

Co-ops Helped Make America Grow



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

As the United States celebrates its 237th birthday on July 4, Comanche Electric Cooperative is observing its 75th anniversary. That's just a fraction of the age of our nation, but over time, I think this and the nation's more than 900 fellow electric co-ops have greatly enhanced the quality of life of Americans of all stripes.

Electric co-ops powered the American dream for the farmers and townfolk who received the tool of electricity that helped them achieve the kind of prosperity that their urban countrymen had enjoyed for years.

And the origins of our co-op and the hundreds of others like it across the nation have their roots in American democracy. The Rural Electrification Administration was created in 1935 by executive order of President Franklin Roosevelt, and it quickly became a permanent institution with a stamp of approval from Congress.

The REA harnessed the power of the federal government to help rural folks organize cooperatives to provide electricity to their neighbors in places where no for-profit company would go.



Electric cooperatives have been proudly powering this great nation for more than 70 years.

The loans that made it possible to start these democratically governed nonprofits would eventually be paid back, and the program was so successful that within a generation, virtually all rural areas in the country had access to reliable electricity.

Electricity changed life not only in rural areas but also in the country as a whole. The availability of electricity opened up a whole new market, because people in rural areas could finally take advantage of its labor-saving power.

It increased productivity on farms by replacing back-breaking labor with more efficient machines.

The demand for electric appliances created wealth with increased manufacturing and sales. The number of tradespeople in professions such as electrician and plumber rose. Cooperatives themselves provided good jobs in the office and in the field. Comanche Electric is still a major employer in our region.

Electric co-ops haven't forgotten that our roots are planted in democracy. Our very structure depends on governing boards of members elected to make decisions for everyone's benefit. And we work with our statewide and national organizations to represent the interests of rural Americans in the Texas Legislature and the U.S. capital.

And this Independence Day, as we celebrate the founders of this great nation, we also would like to salute those who founded this and other rural electric cooperatives. They helped transform the U.S. into the prosperous power that it is today.

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

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

FIND US ON THE WEB

ceca.coop

The Last 25 Years

Part VII of Comanche Electric Cooperative History

BY SHIRLEY DUKES



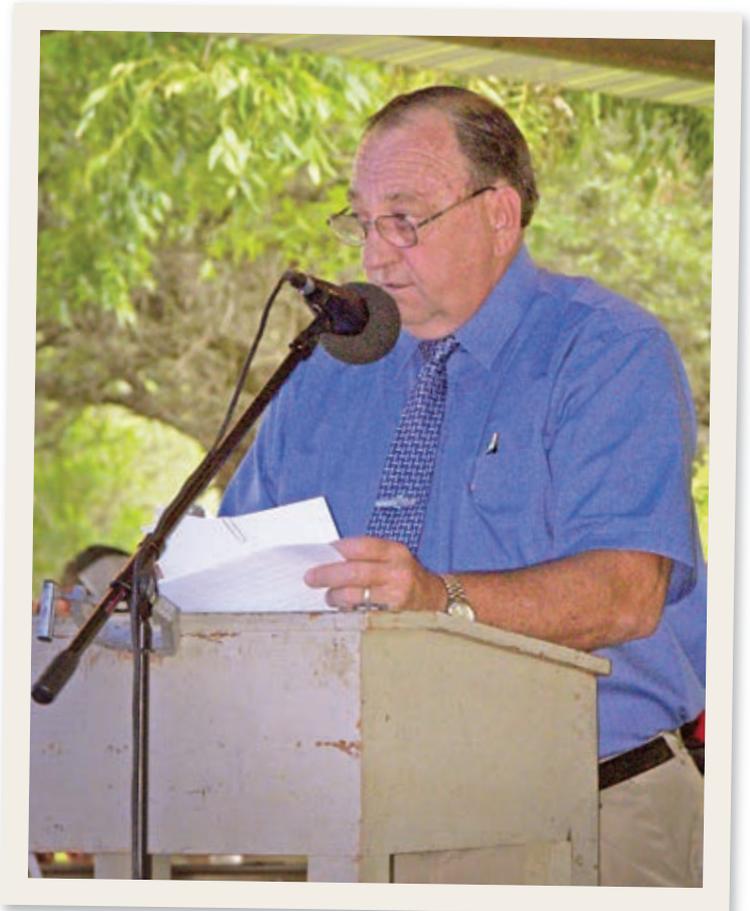
*'No one can go back in time to change what has happened.
So work on your present to make yourself a wonderful future.'*

— ANONYMOUS

The above quote appears to be quite appropriate as we begin to look at this past 25 years in the history of the cooperative. Researching the first 50 years has been fun, exciting, eye-opening and informative. Interesting as it has been, it is important that we learn this history, yet focus on the future, which is exactly what CECA is prepared to do.

