

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



Rhinos at Fossil Rim

PLUS:

Palo Duro Pageant

Special Salads

Scarborough Faire

SEVERE WEATHER! ARE YOU READY?

Lightning

Lightning strikes kill more Americans than tornadoes or hurricanes. Don't take chances with this deadly force of nature.


Lightning Safety Rules:

- Move to low ground.
- Avoid open fields.
- Do not seek shelter under a tree. Trees are easy targets for lightning.
- At the beach, or in a swimming pool, get out of the water immediately.
- Go inside a building and stay away from windows and doors.
- Stay away from metal objects.
- Avoid electric appliances and metal plumbing.
- Get off the phone.
- Do not touch metal objects, such as golf clubs or bicycles.
- Inside a car is relatively safe, but don't touch interior metal.
- If your hair stands on end, you may be a target. Crouch low on the balls of your feet and try not to touch the ground with your knees or hands.

Stay aware and play it safe during thunderstorms. Don't be a lightning rod.



**Texas Electric
Cooperatives**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

This public service message is brought to you by your local electric cooperative. See your local co-op for details.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

A MAGAZINE ABOUT TEXAS LIVING

Memorable Summer Trips

If you're taking your children on a Texas road trip this summer, we recommend two great destinations. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center is a fabulous resource you can tour, and it's just an hour southwest of Fort Worth. Not only can you see exotic animals in a beautiful natural setting, but you can also opt for educational behind-the-scenes tours, some of which include visits to areas where the staff cares for endangered and threatened species.

Or take an equally inspiring trip to Palo Duro Canyon in the Texas Panhandle for an outdoor performance of "Texas Legacies." The canyon at sunset is awe-inspiring.

Our recipe topic this month is Salads, and the Festival of the Month is Scarborough Faire in Waxahachie. We are devoting two full pages to Focus on Texas. Our call for photos of people (and animals) "caught napping" produced a deluge of hilarious and sometimes touching entries.

And don't miss Texas, USA, which profiles the friendly Dickens County Jail, with a charming, colorful cast of characters.

Enjoy!

Peg Champion
Vice President, Communications/
Publisher



ELENORA PROBST was caught taking a quick nap by her daughter, Bluebonnet EC member **LORENE REDUS**. Even in her 90s, Mrs. Probst worked outside tending her garden. For more Caught Napping photos, turn to pages 36 and 37.

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center has 16 cheetahs and an active breeding program.



FOSSIL RIM

FEATURES

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

Where Endangered Species Live the Good Life6

By Melissa Gaskill

Photos courtesy of Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

More than 50 species live at the center near Glen Rose; 15 of them are classified as threatened or endangered.

'Texas Legacies'

A Performance as Grand as the Canyon12

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

Photos courtesy of Pioneer Amphitheatre

For the 40th season, spectacular Palo Duro Canyon in the Texas Panhandle is the site for outdoor summer performances.

DEPARTMENTS

Texas Living26

Special Salads. Scarborough Faire in Waxahachie.

Focus on Texas36

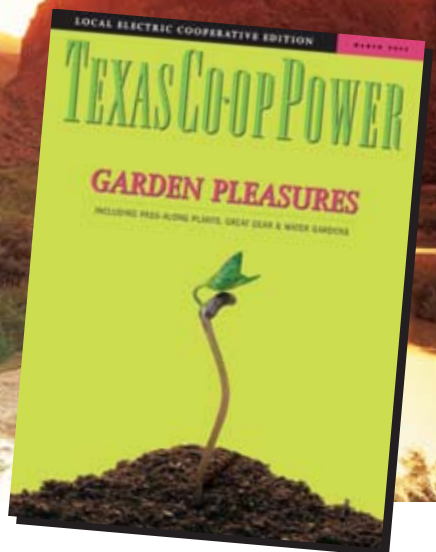
You are getting very sleepy. When you fall asleep, someone will take your picture.

Texas, USA38

By Tom Dodge

My Day in the Dickens Jail, Dickens County.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



SHARE THE POWER!

Texas Co-op Power is the Texas living magazine with a rural, suburban and small town focus. Each month you will read entertaining articles about Texas people, Texas history, Texas nature, Texas travel and Texas food.

And, in every issue we feature a personal look at chosen towns in "Texas, USA" along with "Around Texas," featuring selected events around the state.

For just \$15 a subscription, you can share *Texas Co-op Power* with friends and family members who live far away or in big cities!

