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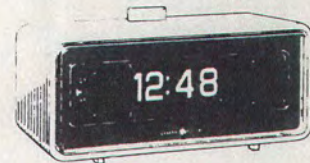
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On The Cover



We think our cover this month helps explain the close relationship between children and Christmas. The little girl, then three years old and now 13, is Eula Jane Rushton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ewell Rushton of Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. The puppies multiplied the happiness of this Christmas tree by four.

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Volunteer Views



By J. C. Hundley
Executive Manager, TECA

In these days of inflation, turmoil and, yes, shortages, we might do no better than look back almost 2,000 years ago to the time and place where our Lord was born, in a manger, because there was a shortage. There was no room available at the inn.

The Man whose birth we observe at this season each year knew many adversities during His short life here on earth, yet He persevered through his inner strength and love and compassion to become the center point of a great religious faith. During the past 2,000 years He has become, and is, the most revered, the most influential, the most loved man who ever walked the face of the earth.

Our Maker did not promise us a life without adversities but He did endow us with the strengths and abilities necessary to face up to our problems. And most of all He gave us the perfect example of the One through Whom, even as mortals, we can do all things.

It is in this spirit, and in this Season so dear to all Christians, that we wish for each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and a New Year that will be filled with happiness, good health and a generous helping of all the other good things in life.



SGT. YORK: TENN'S HERO

By Erbin Baumgardner
Director of Information Services
Volunteer Electric Cooperative

Sketch by Miss Bow of Sgt. York cleaning his trusty old long rifle.

Ten years ago one of Tennessee's foremost citizens was laid to rest in a peaceful, honeysuckle enshrouded cemetery, a cricket's hop from the one room cabin where he was born, within hearing distance of the meandering Wolf River he fished and swam in as a boy, and just beyond the fence row of the green pastured fields he farmed as a man.

Alvin C. York wanted it that way. The valley of the three forks of the Wolf River was his land, and its inhabitants, his people. Except for the year and a half as a soldier, which brought fame to the lanky, red-haired Tennessean from the tiny settlement of Pall Mall, Alvin York had not strayed far from his valley.

Changes to his valley and people have been few over the years. Open pasture fields, cabins and barns on mountain slopes have been swallowed up by rampant growing woods. The people are more prosperous and enjoy the conveniences of modern America. But inwardly, they possess the same characteristics that York's ancestors — the long-hunters, Indian fighters and cancutters — brought to the valley in the closing days of the Revolution: a strength that embraced honesty, righteousness and justice and a gentleness that reflected patience, understanding and love.

And, so it was not unnatural for York, decorated by generals and praised by

presidents for his deeds in battle during World War I, to return to the quiet valley in East Tennessee to a simple life of farming among the people he knew and cared for best.

WAR DECLARED

The year was 1917 and the United States had plunged into a world war with Germany. News of the war was slow to reach Pall Mall. France, England and Germany were only places in a geography book to people who rarely got into Jamestown, the county seat, just 12 miles to the south.

York, a young man of 30, was helping to support his widowed mother and her family of 11 when he received his "little blue card" to report to Jamestown for induction into the Army. A deeply religious man, to kill, even in the name of war, was alien to York's belief. For several months he wrestled with the question and sought the guidance of his pastor, the Rev. R. C. Pile, who pointed out that conscientious objectors would not have to go to battle. But in the end, it was York's decision.

After meditating, praying and relying on his mother's homemade philosophy of "thinking things clear through," York, with the assurance God would return him safely home, said good-bye to his family, friends and sweetheart, Gracie Williams, and walked confidently out of the valley.

It was nearly a year later, October 8, 1918. York, a corporal in Company G, 328 Infantry, 82nd Division, known as the "All America" Division, found himself in France, just north of Chatel Cheney in the Argonne Forest on Hill No. 223. It was early morning. The fog that shrouded the forest was beginning

to lift. The Americans began their advance, coming off the slope, moving beneath tree branches and the spray of German machine gun fire. The Germans, entrenched in the side of the hill with a battery of machine gun nests, had control of the valleys and the passes.

York was among 17 soldiers who crept behind the enemy's line to secure a vantage point and halt the machine guns. Unknowingly, the patrol stumbled into the middle of a German major's headquarters. The Americans captured the 20 bewildered Germans and were leading them out of the cove when a battalion of machine guns, perched on the side of the hill, opened fire on York's patrol. The first sweep of the guns killed six and wounded three Americans.

SHARP SHOOTER

When York was a boy, a favorite pastime in the mountains was the Saturday shooting matches. Fifty men or more, armed with their long rifles, pit their steady trigger fingers and perfect aims against each other. At 40 yards staked behind a log was the target, a live turkey with only bobbing head and red wattles showing. Many a Saturday evening young York came up the lane to his mountain home with a turkey flung over his shoulder.

A German head peered from a machine gun nest about 40 yards from where York lay behind some bushes. Patiently and deliberately York took aim, squeezed the trigger and the German dropped beside his gun. Repeatedly, a burst of machine gun fire swept the ground beside York. Then silence and York again raised his rifle and more Germans fell. Seven soldiers, led by a lieutenant, rushed at him with fixed bayonets.



Mrs. Gracie York with one of her granddaughters, Judith York, age 3.

Firing at the man farthest away and in succession, York fell each German.

Wishing to see no more of his men killed, the German major ordered surrender. One by one, the enemy crawled from the machine gun nests, came from behind trees, threw down their weapons and marched down the hillside at York's command.

When the prisoners were marched to the American lines, the official count was 132; three were officers, one a major. Twenty-five had fallen dead at York's hand and 35 machine gun nests were silenced.

The lean corporal from the backwoods of Tennessee did not comprehend the

significance of his feat, considering his action as no more than was expected of a soldier. But word of his heroic stand spread through the American trenches and into the camps of the Allied troops. And in Pall Mall, Tennessee, news of Mrs. York's soldier boy trickled home.

RECEIVED MEDALS

In the ensuing weeks, York was paraded before foreign dignitaries. Decorated by General John J. Pershing with the Congressional Medal of Honor, York was called the greatest civilian soldier of the war.

Marshal Foch, in awarding France's highest military medal, the Croix de Guerre, said of York: "What you did was the greatest thing accomplished by any private soldier of all of the armies of Europe."

In May 1919, Sgt. Alvin York reached the port of New York. He received an exultant welcome, a ticker tape parade through New York City and, in Washington, the House of Representatives stopped debate and cheered York when he appeared in the gallery.

But the most jubilant welcome was in Pall Mall when he was reunited with his

mother, his family and friends and, most of all, his sweetheart, Miss Gracie Williams, whom he married June 7, 1919 in a ceremony beneath the beech trees on the mountain side where they had courted.

GRACIE YORK

Mrs. York, still containing the twinkle in her dark eyes that caught the Sergeant's fancy many springs past, recently talked about the man whom she waited on to return from war.

"He was a big, robust man who enjoyed life. He wasn't high tempered and was always thinking about somebody else," Mrs. York recalled.

In discussing York's faith in God, Mrs. York said it "carried him through the war. If he hadn't been living for the Lord, he never would have got through it."

