

The Power of Learning



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

Near the end of this month, all across our service territory, students who have completed their high school educations will receive their diplomas and march into their futures.

On behalf of the board and staff of CECA, I'd like to congratulate these young people on their accomplishments. One of our founding guidelines-Cooperative Principle No. 5: Education, Training and Information—stresses the value of supporting learning.

Electric cooperatives demonstrate that support in several ways. Annually, co-ops across Texas and the country offer students the chance to win scholarships. Typically, the money for these opportunities comes from unclaimed capital credits refunds. A state law passed in 1997 allows the use of these funds for educational purposes.

We are happy to invest in our youths' higher education, whether a student goes to a college, university, trade or technical school. The chance to win scholarships for the coming academic year has passed, but if you know of a student who would like a chance at this opportunity next year, please encourage him or her to apply next time. While we always manage to award the scholarships, we want to be sure every student has an equal chance.

We also facilitate education for students by annually sponsoring the Governmentin-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. On this trip, which occurs this year June 13-21, we send outstanding students from our service territory to the U.S. capital to learn more about our nation and electric cooperatives. This year, we are proud to send Cheyenne Gordon of Zephyr and Lucas Broussard of Early on the all-expensepaid journey that not only sheds light on how the government works, but also instills leadership skills that young people can use the rest of their lives.

Other ways we strengthen educational opportunities for young people include the CECA Leadership Conference for high school juniors, Ignite the Flight Portfolio Training for junior high and high school students, arcing demonstrations for all ages of students and bucket truck demonstrations for preschoolers.

Texas co-ops in recent years have also helped establish programs that give an advantage to people interested in learning the lineman profession. Co-ops, which are facing a shortage of trained linemen, benefit from this program directly. And the programs give individuals the chance to learn the skills they need to make a good living.

At CECA, we truly believe in the benefits of education. By supporting learning opportunities for our members and their children, we help empower the communities in which we live.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

COOPERATIVES—Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities



CECA

P.O. Box 729 Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave. Comanche, TX 76442

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St. Fastland TX 76448

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338 Early, TX 76801

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastland closed from noon to 1:15 p.m. Early closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.



CONTACT US

(325) 356-2533 local or 1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB ceca.coop

The Next 15 Years 1956-70

Part V of Comanche Electric Cooperative History

BY SHIRLEY DUKES



The later years of the 1950s were a time of constant change in our country. This was when the baby boomer years began, when Elvis Presley was the King, and rock 'n' roll was the new craze. Martin Luther King Jr. led a nationwide resistance to racial segregation and discrimination and Dr. Seuss became popular. Gasoline was 24 cents per gallon, bacon was 60 cents per pound, and eggs were 28 cents per dozen. Toyota and Datsun cars went on sale in the U.S., and the Packard Company closed. And "Bonanza," the first weekly television series broadcast completely in color, premiered on NBC.

t Comanche County Electric Cooperative in 1956, the average pay was \$1.42 per hour, and the average insurance payment per employee was \$8 per month. Rates were set at 3.56 cents per kilowatt-hour, and sales were up almost 130,000 kWh from the previous year. The cooperative boasted 5,211 members and 2,798.28 miles of energized line.

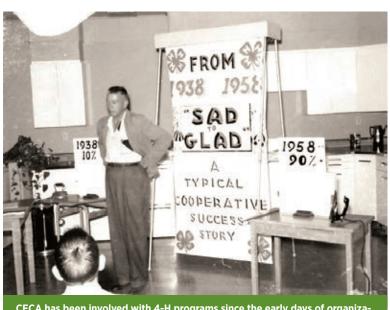
As modern appliances began to change, CCECA realized that change must start here. Home appliances and water sys-

tems became much-coveted possessions, but finances many times became a barrier to the purchase. It was decided that the cooperative would provide funding at 5 percent for 24 months, with 10 percent down on monthly payment plans and 20 percent down on annual payment plans. In addition, the cooperative would furnish a 50-amp breaker box for new electric range installations free to members during a proposed Willie Wiredhand range campaign in April and May of that year. CCECA

also offered to provide free electric ranges to community clubs at a cost of up to \$100 each, for as long as they existed as an active club.