Please send a 12-month gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Gift subscription sent by:

Include a \$15 check for each subscription made out to *Texas Co-op Power*. Mail to Subscriptions, *Texas Co-op Power*, 2550 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78704

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

VOLUME 61 MAY 2005 NUMBER 11

Texas Co-op Power is published by your electric cooperative to enhance the quality of life of its member-customers in an educational and entertaining format.

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Debbie Robinson, Quitman, Chair
Audie Morris, Decatur, Vice Chair
John Herrera, Mercedes, Secretary-Treasurer
Charles Castleberry, Tulia
Gerald W. Lemons, Itasca
Mark Rose, Giddings
Carl Thompson, Roby

PRESIDENT/CEO

Mike Williams, Austin

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rick Haile, McGregor, Chair
Roland Witt, Coleman, Vice Chair
John Q. Adams, Bellville
Barron Christensen, Douglassville
Bill Harbin, Floydada
Kim Hooper, Bluegrove
Larry Oefinger, Hondo
Audie Morris, Decatur, Board Liaison

COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

Peg Champion, Vice President, Communications/
Publisher

Kaye Northcott, Editor
Carol Moczygamba, Managing Editor
Suzi Sands, Art Director
Martin Bevins, Advertising Director
Louie Bond, Copy Editor/Writer
Andy Doughty, Production Designer
Sandra Forston, Communications Assistant
Jo Johnning, Production Assistant
Karen Nejtek, Production Coordinator
Shannon Oelrich, Food Editor/Proofreader
Ellen Stader, Proofreader
Heather Thompson, Communications Coordinator
Cheryl Tucker, Field Editor
Issue Designer: Gail Bayeta

Texas Co-op Power (USPS 540-560) is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. Texas Co-op Power's website is www.texascoopower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or e-mail editor@texas-ec.org.

Subscription price is \$3.72 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the non-member rate of \$15. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to Texas Co-op Power (USPS 540-560), 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. Please enclose label from this copy of Texas Co-op Power showing old address and key numbers.

ADVERTISING Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in Texas Co-op Power and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Martin Bevins at (512) 486-6249.

Advertisements in Texas Co-op Power are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser.

Direct questions or comments about advertising to Martin Bevins, Advertising Director.



© Copyright 2005 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2005 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



A Thrill-a-Minute Circus

I have read your January 2005 cover story, "Gainesville, the Town of a Thousand Trapezes," with great interest. I was born in the community of Hood in 1928, which is approximately 9 miles west of Gainesville. I well recall the circus and did take it in as occasion permitted. It was a "thrill-a-minute" show. In 1945, I was drafted and never lived there again, but have visited relatives. Thanks for this historical article and the chance to reminisce a bit.

MARION S. MURRELL, Sam Houston EC

Feathered and Furred Friends

I enjoyed Helen Hensley's article, "A Fine Feathered Friend" [March 2005]. We have also had the pleasure of befriending a roadrunner. My weenie dog, Lucy, who was featured in Focus on Texas in February 2004, has been chasing a roadrunner for years. Our "feathered friend" will peck on the window, wanting Lucy to come outside and chase her. Nobody believes

me when I tell them that a roadrunner plays with my dog.

MARK L. OLIVEAUX, Pedernales EC

Friends to Feral Felines, Too

I greatly enjoyed the article, "A Fine Feathered Friend." We have a pair of roadrunners that has been around our house for years. They love to get up on my truck and my daughter's car and check themselves out in the mirrors and sunroof. We all love watching them, and discovered one on the patio table with one of the many feral cats that roam the countryside. They acted like old friends.

MARY GARCIA, San Patricio EC

All of Texas Is Breathtaking

I think John Martin's idea [Letters, March 2005] of a photography contest is a great idea. However, it should be open to every landowner in Texas, not just the Hill Country. There are just as many beautiful places in all of Texas with breathtaking scenery that can

equal or outdo the Hill Country. Martin should really be opening the door for each and every landowner, regardless of size of ranch or farm, an opportunity to show how Texas has beauty in every part of the state. The diversity of landowners would really be worthy of the Pro-Tour of Nature photography contest.