The Sergeant believed this deeply. In his diary he wrote, concerning his experience in the Argonne Forest: "So you can see here in this case of mine where God helped me out. I have been living for God and working in church work some time before I came to the Army. I am a witness to the fact that God did

Gail Bow, senior at York Institute, sketches a drawing of the famed World War I hero in the shade of York Mill. The mill, turned into a museum in 1968, is part of Pickett State Park.



Otis Poore, left, Tennessee forester, and George Delk, teacher at York Institute, examine the memorabilia lining the walls of the York Grist Mill. Delk points to newspaper clippings that tell the story of the Sergeant's life.

help me out of that hard battle for the bushes were shot off all round me and I never got a scratch."

Though fame brought numerous financial offers to his door, York refused them, remaining a simple and humble man. His concern was for others, especially the children of Fentress County, who had little opportunity to receive an education. At that time, there were few schools in the county and no state or county funds available to construct needed buildings.

BUILT SCHOOLS

York used his influence and resources

(Cont. on Page 16)

(Editor's Note: Sheri Ann Bready is the 1974 Tennessee State Winner of the Youth Tour to Washington Essay Contest. Sheri Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Bready of Covington, Tennessee, received a \$1,000 scholarship for her prize winning essay, printed in full here. This top prize was awarded by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association.

Prior to winning the State Contest, Miss Bready's essay was judged winner of a local contest sponsored by the Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation, one of twelve local electric cooperative systems sponsoring the contest in Tennessee.

At the state level, Sheri Ann's essay was selected as the best of almost 13,000 written by high school eleventh graders who entered the contest sponsored by the participating twelve electric co-ops. All wrote on the same subject: "The Energy Dilemma: Which Way America."

In addition to the \$1,000 scholarship, Miss Bready was one of sixty-one school or county winners from Tennessee who were given an expenses-paid week-long trip to Washington, D.C. last June.)



THE ENERGY DILEMMA: WHICH WAY AMERICA?

By Sheri Ann Bready

Summer of '73, America begins hearing about the energy dilemma. Gas prices are going up, gas stations around popular tourist resorts are going dry. America isn't too excited yet, it's just a little inconvenient.

Fall of '73, winter is coming. America will be needing heat and gas stations are getting harder to find. America begins to fret.

Winter of '73, rationing is a major issue. Coupons are being printed, but there are no immediate plans for distribution. Gas stations are selling limited amounts of fuel, closing earlier, and laying off employees. The energy crisis rises above all the others to be more talked about than even Watergate.

March of '74, America makes it through the winter without rationing, but other plans were put into use. One of the best ones, in my opinion, is the Oregon Plan in which cars with even numbered license plates buy gas on designated days and the same for cars with odd numbered license plates. Another plan is the reduction of maximum speeds on highways and interstates. Tennessee recently lessened car speeds to fifty-five miles per hour on its highways and interstates.

America also went on permanent Daylight Saving's Time, with certain farming states being exempted.

These plans provide only temporary alleviation and while energy needs increase, America searches for an answer.

Many ideas for possible sources have been recognized by Americans for the solving of the energy dilemma. I have chosen a few of these ideas for discussion. They are nuclear energy, tapping underground pools of oil, coal, hydrogen, and solar energy.

Nuclear energy and the tapping of existing oil pools would be practical only for a short period of time. Both of these sources would be exhausted by the turn of the century.

Coal, once a very popular form of energy also is a limited quantity and is rejected by ecologists because of its high pollution rate.

Hydrogen is found abundantly throughout our universe, but scientists have yet to discover an economical way to carry on the hydrogen fusion process. The major problem to hydrogen is that the heat needed for the fusion process is so intense it requires a magnetic force field to hold it. Hydrogen is a

practical idea for the solving of our long range energy troubles.

From my reading and gathering information about the energy crisis, I have selected solar energy as the best immediate solution. The sun provides us with a never-ending stream of energy. One day of solar energy sent toward the earth is equal to the burning of five hundred fifty billion tons of coal. Scientists have conducted experiments with solar energy to heat and cool homes. They have also devised methods by which we can cook, distill water, irrigate, and power telephone lines. As in the case of hydrogen, scientists have not yet come up with very practical methods for using solar energy. With a lot of effort and money put into the research of finding more practical applications America could probably have its energy problem under control. That is, of course, until our sun burns out (which is expected in another five billion years.).

America is relieved now because we will soon be receiving oil from other countries. Many will try to forget the energy crisis again. However, it is my hope that local, state, and national officials of these United States will really get behind the solving of the energy crisis and push! America needs help, but more important she needs to help herself. I firmly believe that America will find the best solution to our energy dilemma. Until we do find this answer, I will, as all loyal Americans should, turn down my thermostat, drive slower, and do my wash in "cold water All".

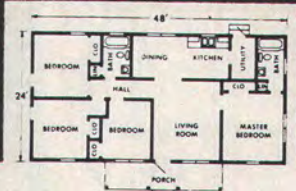
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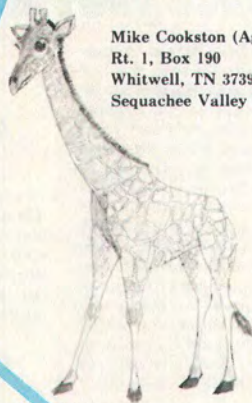
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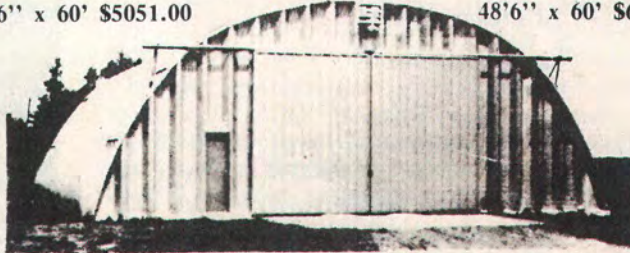
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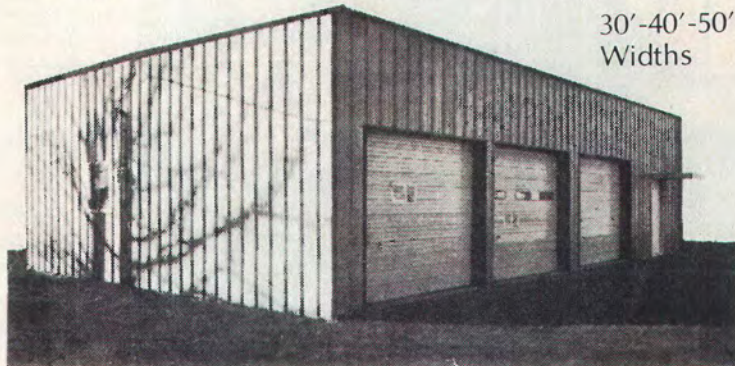
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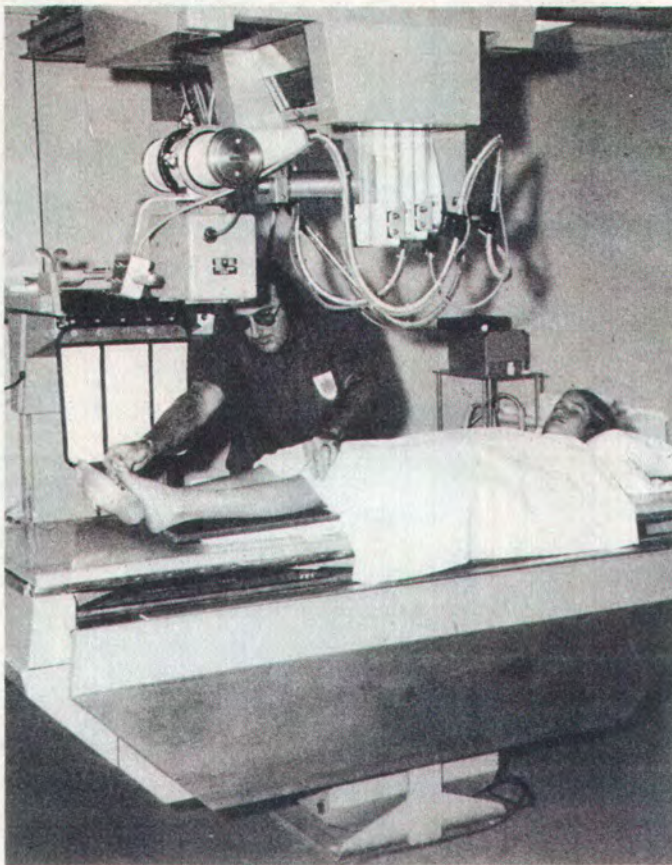
ELECTRICITY IN MEDICINE