It was around this same time period that farmers in the area began purchasing irrigation equipment in an effort to improve the yield of their farms. This, too, was a strain on the budgets of farms and families. Once again, CCECA came to the rescue by financing irrigation equipment on a case-by-case basis. In addition, loans were made to members for a ripsaw in the amount of \$4,400; several bulk milk tanks at varying costs; and a Herbagere machine at \$5,140. But by July 1957, the available funds for these projects had been exhausted, and with the Rural Electric Administration having ruled that many of the items being financed were now ineligible for the program, the board voted to discontinue financing.

The lack of funding for the loan program did not deter CCECA from adhering to Cooperative Principle No. 7, Concern for Community. The cooperative purchased Farm Electrification textbooks for use in teaching vocational agriculture



CECA has been involved with 4-H programs since the early days of organization. Here, Manager W.J. Parks addresses a 4-H group in the kitchen of the cooperative in 1958. classes in high schools within the service territory at a cost of \$300.

By mid-1957, business at the cooperative began to pick up at such a rate that CCECA once again went to the REA for funding. This time the amount applied for was \$865,715, to be used for constructing approximately 72 miles of electric distribution line to connect 548 potential consumers within 5,000 feet of existing lines at an estimated cost of \$328,800; for system improvements in the amount of \$253,611, including increased capacity in 250 sets of service; engineering fees in the amount of \$8,500; for reimbursement of general funds for construction already completed in the amount of \$266,804; for purchase of additional general plant equipment items in the amount of \$7,000; and legal fees in the amount of \$1,000.

But by 1959, things had turned around again, and the cooperative faced a decrease in income. Growth of the system, while necessary, had depleted the reserves of the loan funds from the REA. Members who had received cooperative loans in previous years were having problems making payments. Because revenue from sale of electricity was estimated to fall short of the cash expenditures of the cooperative by approximately \$32,000 over a period of two years and then continue for several years after that, members of the board determined that it was in the best interest of the cooperative to adopt a new rate schedule. The new rate schedule was complex, with seven different rates: 1) Farm and Home Service; 2)

Farm and Home Service for All-Electric Homes; 3) Farm and Home Service with Storage-Type Water Heater; 4) Service to Schools and Community Halls; 5) Cathodic Protection of Pipelines; 6) Village Service (City of Mullin); 7) Commercial and Industrial Lighting and Power Service; and 8) Large Power Service.

During this time period, the Annual Meeting of the Membership was moved from Lake Eanes to the Comanche Indian Stadium. In 1958 and 1959 a beauty pageant was added to the agenda. Winners were: 1958, Lavonne Hall; 1959, Peggy Jean Ellis.

At the 1959 annual meeting, H.M. O'Brien addressed the membership, explaining that in any territory being served by a rural electric cooperative that becomes annexed to an incorporated town could receive no further connection by the cooperative. Several delegations of CCECA members had appeared before the Texas Legislature supporting corrective legislation. As no action had been taken by the Legislature at that time, a Legislative Committee was appointed to work with all members of the Legislature, other legislative committees and the members of the cooperative in an effort to obtain passage of this needed legislation. Appointed to the committee were: Irvin Dunn, Earl Floyd, Joe Weedon, Lee Starr, Monselle



At the 1959 Annual Meeting of the Membership held at the Comanche Indian Stadium, a lineman crew demonstrates to the members how a pole-top rescue is performed.

O'Brien, Paul Roberts and Heston McBride. A resolution was passed by the cooperative, and a copy was sent to Texas Electric Cooperatives. In September 1961, TEC picked up on the cause and requested a written statement from each member cooperative seeking their opinions on continued efforts to secure "equal rights" legislation. A decision appears to have been made regarding this bill in 1963. However, the details of that decision are unclear today.

Between 1959 and 1961, the cooperative signed three new contracts. One was with the U.S. Air Force to provide power on Long Mountain; one was with the U.S. Army Engineer Division to provide service to the Proctor Reservoir; and the other was with Brazos Electric Power Cooperative to furnish a metering point in the vicinity of Byrd's Store on the north side of Lake Brownwood. This metering point would be near the load center for all of Lake Brownwood, Crosscut, Thrifty and May areas.

Also in 1961, CCECA sent a lineman crew to Victoria Electric Cooperative to aid in the restoration of service after heavy damage caused by Hurricane Carla.

In 1962, the cooperative's board of directors decided that it was important that younger generations knew and understood the rural electric program-its history, growth and develop-





FROM TOP: Members of the cooperative enjoy sodas, compliments of Comanche County Electric Cooperative, at the 1961 annual meeting. Entertainment at the 1961 annual meeting was provided by Mac Pyburn and his band.

ment. Much cooperative history had been handed down by word of mouth and was contained only in the memory of the founders. Therefore, they resolved to award two scholarships of \$250 each to be awarded for the best narrative histories of the cooperative. Today that program has grown to four \$1,000 Scholarships for Excellence and two \$1,000 Operation Round Up Scholarships.