CHERYL REEVES, Medina EC

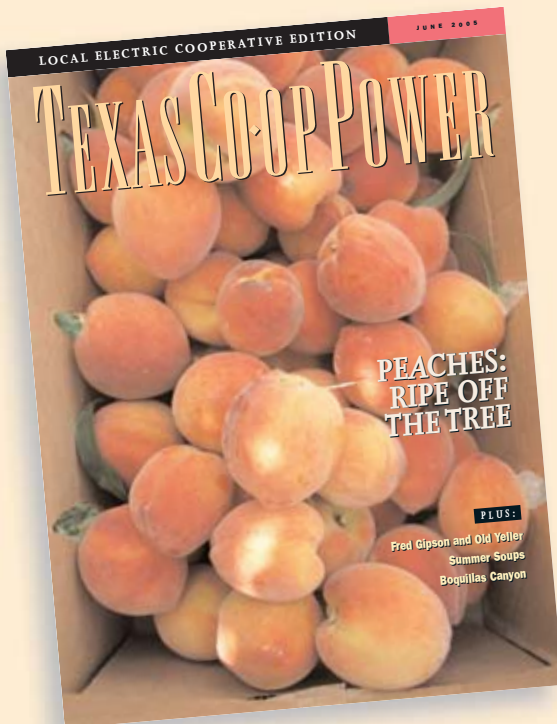
Editor's response: The organizers hope to hold future Pro-Tour contests elsewhere in Texas and across the United States.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR READERS.

Send letters to:

Editor, *Texas Co-op Power*,
2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704.

Please include the name of your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length and will be printed as space allows.



COMING IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Peaches: Ripe Off the Tree

Visit a small family-run orchard near Fredericksburg that specializes in delivering this summer treat.

Hound Dog Man

Author Fred Gipson introduced generations of children to an old yellow dog.

Plus:

Summer soups, Belton rodeo, "Picnics" reader photo contest, Big Bend á la Canoe and more!



FOSSIL RIM

WHERE
ENDANGERED
SPECIES
LIVE THE
GOOD LIFE



Fossil Rim Wildlife Center breeds both the endangered cheetah (far left) and the greater kudu.

BY MELISSA GASKILL
PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOSSIL RIM WILDLIFE CENTER





WHITE RHINO

When the first white rhinoceros arrived at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in 1988, roughly 70 percent of captive rhinos in North America had yet to reproduce. Biologists blamed a lack of role models and the zoo settings typical of the day. Most of the rhinos imported from Africa in the 1960s and '70s were young—thus smaller and easier to transport. Males and females were paired in fairly small enclosures.

But a typical wild rhino herd—or “crash,” as it’s called—includes multiple females and one bull, with another bull usually hanging around on the sidelines to keep the first one on his toes. The females tend to gather with other females and calves in mud wallows and shade, sharing grass with other grazers. The calves learn rhino behavior, including mating, only if they have an opportunity to observe and interact with their elders for several years. Conservationists hoped that placing rhinos in a typical environment would increase their chances for successful breeding. Fossil Rim

Wildlife Center, which is dedicated to preserving and propagating endangered species, proved the theory. The 1,650-acre facility, located about an hour southwest of Fort Worth, has a 9.5-mile self-guided driving tour for the public and a variety of other tours; however, many of the endangered and threatened species are not on public view.

“Rhinos needed help,” said Kelley Snodgrass, director of animal care at Fossil Rim. Commercial poaching, war and habitat destruction have reduced to about 11,000 the number of white rhinos in their native South Africa. The name refers to their wide (weit in South African dialect) lips, not their color. Both the white rhino and its cousin, the black rhino, are gray.

“We had the interest and, more important, the facilities and space to accommodate the animals,” said Snodgrass, a lanky cowboy. Fossil Rim designed a 15-acre yard to accommodate several females and one male. It is fenced primarily to avoid a crash of another kind—between cars on the

MEXICAN WOLF



driving tour and animals that can stand 5 feet tall at the shoulder, weigh 6,000 pounds, and run 35 miles an hour.

Few bars and cages are in evidence here, and animals like zebra, blackbuck, gemsbok and wildebeest intermingle and graze at will in spacious pastures. Blackbuck and other antelope easily slip into the compound to graze with the rhinos. There are several large trees for shade, and a couple of lovely mud wallows. This more natural state has contributed to the success of managing and conserving many species, not just rhinos. The results speak for themselves: 11 rhino calves, some black and some white, have been born here. Some of the offspring have already reproduced.