By Robbye Nowell
Home Economist
Gibson County E.M.C.

Benjamin Franklin, the discoverer of electricity, could not have dreamed of the miraculous events related to electricity. Neither could he have dreamed of the development of electrical appliances or instruments which mean so much to us today.

Daily we are reminded of many ways electricity aids us — lighting our way — saving time — taking drudgery out of chores — and providing us with hours of entertainment. Yet seldom, possibly never, do we consider one major role which electricity plays in life.

Modern science has proven electricity is a necessity for ministering to man's health. In individual homes, doctors' offices,



Bill Fussell, x-ray technician, sets things up to x-ray the leg of Laura Ann Schrader. This photograph will help the doctor detect the type of break and the corrective method he will use in treating it.



Dr. A.L. Schrader, assisted by R.N. Betty Whitney, prepares to connect a patient to the defibrillator, an electric machine which converts an abnormal heartbeat to its normal rhythm.

Dr. Schrader, the entire staff, and citizens are exceedingly proud of Memorial Hospital and Convalescing Center, Trenton's newest.

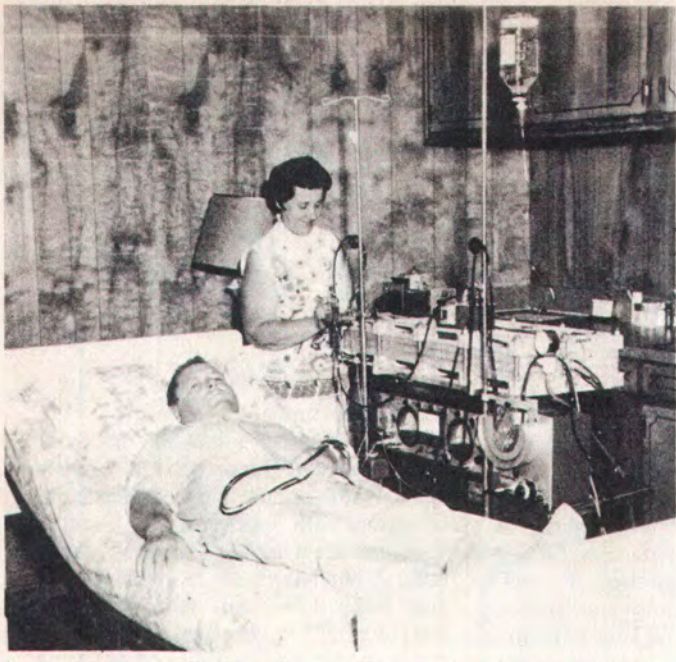
In talking with Dr. Schrader, he stated that it is total electric equipped with the newest equipment available even to the ground fault plane, which can be seen in the background, a power system which supplies a high degree of protection, particularly from macro-shock conditions. It's a gold medallion, you might say, meeting all the Federal Safety Hospital Code.

clinics, hospitals, nursing and convalescing homes, electricity provides power for lighting, heating, and cooling. It is necessary for x-ray and other specialized equipment essential in detecting health problems and their treatment.

Each year, yes each day — each hour — each minute — even each second, electricity is of utmost importance in saving and prolonging life.

Medical knowledge may be divided into three great divisions: the knowledge of the human body, the knowledge of disease, and the method of treatment. In each of these electricity is an essential element. Many techniques and procedures are put on tape and used for teaching purposes by means of television. Even miniature cameras are swallowed in certain instances so that pictures are taken inside the stomach. Also various electrical devices are used for diagnosis as well as treatments.

Some electrical instruments used in the diagnosis of health problems are: The x-ray machine, seldom thought of as an instrument, photographs the human body permitting doctors to detect broken bones and diagnose and treat many diseases of the internal organs. A different type of x-ray machine, the fluoroscope, enables the doctor to look directly at the heart



Mr. and Mrs. Hiawatha Williams are thankful for electricity and the dialysis machine which are as essential to Mr. Williams as the food he eats and the air he breathes. Mrs. Williams is seen here making a blood test, one of the many things she must keep check on while her husband is on the machine.

shadow to study its size, shape, and beat. An instrument useful in looking into the airway is the bronchoscope.

Other instruments include the electrocardiograph which makes a record of the electrical changes occurring in the heart. This record may suggest the heart is diseased. The electroencephalograph records electric currents produced by the brain. This assists the doctor to determine the functioning of the brain.

The laser beam today is used in certain eye treatments such as retinal detachment as it sears the retina to prevent progression of disease. It is also used to destroy lesions of the retina and the voice box.

One of the greatest advancements in ear surgery in 100 years has been the development of the operating microscope which magnifies the structures within the ear up to 40 times. This permits the doctor to perform micro-surgery that was not possible before magnification.

Electro-surgery is performed with a surgical instrument known as the electric cautery which cuts the tissue to make an incision. Bleeding from small blood vessels may be stopped when touched with this same instrument.

Good lighting is important in medical offices, clinics, and hospitals. Operating rooms must be well lighted with lamps that can be maneuvered in many ways so surgeons may adequately visualize the operative field and accomplish their specialized operations.

Another significant advance in the medical field is the monitor which continually records electrical changes in the heart, keeping record of pulse rate, blood pressure, and heart beat. In many hospitals, televisions are installed at nursing stations to monitor patients under certain conditions.

Many health care institutions today are equipped with other electrical devices such as — electrically operated beds for the

patients' comfort — televisions for helping patients while away many long hours — electric thermometers to record the patients' temperature — suction machines to remove mucus secretions and foreign objects from food and air passages to prevent serious complications and emergency signals which patients may use in asking for help when needed.