In 1964, the board approved sending one girl and one boy on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., at a cost of \$225 per student. CECA still sends two area students on this all-expense-paid trip.

In 1965, Jim Eagan of TEC approached the board about the possibility of assisting with Texas partner Peru to help the country improve its standard of living and level of education, and in short, find ways to help them help themselves. He

reported that a project was underway for the furnishing of small generators for use in remote villages where people had never had electricity. He further stated that this type of generator could be provided by TEC at a cost of approximately \$350 plus \$100 freight cost. Based on this information, the board voted to donate the sum of \$450 to be used to purchase a generator. Today, CECA still assists developing countries in obtaining safe, reliable and affordable electricity through NRECA International.

The 1963 annual meeting marked the 25th anniversary of Comanche County Electric Cooperative. To celebrate this momentous occasion, R.E. Seay, the first president of the cooperative's board of directors, was invited to give a short speech on how far the cooperative had come since its inception. His speech was followed by the burning of the cooperative's first note, in the amount of \$173,000.

As 1965 came to a close, CCECA began facing the same dilemma with the Eastland office building as it had with the Comanche building. The lease would soon be expiring and the need for more space was evident. A desirable lot was located on the western edge of Eastland and could be purchased for \$2,750. In October 1965, a binder of \$250 was paid to hold the lot pending REA approval of the purchase. By September 1966, the cooperative had hired an architect, Mr. Brown, and plans had been drawn up and presented to REA for approval. The building was completed and occupied sometime around the end of 1966 or early 1967.

In 1966, the Sidran Corporation began looking for a place to call home to a new garment manufacturing plant. Even though the plant itself would not be served by the cooperative, the board of directors saw the benefit to the

community to have the plant settle in our county. In an effort to ensure that the plant development committee chose Comanche as the town of choice, CCECA made a substantial donation to the Comanche Industrial Foundation to aid in the location process.

In 1970, ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas) was formed to comply with North American Reliability Council requirements. It was staffed by two retired utility employees. Its purpose was to coordinate information as to the overall reliability of electric service in Texas. This information was, and still is, a necessary component to compliance with the FCC. CCECA joined the organization and named Manager W.J. Parks the official delegate to the council.

At the end of 1970, CCECA boasted 39 employees at an average salary of approximately \$540 per month.

1-800-915-2533 | (325) 356-2533 | CECA.COOP







Vehicles Up for Bids

CECA has three "retired" vehicles that will be auctioned to members through a closed-bid process. These vehicles have a few battle scars, some chipped paint, and are well broken-in, as you would expect from work vehicles. You may come by the office at 201 W. Wrights Ave., in Comanche for an in-person view.

Sealed bids can be mailed to: CECA, Attn: Sealed Vehicle Bid, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442, or dropped off in person at 201 W. Wrights Ave., in Comanche. In all correspondence, please include the vehicle number you are bidding on and a number where you can reached. Questions can be directed to Monty Cunningham at 1-800-915-2533 or (325) 356-2533. Deadline for bids is noon May 20. Bid winners will be notified on May 21.

CECA reserves the right to reject any or all bids at the discretion of the board.

* Mileage current as of March 14, 2013, but subject to change, as these are working vehicles.

'WE PROMISE'

CECA HAS A PURPOSE: To power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives. We do this by providing you with quality electric service and exceptional commitment to our members through the service we provide. In an effort to prove to you our dedication to this purpose, our employees make a promise to you to always be there for you.



Front row: Adam, Aaron and Kendall; back row: George, Jake and Michael

"We are local people, proudly serving you with integrity and passion."

CECA'S DEDICATED LINE CREWS take great pride in providing you with dependable, reliable service. Crews are available 24/7 for power quality issues.



Open arms, familiar faces ... together we can make a difference. Just like we work to make a difference with the health of your family, Comanche Electric Cooperative makes a difference in the lives of their members and their families.

COMANCHE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER is a

25-bed, rural-Texas, acute-care hospital. Opened in July 2005, it is a consolidation of the former Comanche Community and De Leon hospitals. Located midway between the cities of Comanche and De Leon, CCMC provides advanced diagnostic services, emergency care, physician services in its Doctors Medical Center, in addition to hospital and surgical services all close to home.

