Clinton County
Connection
Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Volume 14 Number 6 • email - cceci@cceci.com • Web page - www.cceci.com • December 2006

Area Meeting

Jim Riddle talks about the current efforts of Southern Services, LLC. Southern Services is the subsidiary company owned by the 6 southern coops in Illinois (of which we are one) which offers a long-distance telephone service. The next venture that Southern Services is investigating is High-Speed Internet service for rural areas. Mr. Riddle explained that Broadband over PowerLine would be the preferred method for this service, but the technology needs some improvement before it would be considered as a viable option. Southern Services, LLC is looking for ways that our cooperatives can supply additional services to its members either better or cheaper than is currently available.

Ron Becker, treasurer of the board of directors, on the left, and Ralph Kuhl, Manager of Administrative Services, on the right, help members sign in as they walk in at the Breese Knights of Columbus Hall. Members received a JULIE magnet, a CCEC Night Light, and a calendar when they signed in.

The hot topic at this year's area meetings was... Rates. Jim Riddle, COO of the cooperative, started the meetings talking about the hot topic of electric rates, and how the end of deregulation would affect CCEC. After a brief summary of what happened to the investor owned utilities in Illinois, he stated that, "the end of deregulation will NOT have an effect on us (CCEC)." He also said that we do not foresee a rise in electric rates for the residential accounts in the near future.

Other news that was relayed to the member/owners that attended the meetings was that CCEC is planning to borrow $2 million over the next two years for the erection of a new substation north of Breese, for continued line maintenance and upgrades, and for a new digger-derrick that has two aerial devices. Riddle also told members that the debt that was incurred when CCEC bought its way out of its previous power supply contract with Soyland Power, was nearing its end. The debt is to be paid back in full in August 2008.

In the wake of the storms in July of this year, CCEC was flooded with praise for their efforts in power restoration, but along with the praise, came questions. Mr. Riddle then explained our outage restoration process. The first priority on the list is transmission lines, then substations, main feeders, taps, and individual services.

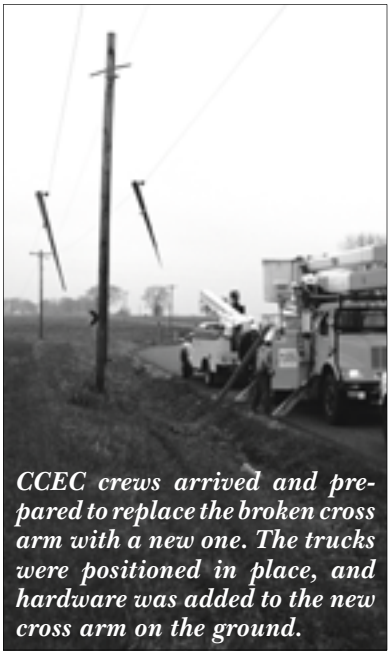
Before the meeting ended, Riddle reminded the attendees about calling JULIE before doing any digging at their homes. He also explained how being energy efficient benefits all of our members, especially those that practice it.

Attendees were treated to a light lunch after the meetings. The lunch consisted of sandwiches, chips, and soda. The lunch was preceded by handing out attendance prizes. 5 - $20 prizes, 10 - $10 prizes, 10 - $5 were handed out at each meeting.

Members listen attentively while current and future electricity rates were discussed.

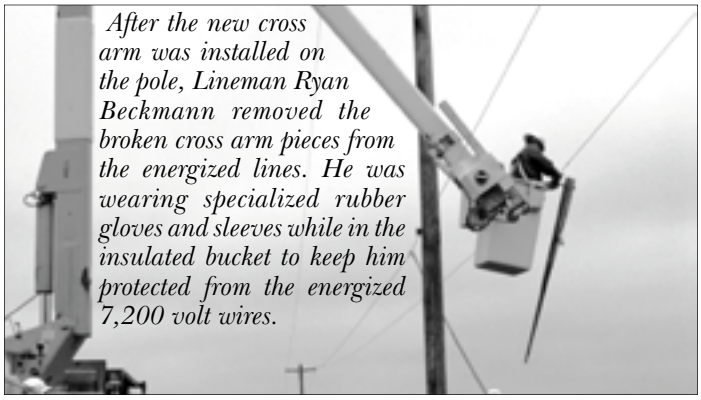
Employees of the cooperative, and members of the board of directors were available after the meetings to discuss any concerns that people might have had. Over 140 people attended this year's meetings.

"Just another day at work..." *Myron Johnson, Foreman*



CCEC crews arrived and prepared to replace the broken cross arm with a new one. The trucks were positioned in place, and hardware was added to the new cross arm on the ground.