Thousands of people are or have been dependent upon electricity which has either saved or prolonged their lives through various electrical instruments or machines. Included in this category are those who have experienced fibrillation of the heart, an abnormal heart beat that is not compatible with life when it affects the ventricle. A shock machine, known as a defibrillator, is used to convert this abnormal heart beat to its normal rhythm which is compatible with life. This machine has also been successfully used on patients with cardiac arrest to start the heart beating again. Some patients are dependent on machines such as the ventilator or the iron lung for life. Ventilators develop and transport oxygen to patients who can not breathe on their own because of unconsciousness from head injuries, etc. These machines simulate normal respiration, putting oxygen into the lungs and removing carbon dioxide. Iron lungs assist patients with breathing in cases where there is paralysis of the muscles of respiration.

Dialysis machines mean life to patients with certain kidney problems. These machines filter out products of metabolism that interfere with vital functions of the human body.

There's no way to determine the importance of electricity in medicine. It is constantly at work bringing blessings to many by saving and prolonging their lives. Its role in medicine is miraculous — a role which goes on and on and on.



Dr. George Culbreath, Trenton dentist, uses an electric high-speed drill to reclaim patients' teeth. Pat Hickerson assists Dr. Culbreath with patient, Billy Joe Jackson.



Protect your mobile home against wind damage

Wise up—tie down

Mobile homes provide comfortable, low-cost housing for nearly 6 million Americans. But the very construction features that make these residences so popular — long, low compact design — also make them particularly vulnerable targets for high winds spawned by thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes.

The American Red Cross urges all mobile home owners to “tie-down” for safety’s sake, to protect lives and property. Storm statistics show that nearly 5,000 mobile homes are damaged or destroyed by high winds each year. And with more and more Americans buying mobile homes, the total number of such dwellings hit by high winds is destined to rise. Since mobile homes are of lightweight construction, with flat sides and ends, high winds can roll them over and into other property very easily.

“Tie-down” is the accepted method of securely anchoring mobile homes

to prevent them from being rolled or pushed over by winds. Proper tie-down equipment in most areas will cost a maximum of \$150 and installation by a contractor is estimated to cost another \$100 or so. But money spent for secure anchoring is well worth the price, especially since many insurance companies are now refusing to insure mobile homes unless they are adequately anchored in this manner.

Two types of ties are needed — the “over-the-top” tie and the frame tie. The first keeps the unit from overturning, and the second prevents it from being blown off the supports. They recommend use of both over-the-top ties and frame ties to secure 10-, 12-, and 14-ft. wide mobile homes. Double units 24-ft. in width are quite stable and do not require use of over-the-top ties, only frame ties.

Specific information on tie-down procedures is in a brochure “Protecting Mobile Homes from High Winds,” obtained from local civil defense offices or: U.S. Army AG Publications Center, Civil Defense, 2800 Eastern Blvd., Baltimore, Md. 21220.

Back up your tie-down system by taking other precautions against wind damage: When you purchase a mobile home, look for such built-in safety features as factory installed anchoring straps under the skin of

the mobile home.

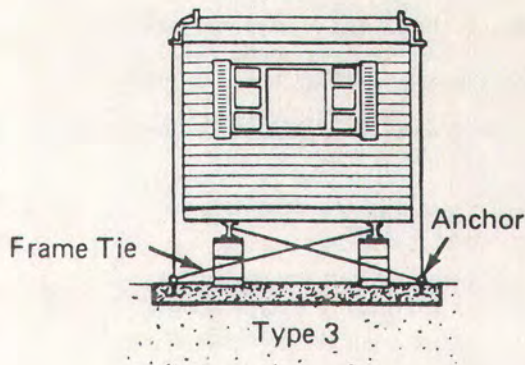
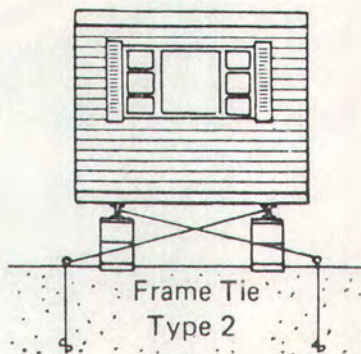
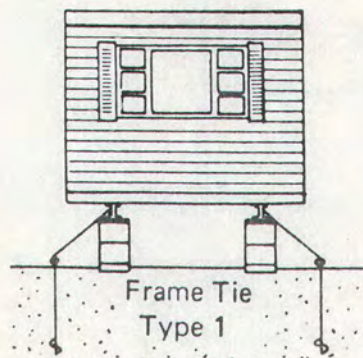
When selecting a location for your home, consider the protection it offers against the wind. You should consider lots with solid concrete foundations and steel anchor locations. Some natural barriers, such as trees, bushes and small hills, will help to shield your home. If possible, locate your home so that the narrow end is facing in the direction of prevailing winds. This reduces the surface area exposed to the impact of the wind.

Encourage your neighbors to tie-down, too. If their homes are tied down, yours will be less likely to be damaged by having an unanchored one blown into it.

If you put a skirt on your home, use an openwork or lattice skirt. They let the wind blow through instead of resisting it.

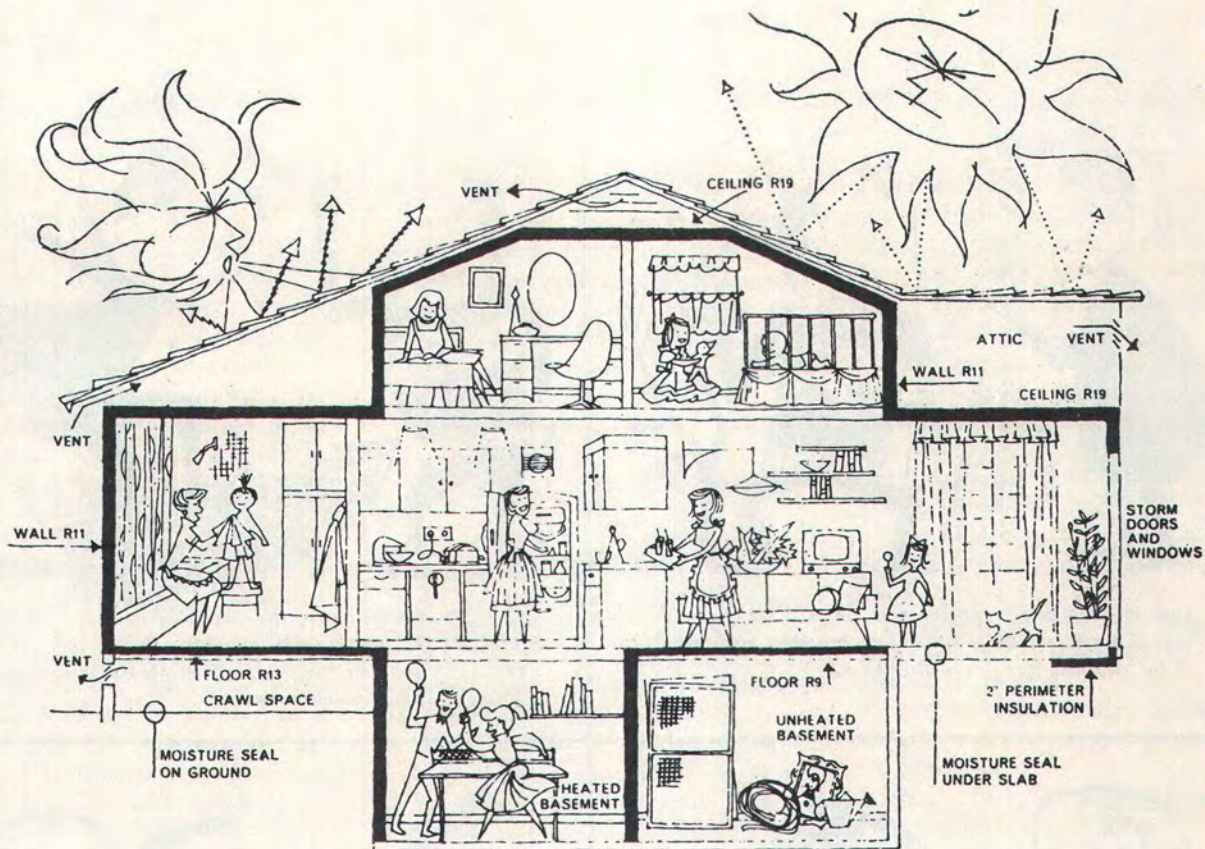
When heavy weather is forecast, remove indoor stowage, awnings, canopies and other fixtures, and —

