

Resolve To Save Energy in 2013



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

The start of the new year always seems to bring about the inevitable list of resolutions to improve one's life: Lose weight, stop smoking, exercise more ... conserve electricity.

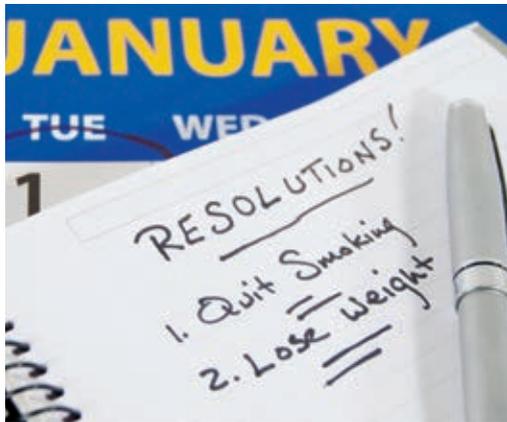
Well, that last one might not have actually appeared on your resolutions list, but it can be just as important as any personal health goals, both to your financial bottom line and the overall health of our cooperative and the state's electricity system.

Right now, there are adequate supplies of electricity to serve Texas' needs, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the grid operator for 85 percent of the state. But a few years down the road, ERCOT predicts, there may be a shortfall of power given the state's growing demand.

But if we all do our part and make energy conservation a part of our daily habits, we may be able to change that forecast.

As one saying goes, it takes 21 days to create a new habit. During that time, it may take a conscious effort to change your behavior—for instance, remembering to switch off lights as you leave a room. But, you may find, after a few repetitions of a new behavior, you won't even have to think about it. You'll turn off the lights automatically.

Here are some other energy-saving resolutions that you might consider for 2013:



After you've jotted down the traditional New Year's resolutions, why not add 'Save energy?' Then you can add 'Save money' because saving energy will help lower your utility bills.

The light is built into the fixture—for all kinds of decorative and task lighting. They sip even less energy than CFLs, and with no bulbs to burn out, the light could work as long as the fixture does. Those bulbs still aren't as cheap as other options, but prices are dropping. In the long run, they will pay for themselves.

► Install a programmable thermostat. Use it to lower the heat by a few degrees once the family leaves the house every day and to raise it back up just before everybody gets home. You won't feel any less comfortable at home, but you'll notice a dip in your energy bill.

If everyone in CECA's membership embraced just one or two of these ideas, or took other energy-efficiency measures, the effect would be magnified by our 9,000 members. And if everyone in Texas embraced even the simplest of these ideas, turning off unused lights, it could add up to a significant saving, and perhaps help keep the lights on for all of us.

► Unplug computers, TV sets and phone chargers, plus the coffee maker and other kitchen countertop appliances, when you're through using them. These items draw electricity as long as they are plugged in, even if they are turned off. Collectively, their energy use adds up.

► If any of the overhead fixtures, table lamps or outdoor lights around your house still have those old, inefficient incandescent lightbulbs, change them to CFLs, which use less electricity and can reduce your power bill.

► Explore LED, or light-emitting diode, lighting fixtures.

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.
Eastland, 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

CALL US

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ceca.coop



And Then There Was Light!

The Creation and Foundation of YOUR Electric Cooperative

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

Electricity in the United States has a long and exciting history. Of course, the most memorable story is when Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning was electrical when he flew a kite into a thunderstorm with a metal key tied to the string.

Over the next 100 years or so, a number of scientists experimented with electricity, looking for a way to use this natural force to benefit people. The search intensified in 1879 when Thomas Edison was finally able to produce an electric light-

bulb in his laboratory.

By the early 1930s, most people in towns and cities either had electricity, or had it available. Not so for rural America. The big for-profit electric companies felt they could not justify

the expense of running electric lines to rural areas, leaving our farms and ranches in the dark.

But salvation came for those areas in the form of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who believed that all Americans should be treated equally, and that rural areas should have the same advantages that electricity brought to the cities. In 1935 the Rural Electric Administration was created to bring electricity to rural areas. Just three years later, a group of Comanche County citizens banded together to form what is now Comanche Electric Cooperative Association.