On the morning of Nov. 15, a truck slid off Stolletown Road just south of Huelsmann Road and grazed the bottom of a two-phase pole. The pole remained standing, but the cross arm that held up the 7,200 volt conductors broke in half. The wires remained energized throughout the ordeal and while CCEC crews fixed the pole.



After the new cross arm was installed on the pole, Lineman Ryan Beckmann removed the broken cross arm pieces from the energized lines. He was wearing specialized rubber gloves and sleeves while in the insulated bucket to keep him protected from the energized 7,200 volt wires.

In less than one hour, the linemen had reconstructed the pole to original stature.

At approximately 3:15 p.m. on Nov. 16, a car lost control on Drive-In Road just west of Breese and hit a "Double-Circuit" pole one and a half miles north of our Breese Substation. The construction of a double-circuit pole consists of six different wires on two different feeders out of a substation, three different phases, all on one pole. Because of the close proximity of all of the wires, they normally have to be shut-off to allow linemen to work on them safely.

Foreman Myron Johnson surveyed the damage and prepared a plan for fixing the pole and restoring power to those customers that were out. Five of the phase wires remained on through the crash, but two fell off the cross arms. One phase wire was hanging about six feet above the ground directly over the shoulder of the road and remained electrified. The other wire broke, fell to the ground, and kicked out the breaker back at the substation.

A new pole was cut off and set in the same hole where the old stub was removed. CCEC linemen maneuvered the remaining portion of the pole back into place, with most of the wires still attached. The pole was lifted and secured by the digger-derrick truck, and the bottom was pushed into place by hand.

After the new stub and old pole were securely fastened together, the linemen began to re-install the lines on the pole. Linemen Ryan Beckmann (left), and Doug Vonder Haar (right) carefully hoisted the lines back onto the cross arms, and tied the wire to the insulators.

Bylaws specify nomination procedure

Section 4.06. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Board trustees are to be elected, a committee on election and credentials consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than nine (9) members with at least one (1) member from each district from which a trustee is to be elected. No employee, trustee, Officer, known candidate, or close relative (as hereinafter defined) of any of the above may serve on such committee. The purpose of the committee is to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and to conduct the election of trustees. To be nominated by petition, a candidate for trustee must file a petition for nomination signed by at least twenty-five (25) members, but not more than fifty (50) members. Signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership. A joint membership constitutes only one member. Nominations by petition must be picked up and filed not more than ninety (90) days or less than forty-five (45) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected. The Election and Credentials Committee, or subcommittee of same must meet to determine if the candidates meet the qualifications for trustee. Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for trustee lacks eligibility under these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Election and Credentials Committee to disqualify such nominee. If there are no nominations by Petition for trustee in any district in which a trustee is to be elected, it is the duty of the Board of trustees to appoint a member to serve in that position. At least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, the Election and Credentials Committee shall certify a list of nominees for trustee to the secretary. The secretary shall then post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, a list of the nominations for trustee to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each trustee district. The secretary shall also be responsible for mailing, with the Notice of Meeting or separately, but at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the nominees. No nominations may be made from the floor. Nominees' names from the same district may be rotated on the ballot so that each nominee's name is on the ballot in the same position as equal number of times as possible. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of trustee. The Election and Credentials Committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary at its initial meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to establish or approve the manner of conducting any ballot or other voting, to pass upon all questions that may arise with respect to registration of members in person, to count all ballots or other votes cast in any election or in any other manner, to rule upon the effect of any ballots or other votes irregu1arly or indecisively marked or cast, to rule upon all questions that may arise relating to member voting in the election of trustees and to pass upon any protest filed with respect to election or to conduct affecting the result of the election. In exercising the responsibility, the committee shall have available to it the advice of counsel provided by the Cooperative. In the event a protest or objection is filed concerning any election, such protest or objection must be filed not more than three (3) business days following the adjournment of the meeting in which the voting is conducted. The committee shall thereupon be reconvened, upon notice from its chairman, not less than seven (7) days after such protest or objection is filed. The committee shall hear such evidence as is presented by the protestor(s) or objector(s), who may be heard in person, by counsel, or both, and any opposing evidence; and the committee, by a vote of a majority of those present and voting, shall, within a reasonable time but not later than thirty (30) days after such hearing, render its decision, the result of which may be to affirm the election, to change the outcome thereof, or to set aside. The committee's decision (as reflected by a majority of those actually present and voting) on all matters covered by this Section shall be final. The committee may not affirmatively act on any matter unless a majority of the committee is present.