- Pack your breakables.
- Tape all windows.
- Disconnect electrical, sewer and water lines.
- Open faucets so water will drain out. Leave faucets open.
- Listen to your radio for information and instructions from local authorities.
- Seek shelter elsewhere.



These sketches illustrate various methods for connecting frame ties to the mobile home frame. Type 2 system can resist greater horizontal forces than Type 1. Type 3 system involves placement of mobile home on concrete slab. Anchors embedded in concrete slab are connected to ties.

Stop the great escape by insulating



We are accustomed to placing unlimited demand on our natural resources. Increasing needs for natural gas, oil and electricity impose great pressures on available supplies.

There are many practical ways you, the householder, can conserve energy.

Weatherstrip and caulk around all windows and doors. When your family feels cold drafts coming from window, door or framing, a sizable amount of your heating bill is being caused by warm air leakage or cold air infiltration. Keep those windows tight by locking them.

Install storm windows (or insulating glass) and doors. These will cut in half the heat needlessly lost through glass and reduce the differences between room air and window temperature which creates cold drafts across

floors. Try closing draperies as an averager of temperatures—except when that old man sun is about.

An uninsulated house can lose 50% of its heat. You can hardly afford to not insulate properly. It will increase comfort in both winter and summer. It will pay for itself in two or three years by reducing heating and cooling costs.

Here are a few insulating practices to follow:

Ceilings—need 6 to 8 inches of thermal insulation properly installed. In an unfloored, well-ventilated attic, place batts on ceiling or spread loose insulation. If the attic is floored, blowing or raking, under boards, can be done.

Walls—When a house is built, installation of insulation in exterior sidewalls is wise. In an existing building,

contact an expert before insulating. Sidewall insulation added to existing buildings can lead to moisture condensation within walls.

Floors—Open foundation vents prevent structural damage from moisture, rot and termites. Batts can be stapled between floor joists.

Check existing insulation occasionally for settling and dampness. Because of a factor known as "vapor pressure" moisture moves from a warm area toward a cold one. If it condenses within insulation, the insulating capability is lost.

THERE ARE other ways to keep your heat (money) from escaping through the roof and other areas of your home. Consult an insulation specialist or your power supplier.

How to **SELECT** and **CARE** FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

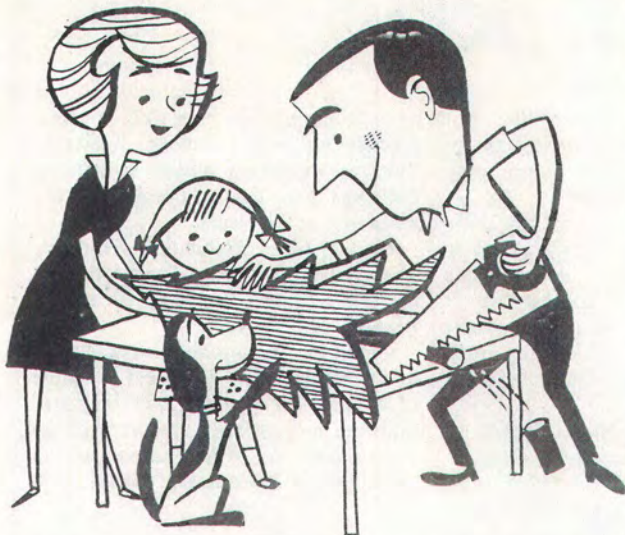
ENJOY BEAUTY AND SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Look for a uniform triangular taper. Check to see that it is free of weak, broken, or unduly long branches and crooks in the stem and that it is well filled out.



Shake or bounce the tree on the ground lightly to see that the needles are firmly attached. If only a few needles drop, the tree is fresh and more likely to retain its needles throughout the holiday season in your home.



Once home, saw off the butt end of the tree -- about an inch or so above the original cut -- so it can absorb water.



To prevent your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard, stand it in water and store it in a cool, shady place, preferably outside. Leave it in water even after you decorate it, and locate it away from radiators, fireplace, TV set, or other heat source.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Timely Topics

'Briar' Pipes Come From Many Sources

"Briar," the most popular material used for smoking pipes, means different things to different people. It depends upon geographical location, politics, tradition, industrial practices, and just plain preference.

"Actually, a briar pipe is made from a burl taken from the roots of any tree or shrub that produces burls," says Earl R. Cady, University of Tennessee Extension forestry specialist.

Pipes made from wood grown above the ground are simply referred to by the common name of the tree, such as "hickory" pipes, he continues. Apple, cherry, maple, myrtle, redwood, and yew are popular woods in this category. Not to be overlooked is the "Missouri Meerschaum", produced from corncobs.

Regardless of source, the ideal wood for a pipebowl must have good resistance to charring or burning; free from warping, flaws, and cracking; be cool to the touch while being smoked; have attractive grain or pattern; take color and polish well; and remain sweet after prolonged use, he explains.

While several factors are involved in producing the ideal "briar", the chief one is luck, although experience and usage are reliable guidelines. Generally, pipes of "Imported Briar" are the surest bet.

"Imported Briar", according to the industry, refers strictly to burls of the Heath Tree (*Erica arborea*), which grows under poor conditions in the foothills at the western end of the Mediterranean Sea, says Cady. The very slow growth rate (it takes about 100 years to produce burls 12 to 15 inches in diameter) discourages cultivation in other parts of the world. The tree has little landscaping value.

Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) of the Appalachian and Cumberland Mountains produces large dense burls. It has been used by pipe craftsmen since pioneer days.

Rhododendron (*R. maximum*) is found all over North America and is a more prolific burl producer than mountain

laurel. During World War II, a North Carolina manufacturer made pipes in considerable quantity from both woods to meet public and military demand, when the war cut off imports.