Do You Have an Unclaimed Check?

Numerous checks that were mailed to CECA members in payment of capital credits have been returned by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable. The last known addresses of these members were used for the mailing.

CECA would very much like to deliver these checks to their rightful owners. If you know the correct address or phone number of anyone listed on these pages, please have them call Nancy Isham at 1-800-915-2533 or email nisham@ceca.coop.

Ed Fortner Inc. Fortune, Louis Fortune, Martha Forum Energy Foster, Bill Foster, WP Foster, Randy Foster, TJ Fox, HE Fox, Ivy Norman Fox Electric Co. Inc. Fox, JO Fox, WO Frady, Floyd Fraley, Mike Franklin, Jim Franklin, Benjamin C Franklin, Earl Franklin, Harvey Franks, Hayes Frasier, Otie Frasier, CR Frasier, Ottie Frazier, AL Freedman, Malcolm Freeman, Carl Freeman, Earl French, Jack E Fritts, OL Fritts, LB Fronk, Gerald Fronterhouse, Don Frost, Marshall M Fry, Evelyn Fulcher, Iva Fuller, Charles Fuller, Charles Furry Operating Acct **GEM And** Gable, WS Gabriel, Dave Gage, Larry Gage, Roy Gaines, Victor Gaines, Joe R Galloway, Jerry Gamble, John Gamble, Linda Gamblin, Charlie Gandy, John T, Estate Gaona, Joe Gardner, JE Gardner, Joel Garrett, Joe C Gartman, AM Garvin, Martin Dale Garza, Jesse Gas Reclamation Inc. Gatewood, Stephen Gattis, WD Gee, EL

Genco Oil & Gas Gentry, Sam Gentry, Charles R Gentry, Leroy Geophysical Development Inc. Gerth, Jimmy Geye, MC Geye, Rick L Gibbs Cox & Gibbs Gibson, BL Gibson Land & Cattle Gibson, EL Giddens, Jay L Gideon, James R Gifford, Henry Gifford, Lewis J Jr. Gilbert, OR Gilbreath, Boyd Gilder, Herman E Gilley, Hoyt M Gillham, Will A Gilliam, James E Ginco 23713 Ginco 34400 Glad Tidings Assembly Glahn-Reese Resources Glass, AH Glass, John P Glasscock, Melvin Glen's Backhoe Service Glosson, Monty Glover, Ed Jr. Glover Development Corp. Gober, Eula Belle Gober, Ken Gober, David L Gober, Larry Gober, Tommy G Goble, James Sr. Godwin, Dewey Goforth, Curtis Goforth, CC Goins, Mark Golden, Kenneth Golden Leaf Dairy Goldston, Oliver Golleher, James Goode, Zandy Gordon, James P Gordon, RL Gordon, Tom Gorman, Milling

Graham, RH Mrs. Graham & Morrell Granberry, TC Grandstaff, W Graves, Clara Gray, EW Gray, HL Gray, Jimmy W Gray, Bill M Gray, Donald W Gray, Jimmy W Gray, Mrs. Willie L Great West Energy Inc. Green, Alfred Green, Clifford Green, Doug Green, Lewis M Jr. Green, Bernice Green, Billy C Green, Cecil W Green, JB Green, James Green, Reo R Green, Tyline Greene, Jewel Greene, Lowell Greenwood Development Greer, James F Greer, AE Greer, EW Greer, John H Gregg, Eudis Gregory, Marie Gregory, JW Greiner, GB Greiner, Virginia Gressett, CC Greyhound Leasing Grider, Michael Albert Grider, Richard Griffin, Bernard Griffin, Doris R Griffin, JD Sr. Griffin, Patricia Griffin, Tom Griffith, Chester E Grissom, David Grothe Brothers Groves, Jerry Don Guerra, DP Guerra, Romeo M Guest, John Guevara, Alex Guill, Ray Guinn, Jack Gummelt, Sammy Gunsight Energy Inc. **Gunsight Cemetery**

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Assoc

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Kent, Tommy

Kerr, David

Johnson, Olene

Lacasa Community

Center

Lacy, MD

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M & P Oil

Mac's Liquor Store

MOR

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McGough, BW

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McKinzie, Theron

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McNutt. Ronnie

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McCarty, Norris

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McCanlies, John H

McCann, Corporation

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McWilliams, Currie

McMillin, ML

McNutt, RR

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McGlothlin, Myrle Jr.

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