"Captivity itself creates some stress in wild animals," said Bruce Williams, former director of conservation at the facility. "But I think that our environment—where an animal may have 400 acres to roam, find his own place, and be able to go off alone—is a positive."

Efforts to propagate endangered and threatened species at what was then called Fossil Rim Wildlife Ranch began in 1984. Originally a wild game facility known as Waterfall Ranch, it has always been in private hands. Today, more than 50 species live at the center, 15 of them classified as threatened or endangered. All are part of a Species Survival Program (SSP). SSPs are detailed management plans for individual species that are followed by 214 facilities around the world accredited by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. The facilities cooperate to manage the animals as one population with long-term genetic and demographic goals, using practices like sharing animals to increase genetic diversity. For example, a male black rhino from Australia was brought to Fossil Rim to meet its eligible black rhino females. All indications are that one of the rhinos is expecting (rhino gestation is about 16 months).

The Fossil Rim staff also has high hopes for positive results with a kudu bull that recently dropped in from the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler. Two female red wolves from the Fort Worth Zoo are visiting under the 2004 Red Wolf SSP.



HUMAN ANIMALS AT FOSSIL RIM

Fossil Rim is open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Driving tours take about three hours and cost \$16.95 for adults and \$10.95 for children 3-11. A café, gift shop, nature walk and petting zoo mark the drive's midpoint. Behind-the-scenes tours are \$35 for adults, \$25 for children. Special feeding tours, all-day adventure tours and mountain bike tours are offered. Reservations are required for all guided tours.

The Fossil Rim Lodge has five rooms and a den with television, books, games and a bar. There are also Safari Camp tents with twin beds, private bath and access to the Pavilion bar. Call 1-888-775-6742 for reservations. More information at www.fossilrim.com. The wildlife center is an hour from Fort Worth and less than two hours from Waco, 3 miles southwest of Glen Rose on Highway 67.



Animals on these breeding exchanges are considered part of the same population. They may remain the property of the original facility, be donated to the recipient, or loaned in exchange for some of their offspring. Since travel can be hard on wild creatures, they are seldom shipped back to the original facility.

Fossil Rim also has 16 cheetahs, an endangered species native to Africa and India. The center's breeding program has produced nearly 100 cubs, a success attributed both to the large habitats and the fact that females have a choice of mates. "If you have one male and one female, and she doesn't like him, that's it," said Williams. "But if you have 10 of each, there are more options." It took one choosy female cheetah eight years and exposure to a number of males before she found one she liked.

Of course, a successful pairing is just part of the challenge. Recently a cheetah had a single cub, which the staff named Maximus. In the wild, mother cheetahs usually abandon these singletons, because cubs need littermates to play with and learn

from. So Maximus was hand-raised and then, at the age of 4 months, was transported by Land Rover to the White Oak Conservation Center in Florida. There he is getting to know three other cubs. Mary Jo Stearns, Fossil Rim's cheetah specialist, hopes that with this more natural upbringing, Maximus will have excellent chances to father his own family. Fossil Rim also had the first surviving litter of cheetah cubs conceived by artificial insemination.

The goal of this complicated animal husbandry is to maintain healthy populations over time, to keep the animals from becoming extinct, and ultimately to return some of them to the wild. Repatriation isn't possible yet with most species because the factors that contributed to their threatened or endangered status are generally still at work. Conservationists hope this will change eventually, at least for some animals, and they network about what is going on in the wild and work together to determine opportunities for safely returning animals to it.

Some of those opportunities

already exist. Fossil Rim has reintroduced wolves and oryx to native habitats, and has an aggressive reintroduction program for Attwater's prairie chickens, a native of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Although there were a million of these colorful birds 100 years ago, only about 50 survive in the wild today. One factor in this decline is the loss of coastal prairie habitat. Now the wild chickens are threatened by a retrovirus.

Since 1992, 90 prairie chickens have been released from Fossil Rim and other facilities, but that number isn't sufficient to increase the current population. Fossil Rim, which has accounted for 60 percent of the birds released, hopes to increase the number to 200 per year with an eye toward reaching a self-supporting wild population of 5,000 prairie chickens. Fossil Rim staff has learned through experimentation the best locations for releases and narrowed the best time for releases to a six-week window. "We're able to share that knowledge with other facilities," said docent Judy Oetting, a volunteer here for 20 years. "It's one of the coolest things we do."



ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN



KUDU

BLACK RHINO



The native prairie chickens, which have a distinctive mating dance and a vocalization called “booming,” live in Fossil Rim’s Intensive Management Area, 400 acres set apart for species likely to be adversely affected by the activity in public areas of the center. Among the other sensitive animals that need space and privacy are cheetahs, maned wolves, Mexican gray wolves, red wolves, coati and black rhinos. In addition to breeding and maintaining animals, Fossil Rim conducts research that supports worldwide species preservation efforts. Studies on rhino gestation, for example, resulted in the successful use of ultrasound to predict the stages of pregnancy, which has already been put to use in the field. Knowing when a rhino is pregnant and determining the age and health of the fetus help wildlife managers make decisions such as whether and when to move the animals. Current efforts to save rhinos in Africa sometimes involve moving them to safer places, or from one management area to another to preserve genetic diversity. Handlers at Fossil Rim have learned that these huge animals will submit to medical procedures like ultrasound in exchange for apples and sweet potatoes, their favorite treats.

Fossil Rim is open to the public for self-guided drives, guided tours and other programs. This helps the facility meet its annual budget of \$3 million to \$4 million, but just as important, it provides an opportunity to educate people about species conservation.

“We want people to see the animals, particularly those that make them go ‘wow,’” said Williams. “It reminds them that nature is fascinating and there are wonders in it, like cheetahs. I hope that seeing well-cared-for animals will make people think more about nature and the fact that it is a good thing to preserve.” That is one reason some of the cheetahs are on the public tour.

Ultimately, the survival of these animals depends on everyone. “What we do pales in comparison to what people could do,” Williams said. “Ensuring that people care about wildlife goes hand in hand with conserving it. Because if people don’t care, the other part is pointless.”

United Cooperative Services provides electricity for Fossil Rim Wildlife Center.

Melissa Gaskill is an Austin-based writer whose work appears frequently in Texas Highways and American Way magazines.



TEXAS LEGACIES

A PERFORMANCE AS GRAND AS THE CANYON

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS • PHOTOS COURTESY OF PIONEER AMPHITHEATRE



The sun has slipped behind the towering ridge, silhouetting the distant figure of a man on horseback. He sits rigidly in his saddle, gripping a long pole attached to a fluttering Texas flag. Above him shines a crescent moon and a few twinkling stars. Suddenly, fireworks explode, shooting dazzling streamers of light into the evening sky. As the sparks dance, fall and fizzle away, man and horse race along the ridge's edge.



Another performance of “Texas Legacies” gets under way at the Pioneer Amphitheatre in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. This year marks the 40th season of summer productions in this spectacular setting in the Texas Panhandle.

A SUMMER TRADITION

If you've lived in the Lone Star State for any length of time, you may remember traveling in your younger days to the "Grand Canyon of Texas" and seeing a colorful, outdoor play called simply "Texas." The historical production, which featured a huge cast on an open-air stage beneath the stars, ran each summer from 1966 to 2002.

Though the dramatic man-on-horseback opening scene of the show remains much the same, everything else about the musical has changed, largely to entice you to come back again. And again. And again ...

"This new show—"Texas Legacies"—was not an artistic choice but a functional one based on our feedback," says Blaine Bertrand, producer and general manager. "Once you institutionalize a show, it's really hard to change it."

and the area's economic woes. They also discussed a *Reader's Digest* article about Paul Green, the successful playwright of several outdoor dramas based on regional history. The Panhandle canyon, the four friends envisioned, would be the perfect setting for a Texas script written by Green.

Green accepted their invitation to visit the following April. After seeing the canyon's steep cliffs, layered rock formations and magnificent vistas, Green told the small group of supporters that he'd write the play if they'd finance the project. Fanning out their efforts, the group enlisted partners from neighboring towns and counties. By early fall 1961, the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation had formed. Its mission: forge ahead with plans to build an outdoor theater in the canyon.

First, though, the group had to

cession building at Pioneer Amphitheatre. Meanwhile, Green had completed six years of research and writing, and work was now underway to produce the show.

On the night of July 1, 1966, a lone horseman carrying a Texas flag appeared at the edge of the 600-foot-high bluff overlooking Pioneer Amphitheatre. His appearance signaled the start of what would become a must-see destination for four decades of Texas travelers.