These woods were identified quite properly as "Domestic Briar". Unfortunately for current pipe manufacturers who use this excellent home-grown material, the use of immature and improperly cured burls to meet the war-time demand gave the domestic briar a bad name among smokers. Unscrupulous dumping as war surplus added to the problem.

Soil Loss From Field Can Be Predicted

The amount of soil lost from fields under alternative land uses can be estimated, based on experimental data, according to a University of Tennessee Extension specialist.

"It is possible to predict probable soil losses for any individual field, under different land uses and cropping management, with or without special conservation practices," says George J. Buntley, soils specialist.

Factors influencing soil loss have been studied for many years. These studies resulted in the introduction in 1961 of a "universal equation" for estimating rainfall-erosion losses. Tennessee was the first state to adapt this equation to local conditions, so that it could be used by practicing soil conservationists and farm managers.

Estimates made by using the "universal equation" provide a sound guide to farmers for making changes in land use and selecting alternative crop combinations. Conservation practices can be selected that will keep soil losses within acceptable limits.

Additional information on predicting soil losses can be found in Bulletin 418, "Predicting Soil Losses in Tennessee Under Different Management Systems." It is published by the UT Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Use Lights Prudently At Christmas

Santa's reindeer won't have any trouble finding your house this Christmas. The Federal Energy Administration has announced that "holiday lighting will not be singled out for voluntary or involuntary curtailment" as it was last year, reports LaVerne Farmer, University of Tennessee Extension home management specialist.

According to FEA, the key to holiday lighting this year is to decorate tastefully, not wastefully.

In keeping with this advice Miss Farmer offers some hints on planning your Christmas decorations.

*Don't go overboard decorating the outside of your house. Concentrate on one of two outdoor features.

*Use lower wattage and midget-type light bulbs on Christmas trees and other decorative lighting.

*Turn off regular lights in the same room or area where decorative lights are displayed.

*Don't leave decorative lights on for an extended period of time.

By following these suggestions you can reduce the energy consumption, save money and continue a holiday tradition, she adds.

Buy And Freeze Extra Cheese

Take advantage of special sales on cheese and buy a few extra packages. You can freeze many varieties of cheese without loss of flavor for several months, says Reba K. Hendren, University of Tennessee Extension nutrition specialist.

Cheese such as brick, cheddar, Edam, Parmesan, Gouda and Swiss can be wrapped in freezer wrap and frozen in wedges of a half pound or less.

When you are ready to thaw cheese, remove it from the freezer to the refrigerator, suggests Mrs. Hendren. If slight discolorations or spots appear on the cheese, wait until the cheese is completely thawed before discarding it. Usually, the cheese regains its natural color after thawing, she adds.

SGT. YORK

(Continued from Pg. 5)



The cross and the American flag, symbols in the life of Alvin C. York, stand mute over his burial place in the country cemetery at York Chapel.

traveling throughout the state to win support for a vocational-type high school. In 1926 the Tennessee Legislature passed an act to create the Alvin C. York Agriculture Institute. It remains today the only state operated high school.

The Yorks raised 10 children in what Mrs. York described as a "good life together. We never did have a fuss. Alvin was an easy-going person, a good father who loved his children and always wanted to do the right thing."

The York home, a large white two-story farm house with an American flag flying from the front porch, was always open to strangers.

"Alvin would always be bringing someone home for lunch," Mrs. York recalled. "A tourist from up North would stop by the general store and meet Alvin, and he'd invite them home."

One afternoon, after the Sergeant had been stricken and was confined to bed, a group of 92 people traveling through the area on buses stopped to visit.

"I invited them in to see Alvin," said Mrs. York. "I always try to treat people friendly. If they stop to say hello, I'll take time out. That's all we get out of life anyway."

York lay for 10 years in bed, with

Gracie close by to care for him. During this time he never lost his warm smile or failed to put forth a friendly handshake to a stranger. On September 2, 1964, Sergeant York fought his last earthly battle.

Although the famed World War I hero has been gone 10 years, his deeds of kindness and generosity and the integrity which he stood for are still vivid in the hearts and minds of his native Fentress Countians.

Sam Cowan, in his biography, *Sergeant York and His People*, best describes the three aspects of York's life which mark him for distinction:

"He fought a great fight, declined to barter the honors that came to him and, using his new-found strength, he has reached a helping hand to the children of the mountains who needed him."

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PUZZLE CORNER

We regret that we were unable to announce the winners of the October Puzzle Corner in the November issue, but problems beyond our control prevented our doing so.

The October puzzle had an inventor offering a new, large gun to a Government committee appointed for consideration of such things. He declared that when loaded the gun would fire sixty shots at the rate of one shot per minute. Put to the test, the fired exactly sixty shots in exactly one hour, after which the Government representatives turn down the gun because "it did not fulfill the promised condition." The inventor argued that it did. Who was right and why?

The answer: the experts were right. The gun should have fired 60 shots in 59 minutes if it was to fire one shot per minute. The time counts from the first shot so that the second would be fired at the close of the first minute, the third at the close of the second minute, and so on.

Winners, chosen by lot from all correct answers in each Grand Division on a rotating basis, are as follow:

First Place: Fred Dickerson, Route 2, Troy, Tenn. 38260, a member of Gibson County Electric Membership Corporation—\$10

Second Place: Carolyn Waldron, 101 Sutton, Waverly, Tenn. 37185, a member of Meriwether Lewis Electric Co-op—\$5

Third Place: Mrs. R. R. Willis, Jr., Route 3 Box 324-A, Newland, N.C., a member of Mountain Electric Co-op—\$5

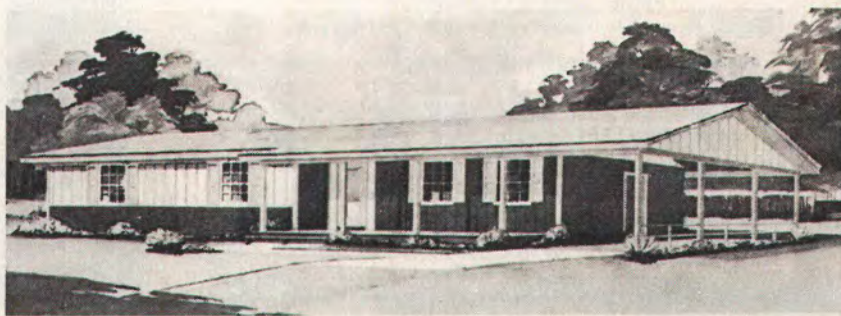
Here is your December puzzle:

There are three identical sealed crates, one filled with red balls, one with black balls, and one with both red and black balls. Unfortunately, all three are labeled incorrectly. By seeing only one ball from only one of the crates (and without seeing the rest in the crate) you can properly identify the contents of each of the crates. How? (Weight, texture or size have nothing to do with the solution.)

