

# A DECADE of



*Ten years of electricity has brought freedom from drudgery, a better life for Clark Woody and family, early rural electric co-operators.*



Young Clifford Woody (left) ten years ago at the age of six with one of the first cooperative electric meters to be installed. (Right) Ten years later, now sixteen and a sophomore in high school, Clifford gets a lesson in reading the same meter from H. E. Antle, Manager of the Boone County REMC of Lebanon, Indiana. The junior Woody has grown up in an electrified world, hardly remembers the days before co-op power reached the Woody farm.

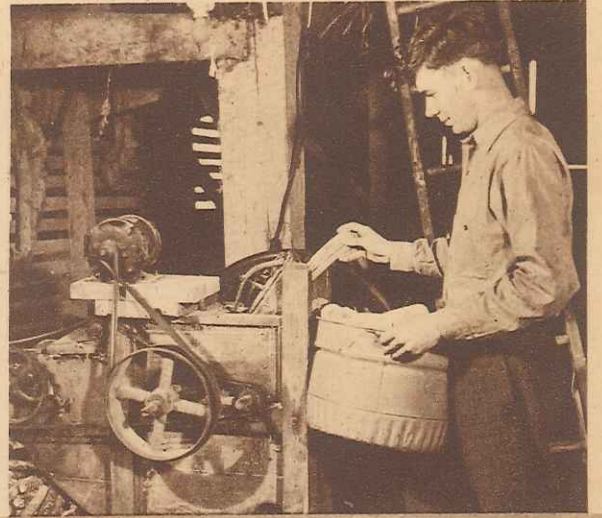
Mrs. Woody saves time and labor in cleaning house with her electric sweeper. She finds it a great improvement over the old-fashioned days of broom and carpet sweeper.



Power really works in this attractive electrified farmhouse—home of the Woody family located on Route 1, Throntown, Indiana.



Her four-burner electric stove and her refrigerator were the two items Mrs. Woody salvaged when her home burned five years ago.



One man to crank, another to feed was the old story of shelling corn when muscle power did the job. Now Dick Woody finds it an easy one-man chore.

# f Co-op Power

**M**ORE than ten years ago (to be exact—May 22, 1936), electric power flowed over 60 miles of cooperative-built electric lines, through the first Indiana cooperative electric meter to one of the first cooperative consumer-members in this country to be connected: the home was that of Clark Woody of Route 1, Thorntown, Indiana.

Clark Woody deserved the honor. He was one of the 15 original incorporators of the Boone County REMC of Lebanon, Indiana, secretary-treasurer of the organization ever since.

Only a few other cooperators had beaten Mr. Woody. The original 63 members of Monroe County Electric Power Association of Amory, Mississippi had received co-op service earlier—February 15, 1936. But since May 22, 1936, a total of 889 rural electric cooperatives has brought farm power to more than 1,320,000 new consumer members.

## What Mr. Woody Has Done With Farm Power

To see what changes electricity has made in the lives of an early consumer-member, Farm Power called on the Woody family who live on a rich, black-soil general farm some 17 miles northwest of Lebanon.

First stop was at the cooperative office in Lebanon where Manager H. E. Antle told the story of the growth of the cooperative which supplies the Woody farm. Since 1936 membership has increased from around 200 to over 2,800 members, mileage has grown to 683. Incidentally, 400-square-mile Boone County now sets a record in that it is 95 percent electrified.

Next stop was at the Woody farm, where Farm Power was welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Woody, and son Dick. Another son, Clifford, showed up later after his high school classes let out. Two other members of the Woody family are now away from home—a daughter, Charlotte, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and another son, Harold, in Greentown.

## Power Use Increased Four Fold

Not a bit backward about their use of cooperative electricity, the Woodys have a radio, refrigerator, electric stoker, vacuum cleaner, washing machine, water pumps, iron, toaster, fan, electric mixer, two clocks, three brooders, range, heater, heating pad, electric lights in house, barns, and chicken houses, and motors for a corn grinder and to operate tools in the farm shop. Their next purchase will be an electric-powered deep-freeze unit.

Graphic illustration of their increasing dependence on electric power is shown by their 1939 consumption of electricity, which averaged 173 KWH a month, compared with their average monthly consumption in 1945, which was 801 KWH.

The Woodys heartily endorse cooperative electricity. It has meant much to them in eliminating the drudgery of small farm tasks, increasing farm income, and building a more comfortable home life. Electric service is better now than it was ten years ago. Mrs. Woody summed it up neatly. "Cooperative electricity," she said, "is the most marvelous thing we have ever had on the farm."



*Ironing day is much easier now than it was eleven years ago before co-op power came to the Woody farm*



**Eliminating winter drudgery**—that's the job done by this automatic stoker powered by a ¼ HP electric motor. Once a day during the cold months Dick Woody loads the stoker with inexpensive pea-size coal, the motor does the rest keeping a clean, even fire burning in their central heating furnace.



**Mrs. Woody finds plenty to smile about.** Running water, hot or cold, and all she needs is one of the benefits that cooperative electricity brought to her home.



**Plenty of butter in this farm refrigerator,** butter churned in three minutes flat with Mrs. Woody's electric mixer.



**His chores done**—many of them with the help of electricity, Dad Woody finds time to keep abreast of the news.