In 1938 a group of Comanche County citizens became frustrated in their efforts to procure electric service to the rural areas through the for-profit utility companies. That frustration led to the formation of a group called Comanche County Rural Electrification. The group's first meeting was held at the Comanche County Agent's office at 8 p.m., August 15, 1938.

During that first meeting, a motion was made and seconded to form an organization with a permanent board and elect officers to transact business. Officers elected were: President H.J. Huddleston of De Leon; Vice President W.A. Pettit of Gustine and Secretary-Treasurer J.B. Cooper of Sidney. A.C. Thomas was appointed to manage the membership campaign at a salary of \$5 per day, which would become due if and when the project should be assured of success. Fred G. Harmon of DeLeon was retained as attorney for the newly formed cooperative.

Ten days later, on August 25, the first meeting of the incorporators and directors of Comanche County Electric Cooperative Association was held at the courthouse in Comanche. During those 10 days, a lot had been done. The articles of incorporation had been filed in the office of the Secretary of State, and a certificate of incorporation had been issued to the incorporators by the Secretary of State. A certified copy of the articles of incorporation had been filed on record in the office of the Registrar of Deeds of Comanche County, Texas.

It would be interesting to know how long that first meeting lasted, as there was a lot of business conducted. The first action of business was to elect officers for the cooperative. They were: President R.E. Seay, Vice President H.L. Beaty, Secretary-Treasurer J.B. Cooper, W.A. Smith, W.T. Carruth, H.J. Huddleston and W.A. Pettit.

On this same night, a set of bylaws was presented and adopted, the seal of the cooperative was approved, and the State National Bank of Comanche was selected as the bank of choice for the cooperative. And in an historic moment, the first seven membership applications were approved for membership. They were from R.E. Seay, H.L. Beaty, J.B. Cooper, W.A. Smith, W.T. Carruth, H.J. Huddleston and W.A. Pettit.

Thus begun the organization of the cooperative that now belongs to you, the members of Comanche Electric Cooperative Association.

Join us on these pages in the next few months as we detail the history of the cooperative. This was history in the making, and I, for one, am proud to be a part of the ensuing cooperative as put in place by these men, the founding fathers of Comanche Electric Cooperative Association.



» ANNIVERSARY «

Making Members Matter for 75 Years

This year marks the 75th year of existence for Comanche Electric Cooperative, and we want to celebrate that event with YOU, the members who have made it all possible. CECA has survived for 75 years because we offer the highest-quality service at the most practical price.

Our promise to you is to continue to offer exceptional service at a practical price, and to do so with commitment and integrity.

Please join us as we celebrate during the next few months.

And remember, Comanche Electric Cooperative is YOUR cooperative, and YOU matter!

Original Bylaws of Comanche County Electric Cooperative Association

To become a member, one must pay a membership fee AND be approved individually by the Board of Directors. (Husbands and wives are joint members.)

MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$5.00 PER CONNECTION

Board may expel a member for failure to comply, with not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Annual Meeting to be held on the 2nd Tuesday in January, beginning in 1939.

QUORUM: Quorum for less than 1,000 members shall be 15% in person or by proxy, with at least 5% in person. For over 1,000 members, at least 150 must be present in person

DIRECTORS: Cooperative to be managed by a board of seven directors. Beginning in 1939, directors are to be elected by ballot. Board members must be residents served by the cooperative. Nominations to the board will be made by a nominating committee, which will nominate not less than five persons, and not more than 11 persons. Vacancies occurring in the board shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining directors and shall serve until the next annual meeting of the members. Directors will not be compensated.



A Marquee Experience in Eastland

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

ABOVE: The present Majestic Theater is an impressive site, with its retro look and neon lighting. Manager Rhyne Hobbs said it is a constant battle to keep all the lights working, as you can see in this photo. ‘But,’ says Rhyne, ‘we are lucky to have Acme Sign out of Abilene. Because we are nonprofit, they stop by when they have anything in this area and don’t charge us any mileage. That has been such a blessing for us.’

There are places you can go where you feel transported back in time just by being there. North Lamar Street in Eastland is one of those places. The ambience of the area starts with cobble streets that take you back to a time when life was slower and the simple things were appreciated. But that’s only the beginning. Sitting smack-dab in the middle of that first block of North Lamar is a community icon that appears not to have changed, at least in the past 50 years or so: The Majestic Theater.