For a list of Election and Credentials Committee members, date of meeting, a petition or any other information concerning the nominations procedure, please contact: James B. Riddle, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.

Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting of Members

The 68th Annual Meeting of the Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Central High School gymnasium, Route 50 West, Breese, Illinois, on Thursday, March 16, 2006, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Joseph A. Voss, Chairman of the Cooperative, at 7:30 p.m.

Ronald L. Becker, Secretary-Treasurer of the Cooperative, acted as secretary and kept the minutes thereof.

Secretary-Treasurer Becker reported there was a quorum present.

The invocation was given by Rich Timmermann, a trustee from District 3.

Upon a motion by Francis Boeser, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the rules of the meeting were accepted by the membership as proposed.

Chairman Voss introduced special guests present at the Annual Meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Becker read the official notice of the meeting and informed the members that proof of mailing of the meeting notices and number of members is evidenced by receipt of mailing from the U.S. Postal Service.

Upon motion by Norman Conrad, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes of the 67th Annual Meeting was approved as they appeared in the December 2005 issue of the Cooperative newsletter, Clinton County Connections.

Chairman Voss informed the members that, per Article 4, Section 4.06 of the Cooperative Bylaws, an Election and Credentials Committee was appointed by the Board of Trustees at the Nov. 22, 2005 monthly board meeting.

Chairman Voss called on Cooperative attorney, Sue Schultz, to give the report of the Election and Credentials Committee.

The Cooperative attorney reported that, since there were no contests for trustees in Districts 1 and 3, the rules to vote by ballot may be waived and those trustees nominated in Districts 1 and 3 may be elected by acclamation. Upon a motion by Regis Voss, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the following trustees were elected by acclamation to serve three year terms beginning on March 16, 2006: John White from District No. 1 and Ronald Lee Becker from District No. 3. Since there were two nominees from District No. 2, each was given up to five minutes to address the membership. The voting procedure was then explained as per the Cooperative Bylaws, Article 4, Section 4.03. The membership was then instructed to cast their ballots and the Election and Credentials Committee members were asked to collect and count the ballots cast with the result to be given later in the meeting.

At this time, Chairman Voss addressed the membership. He briefly reported on the financial condition of the Cooperative; SIPC's costs; safety; risk management; the Cooperative's current capital credit retirement program; and told the membership that the Cooperative is seeing growth and that the Co-op had 5,539 active accounts at the end of 2005. Voss concluded his report by thanking the employees of the Cooperative, the Advisory Committee members, the Board of Trustees and all the members in attendance.

Secretary-Treasurer Becker presented the annual financial report of the Cooperative, ending Dec. 31, 2005.

President Jim Riddle discussed Clinton County Electric rates and W.P.C.A.; current and future wholesale power cost; new bills coming in May; Southern Services, LLC; automated meter reading; and the annual meeting survey results. He concluded his report by thanking the Advisory Committee, the Board of Trustees, the employees and the members.

Upon a motion by Richard Holubek, seconded and a vote taken thereon, all of the reports presented thus far were accepted.

Bill Guile, Chairman of the Election and Credentials Committee, reported that the results of the election for Trustee from District No. 2 were as follows; there were spoiled ballots; Mr. Tebbe received 136 votes; and Mr. Mohesky received 243 votes. Mr. Vernon Mohesky was declared duly elected Trustee from District No. 2, to serve a term of three years beginning March 16, 2006 and ending at the Annual Meeting to be held in 2009.

Years of service awards were given to Brian Taylor, Randy Renth and Cary Dickinson for 10 years of service. Ron Becker was recognized for 15 year of service and Rich Timmermann for 20 years of service.

There being no further business to come before the 68th Annual Meeting of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon a motion by Jim Klingelhoefer, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by Chairman Voss.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded.

IEC Scholarship Deadline

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the United States are eligible to participate in the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship program again this year. Five scholarships in 2007 will be awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Each of the scholarships will be worth $1,250.

Three scholarships will be awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member. A fourth award will go to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee. A fifth scholarship will be reserved for use at a two-year Illinois community college and sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors are all eligible.

Contact your high school guidance counselor or the cooperative at 526-7282 for more information or for a scholarship application.

Remember – the deadline for submitting an application is Jan. 1.