Send your answers, along with your name, address including zip code, and name of your electric co-op to:

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Thanks To Concerned Citizens

Cowan Gets A "Facelifting"

By:
Patty Comstock
Public Affairs Coordinator
Duck River Electric Membership Corporation

"We planned to put out a few shrubs in the 'Four Corners' area of town and the idea just then seemed to snowball," according to Mrs. Jenny Lou Brock, a very active member of the Cowan Beautification Commission. As a result of the Commercial Club's clean-up project of last year, the idea did indeed snowball and the small town of Cowan located in Franklin County has since embarked upon an intensive "facelifting" program under the capable direction of Mrs. Lynn Betty, Mrs. Emeline Gist, Mr. Lawrence McBee, and Mrs. Brock, members of the Cowan Beautification Commission.

Cowan, once an important railroad stopover for Chattanooga passenger trains, became just another small town when passenger trains gave way to freight trains. As a result Cowan lost some of its importance and it wasn't until the committee envisioned "what might be" that the town began to recapture its turn-of-the-century railroading glory.

The "Four Corners" area of town contains the old train station and this is the area the citizens first concentrated on. The old depot has been painted, a variety of beautiful flowers and shrubs have been planted for seasonal beauty, and a brick-wrought iron fence encircles the area. When the committee first made their long-range plans for the project, they hoped to



Four Corners Area—An area of Cowan that once hummed with activity was left to deteriorate until these two ladies — Mrs. Lynn Betty (l) and Mrs. Jenny Lou Brock decided to initiate a program to revitalize their town by cleaning it up, adding beauty, and emphasizing its important historical background.



Mrs. Jenny Lou Brock examines one of the many window boxes that were planted with beautiful flowers to give Cowan a "new Look." The City Hall took on a completely new and very attractive look as citizens undertook a beautification project for their town.

someday have a flagpole, lighted fountain, and historical marker. All three are now attractively situated in the Park. Having a gazebo was another long-range dream that through hard work and perseverance will soon become a reality.

Flowers, shrubs and Paint add to the beauty.

Downtown businesses have re-painted and redecorated their facades. Window flower boxes, hanging baskets, and Old English business signs add to the authentic look. The city has erected new street signs and a civic club has sold new house numbers. Even the trash bins have been hand painted with colorful flowers to make Cowan "a pretty town."

Cost for the entire program had amounted to about \$6,700 by the end



In Cowan even the trash bins are beautiful! Ruth Brock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Brock, got involved in the Beautification Project as a result of her mother's interest.

of summer. The most surprising part of the whole project is the fact all the money and materials have been donated or attained through fund-raising projects and volunteers have done most of the work. Two ladies operate a flea market four days out of the week with

Donations of money and hard work make it all come true.

all proceeds going to the project.

Personal gratification for the time, work, and effort the committee, and others, have put into beautifying Cowan comes from visitors who notice the town and in the case of one Pennsylvania couple who took the time to write, "to say we were impressed with the area is putting it mildly, we fell in love with it." Even the town citizens have completely endorsed the program by some of them painting and redecorating their own

homes.

Plans are in the making for the train depot to be renovated to house a railroad museum and the ladies have now set their aims on a caboose for the Park.

Cowan has certainly become a prettier and more interesting town because of all the volunteer workers who have shown they care about their town. Cowan's "facelifting" has stimulated a community spirit of involvement, cooperation, and interest that towns of all sizes should heed. A big salute to Cowan!

Cowan, population 1,772, is located at the base of the Cumberland Mountains on Highway US 64 in Franklin County in the Duck River Electric Membership Corporation service area.



This area of downtown Cowan is particularly eye-catching with its lighted fountain, flagpole, and beautiful flowers. A local industry made it possible for the area to secure the flagpole. Ruth Brock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brock, is one of the many young people who became involved in the beautification program.

TVA POWER SUPPLY—

a message from James E. Watson, Manager of Power, TVA



Power Conservation: If Everyone Helps, We'll Make It

Along with the distributors of TVA power, including your own cooperative, we have asked everyone to voluntarily cut back the use of electricity by 20 percent. The reason for this unusual request is simply the fact that there is a national shortage of coal—a vital fuel for power generation. Last year across the Nation the U.S. burned 10 million tons more coal than we mined. This year the Nation will burn 20 million tons more than is mined. The shortfall has been made up from existing stockpiles. But the Nation's and TVA's stockpiles are running out.

Many people are somewhat surprised to learn that about 80 percent of TVA electricity is produced by burning coal at TVA's 12 steam-electric plants. We continue to operate the hydro generation units at the dams in the most efficient manner, but this only contributes around 15-20 percent annually to power supply—depending on rainfall, as well as flood control and navigation operations on the river system.

As of November 8, TVA had in storage about 40 days coal supply at normal requirements. This is about half of what we normally keep in storage. More disturbing, however, is that we have been burning more than we have received for several

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months, and our stockpiles have been going down by about 200,000 tons per week. This is not because TVA does not have sufficient coal under contract but because the coal under contract has not been delivered. The reasons for shortages of deliveries are many. But, briefly, one of the major factors that has contributed to shortages in the past year has been the reluctance of coal operators to invest the enormous amounts of capital necessary to open new mines because of uncertain future market conditions. This uncertain market is tied to the many environmental problems connected with both the

"Many operators feel that it is simply not a good risk to invest the high interest capital and two or three years necessary to open new mines when environmental controls may prevent the coal from being burned once it is mined."

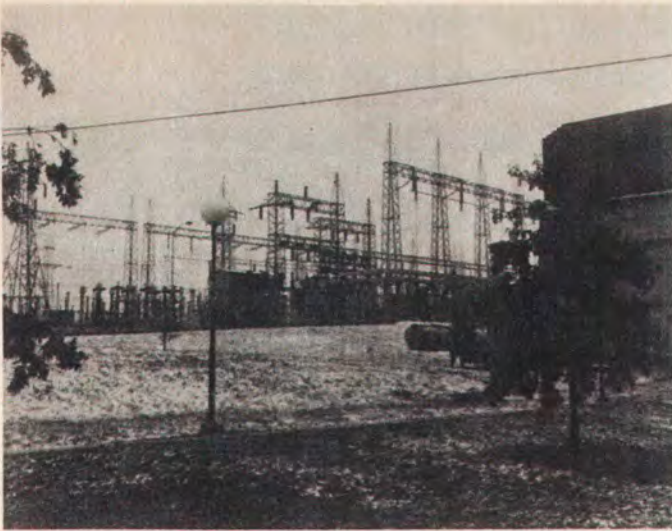
mining and burning of coal, particularly in connection with the large amounts of high sulfur and strip-mine coal we have in the eastern United States. Many operators feel that it is simply not a good risk to invest the high interest capital and two or three years necessary to open new mines when environmental controls may prevent the coal from being burned once it is mined.

"Energy consumption must be cut to match the supply. This is the reason TVA has asked all the consumers using its power to voluntarily conserve electricity so as to reduce by 20 percent the total energy requirements on the TVA system."

Coal is our most abundant energy resource in the country. If we are to meet our goal of serving this Nation's long-term energy needs, it is imperative that we find ways and adopt legislation that provides reasonable standards which will enable us to use coal safely and without unacceptable environmental consequences.