As we begin this final chapter, in 1988, CECA employed 51 individuals. They were: Maye Applewhite, Paul Ausburne, Jody Barr, Billy Belyeu, Dorothy Belyeu, Dawn Boyd, Bryan Butler, George Campbell, Brad Collins, William Crim, Greg Daniel, Randy Denning, Boyce Donaway, Johnnie Dye, Freda Ellis, Bobby Emfinger, Doug Erwin, Bobby Evans, Bobby Ferrell, Christina Flannery, Frankie Geye, Peggy Golden, Charles Green, Larry Hatley, Billy Henry, Sid High, Billy Holmsley, Dennis Ingram, Nancy Isham, S.J. Isham Jr., Larry Jacobs, Tinker James, Wes Mackey, Larry Morgan, Bonita Otwell, William G. Parker, Jack Petree, Bobby Reed, Joe Rhett, Richard Riggs, Virginia Robertson, Ronnie Robinson, Labin Scott, James Seago, Robert Sherman, Eddie Strube, Sue Vines, Dwight Woolsey, William Works and Phyllis Wright. Board members that year were: Jerry Solomon, president; Royce Lesley, vice president; David Steele, secretary-treasurer; Herman Pettiet; Jerry Damron; Roger Broyles; and Troy Pallette. Number of members was up by 237, yet kilowatt-hour sales were down by 71,018.

The Government-in-Action Youth Tour Contest, an opportunity for two lucky students to win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., continued, with winners for the past 25 years being: Andi Lane, Mary Katherine Ellis, Julie Smith, Traci Hopper, Shanna Partain, Jennifer Ellis, Grant Hicks, Kerri Ellis, Heather Lingle, Jennifer Blackstock, Amanda Thomas, David Chapman, Zack Erwin, Haley Isham,



General Manager Ronnie Robinson addresses the membership at the 2007 annual meeting.

Kori Clark, Will Grimshaw, Kyle Luker, Amy Sandaval, Christin Williams, Rikki Hoy, Clay Erwin, Amy Agnew, Kory Collins, Sarah Evans, Kinsey Murphree, Stacy Beaty, Monica Iller, Jamie Sanders, Sunnie Robbins, Boe Surbeck, Lance Pyburn, Ashley Hornback, Jennifer Iller, Jamie Ross, Veronica



In 1986, the Comanche Electric Cooperative directors included, front row: David Steele, Herman Pettiet and Jerry Damron; and, back row: Troy Palette, Royce Lesley, Roger Broyles and Jerry Solomon.

Hogue, Monique Barrios, Lupe Esquivel, Lauren Svoboda, Trevor Burtleson, Kyler Caraway, Flor Martinez, Sarah Taylor, Meagan Johnson, Lucchese Gordon, Jennifer Garcia, and our most recent winners, Cheyenne Gordon of Zephyr and Luke Broussard of Early.

In 1997, the State of Texas began discussions on the possibility of allowing escheated capital credit money to be used to fund rural scholarships. After much deliberation, in 1999 the idea became law, and Comanche County Electric Cooperative made plans to distribute its first scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Currently, the cooperative awards six \$1,000 scholarships annually. Four of those are Scholarships for Excellence, and two are Operation Round Up Scholarships. Winners of CECA Scholarships through the years have been: Carolyn Cheyenne Daniel, Lauren K. Huff, Alecia Johnson, Staci Beaty, Jack Whiteside, Kami Diaz, Allison Treadway, Kristin Williams, Lori Samantha Fambro, Shelby Crume, Amy Pfingsten, James Scott Murphree, Jamie Michelle Jessop, Cade Richmond, Julie Lyneene Crim, Keith Treadaway, Marcie Strube, Courtney Patterson, Noemi Martinez, Deidre Daniel, Jeremy Phillips, Tiffany McCaghren, Emily Murphree, Christina Salmon, Riley Scroggins, Allison Knight, Emily Cullers, Lucchese Gordon, Cally Karl, Adrian Muñoz, Delores Garcia, Rachel Clawson, Libby Lowrance and Aubrey Lawrence.