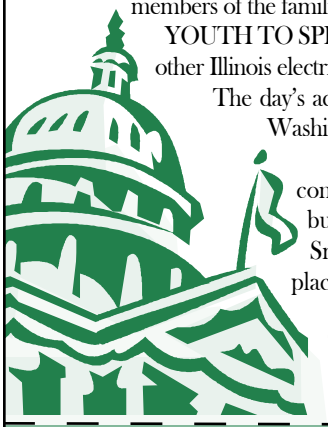
Youth To Washington Tour and Youth Day in Springfield

Clinton County Electric will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors on a day in Springfield to be held on March 28, sponsored by the co-op and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of these 12, two will be selected to go to Washington DC June 8-15, 2007 for an all-expense paid tour.

WHO MAY ENTER? All applicants must be sons or daughters of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members. If you meet that criterion, then you must be a high school sophomore or junior and attending one of the many high schools in the cooperative service area. Immediate members of the families of Clinton County Electric board of directors or employees are not eligible.

YOUTH TO SPRINGFIELD. A panel of judges will choose up to 12 students who will participate with more than 125 other youths from other Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield set for Wednesday, March 28, 2007.

The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the state Capitol complex, visiting with legislators and a luncheon. The two Washington tour winners will be selected from these 12 students.



WASHINGTON TOUR. The two local winners will join some 50 other Illinois students, winners of similar contests sponsored by other Illinois electric cooperatives, at Springfield on June 8. They will travel on air-conditioned buses, returning June 15. While in Washington, they will visit such attractions as the White House, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Monument and many other national monuments and places of interest.

For more information, call Clinton County Electric's Ahren Langhauser, Sue Laux or Jim Riddle at 526-7282. To apply, all you need do is come in and pick up an application or call the co-op and we will mail you one or complete the coupon below and mail it to us or bring it in to the office. Applications must be returned to the co-op no later than Jan. 31, 2007.

PLEASE SEND ME AN APPLICATION AND MORE INFORMATION ON "YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD" AND "YOUTH TO WASHINGTON"

Name:_____

Age: _____Phone: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

I attend (name of high school) _____

Class year: (check one) Sophomore _____ Junior _____

Mail or bring to: Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. P.O. Box 40, 475 N. Main St., Breese, IL 62230
Applications must be returned to the co-op no later than Jan. 31, 2007

Please make sure the co-op has your correct phone number and an emergency contact number.

Holiday Closing

Our office will be closed on Monday Dec. 25 and Monday Jan. 1 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Drive Safely! Have a fun and Safe Christmas and New Year!

Keep Holiday Celebrations Bright and Safe!

"Don't let electrical accidents darken your holiday celebrations," says Molly Hall, Director of the Safe Electricity program. "As you prepare for special holiday and family celebrations, look for and eliminate potential threats posed by holiday lighting, decorating and entertaining."

COOKING

According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking has been the leading cause of home fires since 1990. Safe Electricity offers these tips to avoid shocks and fires in the kitchen year round:

- Inspect all small appliances and electric cords to make sure they are in good repair, and read operating instructions before use.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing and simmering foods.
- Keep cooking areas clean and free of grease.
- Make sure a working fire extinguisher is on hand, and know how to operate it.
- Make sure that the outlets near sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) to prevent shocks.