But let's get back to our immediate problem of how do we get by until additional coal sources can be developed? The first step seems clear—energy consumption must be cut to match the supply. This is the reason TVA has asked all the consumers using its power to voluntarily conserve electricity so as to reduce by 20 percent the total energy requirements on the TVA system.

In addition to the call for voluntary cutbacks in the use of



power, TVA is taking several steps to help relieve the critical coal shortage:

One, we are making emergency purchases of coal wherever possible, and we are renegotiating some of our existing contracts to get additional coal.

Two, we have contracted for additional production from our TVA-owned coal reserves, although some of this coal will not be available in time to help us through our short-term problem this winter. Currently, we are getting between 4 million and 5 million tons a year from TVA-owned reserves; we hope to add 2 million tons per year to this production.

Three, we are filing suit against some companies for delinquent deliveries, and we have been successful in getting a resumption of deliveries in some of these cases. We are also negotiating with ICC to see that the companies where we have purchased coal get their fair share of rail cars for deliveries.

Four, we are moving coal by rail and barge from TVA plants that have less critical stockpiles to plants that have extremely low supplies.

Five, we have been purchasing additional power from neighboring utilities. While this has helped us stretch our coal supplies, it is for the most part expensive power we are buying, and it should be considered a short-term stopgap measure.

Six, we are minimizing maintenance shutdowns at plants that have higher coal supplies. This enables us to cut back in power production from time to time at some of our plants that have dangerously low stockpiles.

Seven, we are operating unit 1 at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant at maximum capacity whenever possible. And we are hopeful that we will have unit 2 on line sometime this winter.

Eight, we are getting additional production from our oil-fired generators.

And nine, we have worked out an agreement with the Atomic Energy Commission to reduce its power requirements by 1,435,000 kW which will conserve 100,000 tons of coal per week.

"Coal produces about 80 percent of TVA's total supply of electricity. So, in a very real sense, the supply and cost of your electricity is directly tied to the supply and cost of coal."

Assuming there is no lengthy coal strike, these steps and your help with voluntary conservation of about 20 percent should get us through this winter.

Let me take a moment to explain how increased coal costs affect our electric rates.

I mentioned earlier that coal produces about 80 percent of TVA's total supply of electricity. So, in a very real sense, the supply and cost of your electricity is directly tied to the supply and cost of coal.

TVA now burns about 40 million tons of coal a year in order to meet the electricity needs of the region. The average delivered cost of coal to TVA doubled from around \$4.50 per ton 5 years ago to about \$9.00 per ton last year. In recent months the upward trend in coal costs has been even more alarming. Last fall we purchased coal at delivered prices from \$8.50 to \$10.50 per ton. But since then, faced with

"Every \$1 per ton added to TVA's coal costs adds another \$40 million to our annual fuel bill. Since our power system has no other source of revenues, these increased costs have to be passed along to the consumer in the form of higher electric rates."

critically low stockpiles at several plants, we have been forced to pay as much as \$30 per ton—and some utilities are making spot purchases in the \$40 to \$50 per ton range.

To put these kinds of increased costs in perspective, every \$1 per ton added to TVA's coal costs adds another \$40 million to our annual fuel bill. Since our power system has no other source of revenues, these increased costs have to be passed along to the consumer in the form of higher electric rates. I think it should be abundantly clear that something must be done to protect consumers from this kind of profiteering by coal producers.

As I was writing this, the issue of whether or not there would be a coal miners' strike on November 12 had not been decided. A strike would cut off a major part of our supply, maybe all of it. And depending on the length of a strike, we

"In the event the consumers of the area cannot find reasonable ways to conserve power, or in the event there is a prolonged coal strike, it will undoubtedly be necessary to put into effect mandatory curtailment regulations."

may or may not have enough coal to see us through until the miners return to work.

In the event the consumers of the area cannot find reasonable ways to conserve power, or in the event there is a prolonged coal strike, it will undoubtedly be necessary to put into effect mandatory curtailment regulations.

December is a special month to me, as I know it is to you, because of the Christmas season. Even though we must cut back our use of electricity significantly, I'm sure it will do more good than harm if you go ahead and use your small indoor lights on your Christmas tree.

I can't end this column without a special personal note: I hope that Santa brings good gifts and good health to you all—and to TVA, trainloads of reasonably priced coal. I wish you a Happy New Year.

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"Preserve Our Power" Contest Is Announced

Most of us are aware by now, or should be, that an energy shortage is in our midst and that it is certain to get worse before it gets any better. Because the price of coal has increased at an almost unbelievably rapid rate, your electric bills have also risen more sharply than anyone would like.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, wholesale supplier to electric co-ops and municipal systems in Tennessee and portions of six other states, has asked that we all voluntarily cut our use of power by 20% or more so that the agency can make its dwindling supply of coal go as far as possible. (There is no shortage of coal underground but there is a shortage of coal available to steam generators and the coal miners' strike in effect at the time of this writing is decreasing that available supply to critical amounts.)

If we, as consumers, do not voluntarily cut back our use of electricity by at least 20% or more...then what? Then, we are told, mandatory practices will be put into effect that will assure that TVA can find its way through the coal crisis which has befallen the agency, largely because of defaulted contracts by coal suppliers to TVA, along with outlandish prices for available coal.

The best thing that we electric consumers can do is to cut back our usage by at least 20% or more.

And how? Well, most of you know that the heaviest users of electricity in the home are space heating, air conditioning, water heating, cooking and baking,

and clothes drying. And there are literally dozens of other uses of power on which savings can be made, most of them well known to most of you.

But how many of you have used, are using, or proposing to put into practice some "unique" or "different" method of saving electricity which other people might not know about?

With this in mind, the TENNESSEE MAGAZINE with this issue is beginning a POP contest—meaning Preserve Our Power.

Each month until further notice we will award three prizes of \$10 each—one to each Grand Division of the State—to the readers who send us what we judge to be the most "unique" or "different" ways of saving electricity. Entries must describe methods of savings on electricity in reasonable detail, although descriptions should be held, if possible, to 200 words or less. Winning letters will be printed in the TENNESSEE MAGAZINE as space permits.

Let's all get together and save on electricity in every way that we can. And those who have some "unique", "different" or otherwise out-of-the-ordinary practices, send them to us. Cutting back will not only save you money—it might also earn you a nice prize.

Send entries, along with your name, address including zip code, and name of your electric co-op to:

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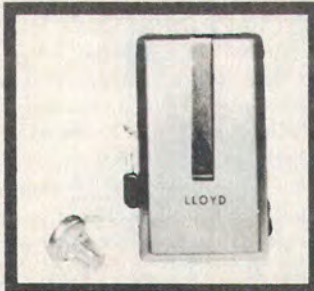
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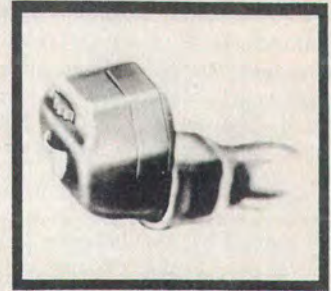
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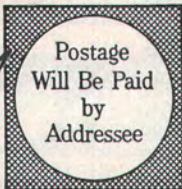
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