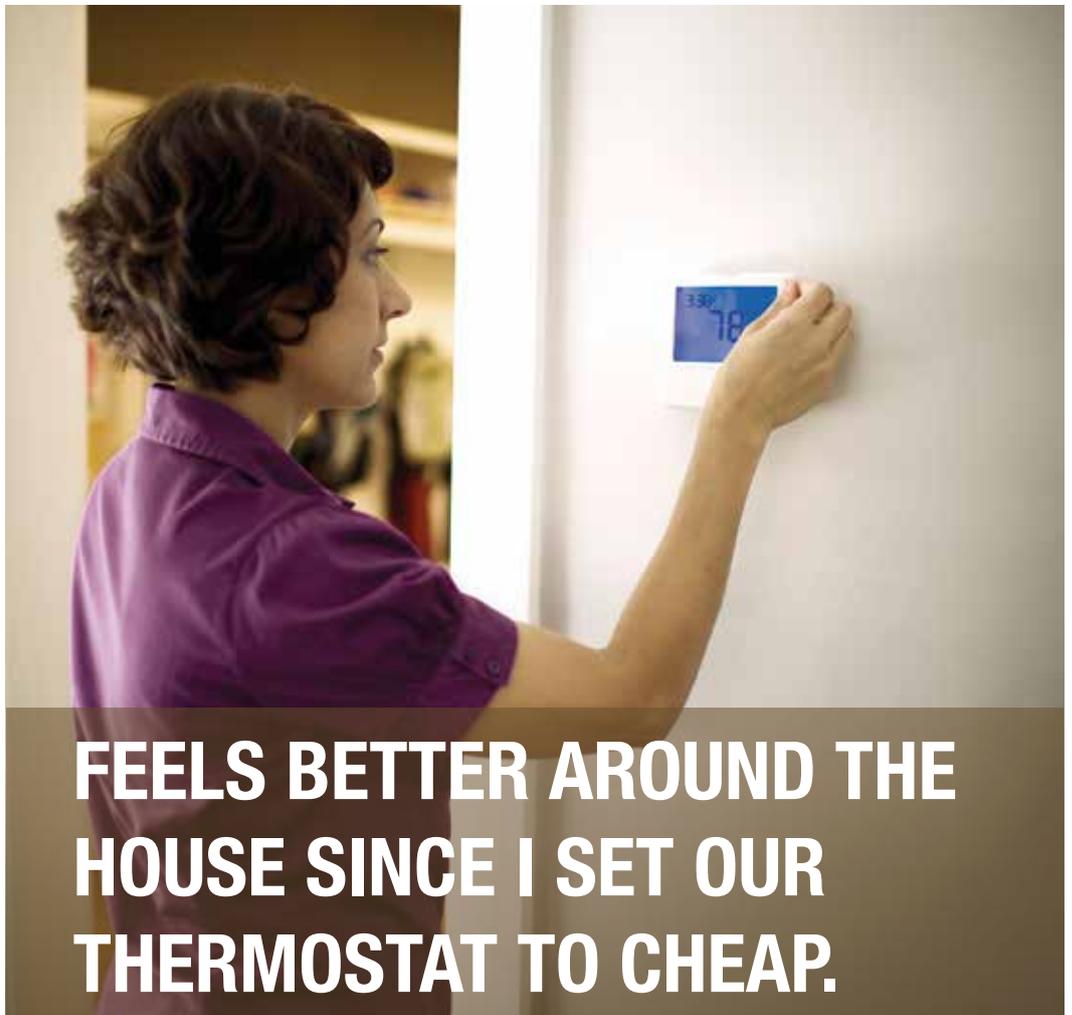


*A group of students gather around to watch the Live Line Demonstration put on by Clinton County Electric Cooperative at the Corps of Engineers' 2014 Earth Day Festivities.*





The Cooperative Office will be closed Friday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day and Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day. Although the office will be closed, view your account information and pay your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com).



## FEELS BETTER AROUND THE HOUSE SINCE I SET OUR THERMOSTAT TO CHEAP.

We're gone most of the day. Didn't make sense to keep an empty house comfortable. But now when we get home, it's ready. I'm saving \$280 a year just by programming a thermostat. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).