A TIME FOR CHANGE

Over the course of 37 seasons, more than 3.2 million people attended the nightly summer performances of "Texas." Reminiscent of the 1950s musical "Oklahoma!," the Panhandle pageant brought the area's frontier heritage alive with period costumes,



In other words, something had to give because attendance at "Texas" was dropping each season. Bus tours, which had brought a large number of seniors in years past, were declining. Plus market research indicated that graying but still young-at-heart baby boomers prefer independent traveling in RVs.

The solution: develop a new show with more pizzazz and a hook to keep people coming back.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

One evening at dinner together in July 1960, two couples—Ples and Margaret Harper and William and Margaret Moore of Canyon—talked about Palo Duro Canyon, then a little-known destination in North Texas,

obtain permission from the Texas State Parks Board (now the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) to build within the state park at Palo Duro Canyon. In October 1961, the board said yes. By early 1963, foundation members raised enough money to construct concrete seating, side stages and an elevated main stage at the newly named Pioneer Amphitheatre.

"Thundering Sounds of the West," an original, variety-style show, ran from June through September 1965 in the theater. By closing night, 36,000 people had attended the performances, a figure which further motivated the foundation to realize its dream.

The following year, the State of Texas built dressing rooms and a con-

lively dancing and singing, and special effects such as thunder crashes and lightning bolts. The story revolved around the area's settlement in the 1800s and the many turbulent relationships that existed: ranchers versus farmers, Native Americans versus settlers, men versus the weather, and the coming of the railroad.

Throughout the 37-year run of "Texas," cast members changed and new touches and scenes were added. Overall, though, visitors could expect to see much the same show from season to season.

Not so with "Texas Legacies."

Like the continuing saga of an afternoon soap on television, "Texas Legacies," written by Texas playwright Lynn



ABOUT TEXAS LEGACIES

WHEN: June 2–August 20.

Grounds open at 6 p.m.; show runs from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays and July 4.

WHERE: Pioneer Amphitheatre, Palo Duro Canyon State Park; 25 miles southeast of Amarillo; 12 miles east of Canyon via Hwy. 217.

DIRECTIONS: From I-40/U.S. Hwy. 287, exit I-27/U.S. Hwy. 87 and go south via I-27. Where I-27 and U.S. Hwy. 87 split, exit Hwy. 218 and go east until you reach the park. From Canyon, turn east on Fourth Ave., which becomes Hwy. 217.

TICKETS: Advance reservations recommended; all seats reserved. Adult ticket costs range from \$11 to \$27.

EXTRAS: All-you-can-eat barbecue buffet, 6 p.m. Backstage 20-minute tours are available from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; \$2 per person.

RAIN POLICY: Performances are given in the rain so visitors should come prepared. Rain checks are given only if a performance is canceled before intermission.

MORE INFO: (806) 655-2181; www.epictexas.com.

CAMPING: For campsite and RV reservations at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, call Texas Parks and Wildlife at (512) 389-8900.

Hart, spans several generations and shares the 101-year life of a fictional character named John Emerson Gray. The epic, covering the century between 1836 and 1936, will be told through a series of five “chapters,” each one a separate production at the theater.

The first chapter—“The Adventure of a Lifetime”—was performed during the past two summers. By popular demand, the production will run again this summer. Then in 2006, the second chapter—“Thunder on the Wind”—will continue the Gray family’s story. Subsequent chapters will run for two years each.

THE FIRST CHAPTER

“A man packs up his family and heads West to follow a dream. Some call it reckless; some call it destiny ...”

Thus begins “The Adventure of a Lifetime,” Chapter 1 of the sweeping “Texas Legacies” saga. Although fictional, much of the story’s plot intertwines with historical figures and real events, such as U.S. Army officer Ranald Mackenzie, Comanche Chief Quanah Parker and the Battle of Palo Duro in 1874, which are all authentically portrayed in the production.

“The original show had historical elements, but they weren’t accurately represented,” Bertrand explains. “The cattlemen were represented as not wanting the railroad, but they did. Chief Quanah was shown with his father, Nocona, but Quanah did not become chief until after Nocona died.

“We try to show how people well known in history had an impact on what happened here in the Panhandle,” Bertrand says. In the coming years, “the show will continue to grow and evolve. But it also will still have a responsibility to communicate the pioneering spirit of the area’s ancestors.”

The message is conveyed with drama, intrigue, romance and even humor.