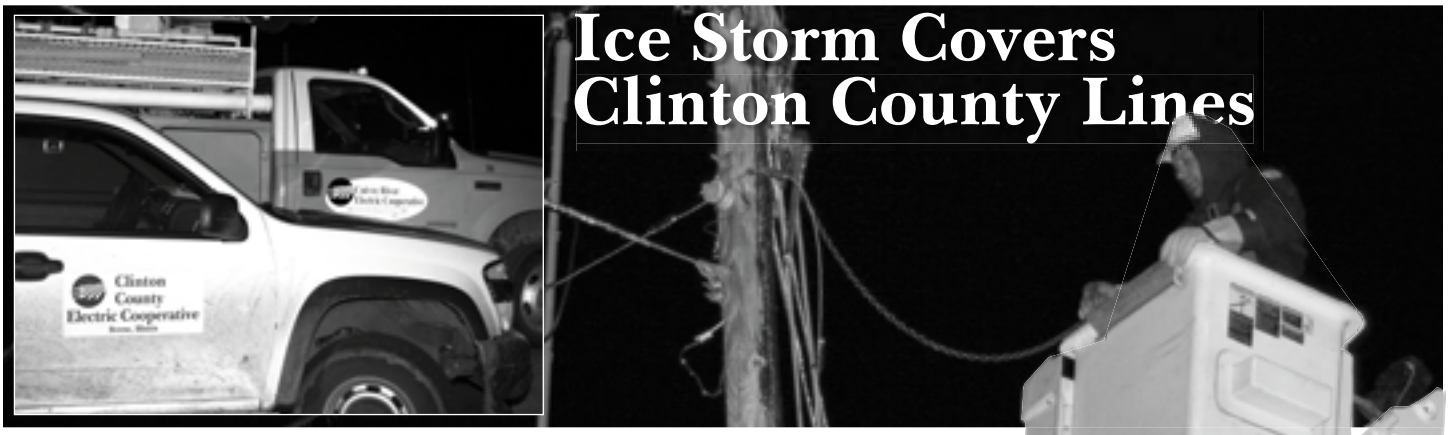
LIGHTING AND DECORATING

"Before decorating for the holidays, take some simple steps to avoid potential safety hazards," says President/COO Jim Riddle. "We've all read about tragedies resulting from holiday lighting mishaps. Safeguard yourself and your home so that you're not among those."

- Only use lights that have been safely tested and have the UL label.
- Check each light string for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs.
- Always unplug lights when replacing a bulb.
- Don't string together more than three standard-size sets of lights.
- Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources and water frequently.
- Do not overload outlets. If necessary, use surge protector strips that have circuit breakers to prevent overloads when multiple outlets are needed.
- Keep electric cords away from high-traffic areas. Do not run them through doorways, staple, nail or tack cords to the wall or hide them under rugs or carpets.
- Outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCIs. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

For more information visit the Web site www.SafeElectricity.org.

Ice Storm Covers Clinton County Lines



One of the crews from Cuivre River Electric Cooperative helped repair lines in the New Baden and Trenton areas throughout the night. Their assistance was obtained with help from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Around 4 p.m. on Thursday Dec. 1, the first outage was received by our engineering and operations department, with a second outage to be received by 4:30. All was looking good as the office closed for the evening, until the temperature continued to drop, and rain continued to fall.

All 8 linemen were called back in by 7 p.m. to begin attending to all of the outages that were beginning to accumulate. Harry Buller, Superintendent of Operations, was called in to help dispatch the linemen to the outages throughout the night.

When the office opened for normal operation at 8 a.m. the following morning, the telephones were answered by our staff. The damage reports and outages continued to flow in. Reports were made and were compiled with the reports received by the answering service. Over 100 reports of damage were received within the first 12 hours of the storm.

"This could be the worst thing that has happened to our system in the last 30 years.."
Harry Buller – Superintendent of Operations

All of our linemen worked until 9 p.m. on Friday night, some of which worked 36+ hours straight. Our 4 crews were relieved by 2 crews from Cuivre River Electric Cooperative from Troy, MO. They worked through the night, being led by 2 of our field servicemen. All of the CCEC linemen returned at 6 a.m. on Saturday morning to continue working on outages. 6 crews were attending to the members of CCEC throughout the day Saturday.

The phone lines continued to be manned by cooperative employees from 8 a.m. on Friday until 12 p.m. on Sunday. All residential outages were restored by 1 a.m. Sunday morning, with a few exceptions where members agreed to be left for later because they could generate their own power. They were attended to on Sunday by a few linemen that returned to work.

A large majority of the outages were contributed to the ice that had formed on the lines. The increased weight from the ice caused the lines to snap. Due to our successful tree trimming program, very few outages were caused by falling trees and limbs. Most of the damage to the system was west of the Kaskaskia River. Clean up from the storm will continue into 2007.

Harry Buller, Superintendent of Operations, makes notes while looking at a system map in his office. Small stickers had been stuck to the map to visually represent where problems had been reported. This helped us to see what had to be done, and to make sure no one was forgotten.

Bob Kroeger, Engineer, sorts through the 100-plus damage reports and compares them with hundreds of reports for those that called to let us know they were out of power.

The Trustees and Employees of Clinton County Electric wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Ronald Becker

Cary Dickinson

Tim Hanke

Kevin Kampwerth

Randy Renth

Vernon Mohesky

Richard Timmerman

Joseph Voss

John White

Gary Albers

Ryan Beckmann

Harry Buller

Allan Deiters

Mike Faust

Douglas Vonder Haar

Myron Johnson

Bob Kroeger

Ralph Kuhl

Ahren Langhauser

Sue Laux

Cathy Markus

Dale Nordike

Mike Rainey

Mary Jane Richter

Jim Riddle

Brian Taylor

Scott Toennies

Clinton County
Connection
Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative

The Clinton County Connection
Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
475 North Main Street, P.O. Box 40
Breese, Illinois 62230 (618)526-7282
Office open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The CLINTON COUNTY CONNECTION (USPS 008-212) is published bi-monthly for $2 per year by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 North Main Street P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230. Periodical rates postage paid at Breese, IL and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CLINTON COUNTY CONNECTION, 475 North Main Street P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230.

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