The safety of members and employees continued to be of major importance, and in July 1992 the cooperative was awarded the President’s Citation from the National Safety Council. This award was for working 198,063 hours from March 1990 through December 1991 with no lost-time accidents.

During these past 25 years, the cooperative had two = manager changes. In 1993, William G. “Bill” Parker retired after more than 40 years of service, 18 of those as general manager. The annual meeting that year was dedicated to Parker. He was succeeded by then-Assistant Manager Ronnie Robinson, who at that time had been with the cooperative for 16 years. Robinson retired in 2009 after 16 years as general manager and was followed by current General Manager Alan Lesley.

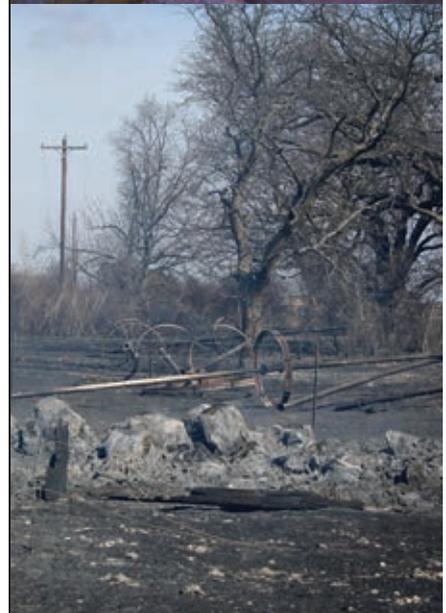
With the cooperative’s largest growth coming in the western portion of its service territory, an office in Brown County soon came to be a topic of discussion at the monthly board meetings. After several months of research and investigation into available property, the cooperative purchased property north of Early for the new Western Division office. On May 1, 1998, the new facility had its official grand opening, and all members were invited to attend.

When Comanche County Electric Cooperative was first founded, it was for the cit-

Fires

December 27, 2005, marked an era that will not soon be forgotten in this part of Central Texas, when a raging wildfire destroyed a large portion of Cross Plains and the surrounding countryside. More than 100 homes, as well as the First United Methodist Church and 7,665 acres of land, were lost to the flames.

Less than a week later, another blaze swept a path through Carbon, Gorman and Kokomo. At least 65 homes were destroyed in that fire, along with a number of other uninhabited structures. The Kokomo Baptist Church was destroyed by fire for the second time, the first being almost 37 years to the day in 1969. CECA lost approximately 100 poles and more than 8 miles of wire.



Floods

On April 25, 1990, heavy rainfall produced major flooding in North Texas. As much as 16 inches of rain fell during a 24-hour period. Brownwood Airport measured 16.05 inches, the highest total in the area since 1954, causing millions of dollars in damages. About 1,300 people were evacuated from low-lying areas.

In June 2007, after suffering one of the worst droughts in decades, Central Texas became sandwiched between two high-pressure systems that brought moisture in from the Gulf of Mexico, causing major flooding in the CECA service territory, with Lake Leon being the hardest hit. More than 100 CECA members' homes were underwater for an extended period of time.



izens of Comanche County. It wasn't long however, before the territory spread to seven counties: Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens. Therefore, in 1997 the board began the process of removing "County" from the name by changing it to "dba Comanche Electric Cooperative Association." The board members thought that this would be a better representation of the entire service territory. In 2011, it again updated the name to just the acronym of CECA, and a new, crisper logo was designed.

As the new decade was being ushered in, CECA began making groundbreaking changes as well. The first came in the form of its mapping system. The cooperative had been using the same mapping system since its inception. While it had been a good system and had worked well, with technology as it was, there were so many better options than the current system. The system of choice was the Milsoft Engineering package. It was developed to aid monitoring outages and metering and to be a tool for engineering studies. With the capability to update daily instead of annually, it was also an excellent choice for the mapping system.

The other big change was in the metering system. The cooperative began replacing all manually read meters with Turtle meters, an Automated Meter Reading system. This system would send meter information over the power line to the substation where the information would be stored until it was downloaded by the computer in the cooperative office. It would eliminate the cost of sending an employee out to locate and read every meter in the system. As a side benefit, it eliminated handwritten read sheets and manual data entry into the billing system each month, reducing the number of possible human errors in the billing process.