Chapter 1 introduces John Gray, the owner of Five Diamonds Ranch near Amarillo. As a boy, he bumps into a gangly Quanah Parker, who’s also hunting in the woods. Quanah is the son of Chief Nocona and Cynthia Ann Parker, who was captured as a girl by the Comanches. The two boys forge a lifetime bond.

In one scene, an adult Quanah,

now chief of his tribe, arrives on horseback at Gray’s ranch for a friendly visit and finds Maria Hinojosa, the family’s Mexican housekeeper, to be quite fetching. But Hinojosa is not impressed with the famous Indian chief, even though he is tall and state-ly and dressed in a suit.

“She is a fine woman,” Quanah tells Gray, nodding toward Hinojosa. “I will give 12 ponies for her.”

“Hmmp!” sniffs the indignant housekeeper. “I am worth at least 20!”

A smoky Civil War battle scene re-enacts the horror and death Gray—a colonel in the Confederate Army—and his fellow Texans encountered in the Shenandoah Valley in 1864. Another scene recalls the heart-wrenching execution of more than 1,000 Indian horses in the Palo Duro Canyon by U.S. troops.

OFFSTAGE

Bruce Lumpkin, a Houston native, visited Palo Duro Canyon for the first time before accepting the position of show director in January 2004.

“When I saw this place, I was overwhelmed,” recalls Lumpkin, who has extensive New York and regional theater credits. “I brought my set and line designer here for a weekend, and they both said they wanted to work with me. They saw what I saw—the venue. You can’t build this!”

“Texas Legacies” employs a cast of 57, a seven-member band, and a production crew numbering more than 60. Auditions for parts are typically held in February and March at universities and theaters in Texas, Tennessee, Oklahoma and North Carolina.

Justin Loe, 25, a Canyon native who attends West Texas A&M University, got his first part four years ago in “Texas.” Last summer he played the preacher in “Texas Legacies.”

“Pioneer Amphitheatre has kept our heritage alive,” he says. “The stage is so magical. I can’t explain it. And the canyon is such a beautiful backdrop. There’s no other theater in the world like it.”

The area around Palo Duro Canyon is served by Greenbelt, Lighthouse and Swisher ECs.

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers’ previous articles for Texas Co-op Power include “The June Bug Caper of 1906” (January 2005).

TAME YOUR TREES

Tree Trimming


We love our trees, but when branches are too close to power lines, they can cause power outages, fire hazards and safety concerns.

Here are some rules to follow:

- If a tree or a large branch is touching or falls on an electric line, call your electric cooperative immediately. Tree sap is an excellent conductor of electricity, so a downed branch on a line is an electrocution hazard as well as a fire hazard.
- Never trim trees that grow close to power lines; that is a job for professionals. Call your electric co-op for assistance and guidance.
- Don't allow children to climb trees or build tree houses close to power lines.
- When planting a tree, plan ahead. A tiny tree may eventually grow large enough to damage power lines and possibly interrupt power during storms. At maturity, your trees should not be within 10 feet of a power line.
- Plant appropriate distances from all power lines—those along the street or right-of-way, as well as those running to your home and outbuildings.



**Texas Electric
Cooperatives**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

This public service message is brought to you by your local electric cooperative. For more information, visit your local co-op.

SURPRISE MOM WITH CREATIVE GIFTS

Mothers celebrate their big day on the second Sunday in May. This Mother's Day, May 8, give a gift that shows your creativity.

Some ideas:

- Compile a CD of her favorite songs or of music that shows Mom how you feel about her. For a small fee, you can download individual songs from the Internet and use your computer to burn them onto a CD.
- Decorate the face of an inexpensive clock with a collage of family photos. Paint the hands and the outside of the clock to complement the colors in the photos.
- Create a "spa day" for Mom—right at home. Pick up a portable electric foot spa at any department store; choose one that vibrates, heats the water and massages Mom's feet. Or, turn her tub into a whirlpool by installing an inexpensive jet attachment on the side of the tub.
- It's an old joke that anyone who surprises Mom with a new vacuum cleaner or microwave oven will sleep in the dog house for a few days. But if she's been hinting that she wants some

state-of-the-art gadgets, why not wrap one up? Attach a small bottle of her favorite perfume and a handmade card to the ribbon as a personal touch.

- Edit the best of your family's home movies onto a single videotape so Mom can relive her favorite memories. Surprise her with a private screening after you've prepared a homemade dinner.