I admit to being a bit of a romantic, and as I entered through those swinging doors I almost felt the spirit of all those years of happy memories pressing in on me. Maybe part of that was because it brought back memories of the old Majestic Theater in Comanche, where I spent so many of my Saturday evenings during my teens. Whatever the reason, the dimly lit foyer seemed to have a character of its own that just sort of seeped out of the corners into my very soul.

Inside the foyer was another set of swinging doors that I knew would lead into the theater, and I could imagine all those years of families and friends passing excitedly through them in their search for the perfect seat, popcorn and drinks in hand, children and friends in tow—and I could almost hear the expectant hush as that first reel started rolling.

Theater Manager Rhyne Hobbs met me in the foyer and enlightened me on much of the theater’s history while leading me on a tour of the building. He started at the Majestic as a volunteer, taking tickets when he was only 10, and more than half of his life has been tied to the theater. When he was 15, the manager asked him whether he would like a job.

“You mean making money?” Hobbs replied. “Of course I do!”

His current position as manager began in 2010. Having spent so much of his life in the theater, Hobbs has a passion for the old establishment, and it is evident as he tells the history of the place, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary with the Eastland Fine Arts Association. The building will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2020.

The original theater, named the Con-



FROM LEFT: The Majestic Theater is a nonprofit organization run by volunteers. Joyce Hewitt runs the ticket booth, David Norris works the door and ushers, Kylan Bowles, Judy Smith and Hazel Collins work the old-fashioned concession stand. Three-year-old Pepper hugs her big tub of popcorn as she stands in front of the 1953-model popcorn machine prior to the movie. Thanks to Dick Meade, Kirk Davis and Mike Zoelick, the almost 60-year-old machine still makes the best popcorn you will probably ever eat.

nellee Theater, was built in 1920 by C.U. Connellee, one of the founding fathers of the community. Built on the former site of the Connellee family home, Connellee spared no expense when designing the 1,000-seat theater, which included a balcony, under-stage dressing rooms, and a stage sturdy enough for elephants and horses that occasionally performed there. Built for complete stage productions, it included a large orchestra pit with a private conductor's entrance.

With its stage productions, including Gene Autry and his horse, Champion, beauty contests, operas, and talking movies, the theater was a bustle of excite-

ment those first years. But as the Eastland oil boom began to wane, so did the town's population, resulting in the temporary demise of the theater in the 1930s.

By 1946 things were looking up again. The Interstate Theatre chain negotiated a 30-year lease on the Connellee and began remodeling the structure, renaming it The Majestic Theater. This time, the theater thrived for almost 40 years before it closed once again in 1986 due to lack of business. Shortly after closing, word got around that the owner was planning to sell the projection equipment and seating, which led to the purchase of the theater by the City of

Eastland and Connellee heirs, and the formation of the EFAA, which oversees the theater.

The building now seats approximately 800–500 people downstairs and 300 upstairs. Movie nights are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The old pecan wood stage, which possibly dates back to the theater's origin, is still available for concerts and dance recitals. The African Children's Choir performed on that stage in 2011, and the Fort Worth Opera graced the stage in November. Hobbs said the Russian Ballet had contacted him earlier in the year, requesting the opportunity to perform on the Majestic stage before their performance in Fort Worth. Unfortunately, the ballet had certain requirements, and the stage proved to be too small for the performance.

I decided I needed to get the “real feel” of what the theater was like, so I loaded up Pepper, my 3-year-old granddaughter, and we headed out on a big adventure to see “Wreck-It Ralph.”



The film platter machine can accommodate two reels at a time. The six or more reels of each movie are spliced together in the projection room and loaded onto the platters. Once loaded, they have to be previewed in their entirety to be certain that all reels are in the right order and there are no glitches. A new digital format will alleviate the need to load the reels, but movies will still have to be previewed before airing to make certain that they downloaded correctly.



ABOVE: The original Connellee building, built in 1920, was an impressive site in its time, but it cannot compare to the glamour and glitz of the facility after later upgrades. During the early days of theater, sometime during the 1920s, Shirley Temple and Bing Crosby both graced the stage of the Majestic. Their show posters still hang on the walls, along with other classic movie posters. **LEFT:** Beneath the pecan wood stage are six dressing rooms used by the actors and actresses of days past. One has been converted for other uses, but the other five—although rarely used—are still available for performers.