Over the years, Comanche Electric Cooperative has seen a lot of change, much of it in technology. We have gone from members reading their own meters and calculating their own bills to computerized meters that send readings to the office over the



◀ **CECA actively participates in safety education at area schools through arcing and bucket truck demonstrations. Pictured is George Campbell, explaining electrical and bucket safety to children at Comanche Head Start.**

Just a few of the Comanche Electric Cooperative employees in 1998 included, back row: Junior Isham, Donnie Evans, Joe Rhett, Doug Erwin, George Campbell, Billy Holmsley, William Works, Bobby Evans, Labin Scott, Randy Denning and Jim Seago; front row: Eddie Strube, Carl Adams, Billy Henry, Charlie Green, Shorty Hatley, Larry Morgan, Mac Bradshaw, Greg Daniels and William Crim. ▼



power lines; from hand-drawn maps to digitized computer maps. Handwritten job orders have been replaced by computer-generated service orders that can be retrieved on computers in the trucks. Many outages can be handled from a SCADA program located in the office instead of having linemen drive to a location. The Comanche, Early and Eastland offices are connected to one communication system, alleviating much of the expense, delay and hassle of prior years when each had a separate communication system.

As we close out this final chapter of CECA's history, the board, staff and employees of the cooperative want you to know that we realize you are the reason we exist today. Our focus as we begin these next 25 years will be the same as it was for the first 75: exceptional customer service and affordable rates. Because what we started 75 years ago as a member-owned, not-for-profit, service-oriented cooperative is what we still are today and will be in the future—a cooperative that was organized by the members, for the members.

'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.



'CECA is really your friends and neighbors.'

JULE AND LANITA RICHMOND have been members of Comanche Electric Cooperative since 1970. "We have enjoyed the quality and personal service that the cooperative employees have always provided our family Angora goat and cattle operation."



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

CURTIS TIPPIE is a lineman out of the Comanche office and has been with CECA for seven years. **BRANDON COOK** is a lineman out of the Eastland office. He has been a member of CECA since 2003 and has been with the cooperative for eight years.

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 (or in previous issues), please have them call Nancy Isham at 1-800-915-2533 or email nisham@ceca.coop.

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| WIDDOW ROBERT WAYNE | WILLIAMS JIMMY | WINDHAM B M | WRIGHT QUINTIN DAVID |
| WIGFALL JEFFERSON | WILLIAMS JOSEPH TED | WINFREY J H | WRIGHT W E |
| WILBROOK EXPLORATION | WILLIAMS KENNETH | WINFREY TONY | WYATT B W |
| WILCHAR DR R B | WILLIAMS LEE | WINGE DAVID C | WYATT JR JAMES |
| WILCHAR R B DR | WILLIAMS MARVIN J | WINKLES JACK | WYATT LESTER |
| WILDER HELEN | WILLIAMS MAURICE | WINTERS RICKEY | WYLIE CURTIS |
| WILEMON BILLY | WILLIAMS STANLEY | WISHERT JOE MRS | WYLIE FRED |
| WILEY JERRY | WILLIAMS TERRY | WOLFE JACK | WYLIE OIL CO |
| WILKERSON O W | WILLIAMS TOOL SALES | WOOD JAMES R | WYMER R B |
| WILKINS JIMMY RAY | WILLIAMS TRUST MARGARET | WOOD CURTIS | YANCEY B D |
| WILKINS MILDRED KATHERINE | WILLIAMSON JACKIE | WOOD F J | YARBROUGH BARBARA |
| WILKINSON A G | WILLIAMSON LARRY | WOOD FELIX | YATES JR ARTIE P |
| WILLETT JOHN D | WILLIS BILLY | WOOD JAMES A | YAZELL TEX |
| WILLEY DANNY | WILLIS F TROY | WOOD JAMES E | YEAGER CLAUDE H |
| WILLEY R L | WILLIS GERALD | WOOD JAMES R | YEILDING EVERETT |
| WILLIAMS BENNIE | WILLIS M R | WOOD JOHN L | YOCHAM & GRAYSON |
| WILLIAMS BOB | WILLIS OLIN | WOOD MURRAY T | YOCHAM JOHN |
| WILLIAMS CARLISLE G | WILSON & TINSLEY CO | WOODARD MRS WESLEY | YORK LAWRENCE |
| WILLIAMS CLAUDE E | WILSON EDWARD | WOODBINE PETROLEUM INC | YORK LAWRENCE E |
| WILLIAMS DAN | WILSON ELEANOR | WOODRUFF MRS ANNE | YOUNG EARL |
| WILLIAMS E D | WILSON ENERGY VERN | WOODS JOHNNIE | YOUNG R A |
| WILLIAMS ED | WILSON H O | WOODS JUDY | YOUNG R E |
| WILLIAMS F G | WILSON JANE | WOODS LEON P | ZARAFONETIS JR JAMES |
| WILLIAMS FLOYD | WILSON JOHN M | WOOTEN JOHN R | ZENKNER M W |
| WILLIAMS GENE | WILSON MRS L L | WOOTON MONTE | ZEPHYR BUTANE CO |
| WILLIAMS GEORGE K | WILSON NELDA | WORSHAM INC JACK | ZIMBAL RAY |
| WILLIAMS H C | WILSON OTIS R | WORTHAM E H | |
| WILLIAMS JACK | WILSON SAM | WRIGHT CHARLIE E | |
| | WILSON T A | WRIGHT MRS JIMMIE | |