It was to be her first big-screen movie event, and she was extremely excited. The excitement lasted through the entire movie, which I did not expect from a 3-year-old. One of her favorite parts was the clapping. You don't see that much in the big movie theaters anymore, but in this retro setting, the audience seemed to have a different attitude toward entertainment; it was evident in how they reacted to the beginning and end of the movie, as well as all those fun and exciting parts in between.

As we watched the action being played out on the screen, an equally exciting transformation was taking place up in the projection room. Technicians were in the process of changing out the existing 35 mm movie equipment to a

more modern, digital format. No longer will they have to spend hours loading six or more reels of film onto a platter and starting it from the projection booth. Now it is all digital and can even be started from a smartphone.

One thing to add to Pepper's book of experiences is that the first movie she ever saw in a big theater was a 35 mm movie in The Majestic Theater in Eastland. And that 35 mm movie was the last such film to be shown in that theater.

I think Pepper summed it up best when the movie was over and she looked and me and said "That was cool, Mom!"

The End

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Comanche Electric Cooperative is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is the Human Resources Administrator. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible



Conservation MATTERS

Work Together This Winter

Decrease demand to help avoid blackouts

Do you remember February 2011, when much of Texas experienced rolling blackouts?

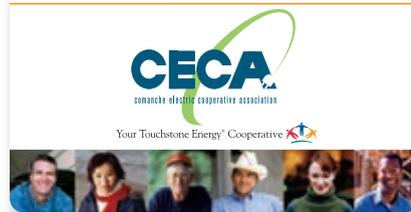
The state was suffering through a great freeze, and this caused great demand for electricity, as most areas were below freezing for several days. The demand—combined with more than 50 generating units tripping offline due to sagging, ice-laden lines and inadequate weatherization—caused the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to institute rolling blackouts, or load shedding, because the state simply didn't have enough juice. ERCOT said that about 7,000 megawatts had gone offline—enough capacity to power about 1.4 million homes.

While ERCOT's measures prevented a total blackout in record-freezing temperatures, Texans sure don't want to experience rolling outages again. So what can we do about it?

By working together this winter, we can help decrease demand while still maintaining comfort. Here are some easy steps we can take at home to conserve energy:

- ▶ Install a programmable thermostat and set it to lower the temperature at night and whenever the house is unoccupied. Lowering your thermostat by 10 degrees at night can reduce your heating bill by 10 to 20 percent.
- ▶ Make sure your thermostat is programmed correctly and not located in an unheated space, a poorly sealed or seldom-used room, or in direct sunlight, or near a heat source. The thermostat must be able to sense the average temperature in your home. If it is not in the right place, contact a heating and air-conditioning professional about having it moved.
- ▶ Lower your thermostat and wear socks and a sweater indoors. Lowering by just 1 degree can reduce energy use by 3 percent.
- ▶ Get a humidifier to add moisture to the air. Air tends to be dryer in the winter, and because moister air feels warmer, a humidifier can make you feel more comfortable even though your thermostat is set lower.
- ▶ Inspect your air filters monthly. Dirty air filters cause your heater to work harder, using more energy.
- ▶ Check your outlets and switch plates. Do you feel a cold draft? If yes, install foam insulation gaskets behind them, and stop that draft where it starts.
- ▶ Check all exterior doors for air leaks and weatherstrip and caulk as needed. A gap of 1/8 of an inch around a door is equivalent to a 6-square-inch hole in the side of your house.
- ▶ Never use a traditional fireplace for supplemental heating. A fireplace sucks heated air out of your home to fuel the fire and exhausts it through the chimney, and then your furnace has to turn on to replace that warm air.
- ▶ Make sure your water heater is set no higher than 125 degrees and install a water heater blanket.

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Featured Businesses

Special Spiritual Designs

Betty Beggs, manager and owner of Special Spiritual Designs, is an experienced designer of prints, greeting cards, posters, advertising, church envelopes and magazine covers. She also does inside spots on larger ads. Tear-sheets and copies of originals are supplied upon request. Art has been Beggs' passion for the past 11 years. All her art is original, including some digital photos—all priced to sell. Beggs is a 2000 graduate of Howard Payne University.

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