Down, But Not Out

Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or possibly death. The following tips can help you stay safe around downed lines:

- ▶ If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it and call local law enforcement immediately.

- ▶ The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a high-voltage zone to a low-voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.

- ▶ If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.

- ▶ Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even nonconductive materials such as wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.

- ▶ Do not drive over downed lines.
- ▶ If you are in a car that contacts a downed line, stay in your vehicle. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.

- ▶ If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the car and the ground at the same time.



Happy Independence Day!

CECA will be closed Thursday, July 4, in observance of the holiday. As always, crews will be on standby in the event of an emergency.

Invest in Efficiency

If you're remodeling your kitchen or undergoing another home-improvement project, take the opportunity to make your home more energy efficient.

Energy improvements aren't inexpensive, but they pay off in a big way. First, they can lower your cooling bill during the summer and your heating bill when it's cold outside. Second, energy-efficient products make your home feel more comfortable. And third, they add value to your home when you're ready to sell it.

Here are five worthwhile energy-saving home improvements:

1. OUTDOOR WINDOW SHADES. Shade screens and awnings keep the sun from beaming directly through your home's windows and into its air-conditioned rooms. Place them on south-facing windows to reduce solar heat gain by up to 65 percent and on west-facing panes to save 77 percent, estimates the U.S. Department of Energy.

2. WHOLE-HOUSE FAN. Installed in your attic, this enormous fan pulls cool air in through open windows around the house and then forces hot air out through attic vents. Open windows on opposite sides of the house when you run the fan, and you'll enjoy a cool cross breeze as your home airs out. The DOE says a house fan can cut your air-conditioning bill by up to 5 percent.

3. ATTIC INSULATION. Even if your attic has plenty of insulation, it's likely it has shifted over the years. Insulation is effective only when it touches the surface it's supposed to cover. If it droops or falls, it's not doing you any good. Reattach the insulation and add more in places where the original application has thinned out.

4. ENERGY-EFFICIENT AIR CONDITIONER. The older yours is, the harder it's working to keep your home cool. Newer models are designed to cool your home more efficiently. In fact, you can save up to 10 percent on cooling bills if you replace an inefficient air-conditioning system with a model approved by Energy Star.

5. SEALED DUCTWORK. The ductwork attached to the air-conditioning system in most homes leaks. Next time you have a technician in to do routine maintenance, have those ducts inspected and sealed. You can knock up to 25 percent from your cooling costs if you do. Note that sealing ductwork is different from cleaning it. Sealing—with the right materials—is the key to energy savings.

If your attic insulation has seen better days, replacing or adding to it will help reduce summer and winter energy bills.



Co-op Connections® Card



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Featured Businesses

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LOCATED: 1173 Highway 2861, Comanche
PHONE: (254) 879-2676
FAX: (254) 879-3631
EMAIL: cooltime@cctc.net
WEBSITE: cooltimeac.com
OFFER: 20 percent discount on tuneups with ad

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EMAIL: lindabinghamphotography@gmail.com
OFFER: 10 percent discount on residential window cleaning or power washing

Before you switch on the lights, we've already put up the poles, connected miles of wire and flipped more than a few switches of our own. All to make sure your life is always "on." Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

YOUR ELECTRICITY ISN'T SOMETHING WE TAKE LIGHTLY.