One idea: Edit the best of your family's home movies onto a single videotape or DVD.



- Shop for a picture frame with a built-in voice recorder. Let every family member record a brief message. Slip a family photo into the frame.

- Clean the house while Mom's out for the day. Vacuum, dust and scrub. And put stuff away—the way she likes it!



**YOUR LOCAL
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
HONORS THE
BRAVE SOLDIERS
OF AMERICA
THIS MEMORIAL DAY.**

RURAL PEOPLE LESS LIKELY TO LOG ON TO THE INTERNET

Fewer rural residents than urban denizens surf the Internet, says the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

Half of rural people report in a Pew survey that they log on from home, compared with 63 percent of suburbanites and 60 percent of urban dwellers.

Pew surveys also find:

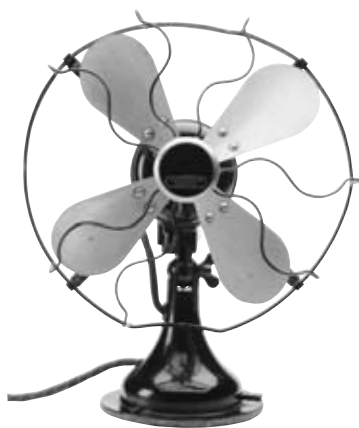
- In 2004, 70 million American adults used the Internet every day, a 37 percent increase from the 51 million who surfed the Web daily in 2000.
- Among adults, 61 percent of men and 58 percent of women use

the Internet.

- The Web is part of daily life for 88 percent of Americans. Indeed, 64 percent admit a lack of Internet access would interrupt their daily routines.

- People between 18 and 29 are most likely to spend time online—72 percent—while those older than 65 are least likely, at 24 percent.

- Fewer adults are downloading music. While 14 percent say they once found tunes online, they stopped after the recording industry began prosecuting people for copyright violations.



THIS SPRING, THINK SUMMER

Spring is a good time to think about how hot it could get this summer.

Give your air conditioning system a fighting chance at keeping your home cool in the months ahead—without using more electricity than necessary.

Here's how to keep energy bills low this summer:

- Vacuum the dust from your refrigerator's coils. Dirty coils force the fridge to use more energy to keep food cold.
- Lower your water heater's temperature to 120 degrees. This not only saves energy, but can prevent accidental scalding.
- Trade your traditional incandescent light bulbs—which emit more heat than light—for compact fluorescent bulbs. The new generation of fluorescents uses far less energy and fits into any overhead or lamp socket.
- Cook in the microwave instead of on the stovetop or in the oven. Keeping the kitchen cool is a big first step toward making the whole house comfortable.
- Call a service technician to give your air conditioning system—and any window units—a thorough once-over before the weather gets hotter. A well-maintained system will run more efficiently this summer.
- Change air conditioner filters monthly from now until October.
- Close fireplace flues so cold air doesn't escape through the chimney.

DURING ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH, CHECK FOR HAZARDS

Most electrical house fires could be prevented if homeowners would correct five common hazards, says the Electrical Safety Foundation International, which sponsors National Electrical Safety Month in May.

Check for these five hazards in your home:

#1. If your bathrooms, kitchen, laundry room and outdoor outlets aren't protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters, have an electrician install them today. They cut off electricity to an appliance when they sense trouble on the circuit. They can prevent electrocutions. The same goes for arc-fault circuit interrupters, which the electrician can install in your fuse box or circuit breaker box. They shut off the circuits in case of an "arc," which can start a fire.

#2. Replace frayed, cracked or cut power cords and extension cords. Don't try to repair them, and never patch them up with electrical tape.

Make sure your new cords are certified by Underwriters Laboratories or another testing lab, and keep them out of high-traffic areas.

#3. Unplug extension cords that have been in place for more than a week. Extension cords are not designed for permanent use. If your home has too few outlets for all of your appliances, call an electrician and get some more.

#4. Likewise, power strips and surge suppressors, while giving you access to more plugs, don't add any capacity to the original outlet. If you plug too many appliances into one outlet, it will overheat and cause a fire hazard. Don't overload your circuits.

#5. You plug your most expensive equipment into wall outlets. When is the last time you checked those outlets for problems? (Most people admit they've never checked their outlets.) Check for hot outlets, loose-fitting plugs, discolored wall plates and missing wall plates.

KNOW WHEN STORMS ARE COMING

You know they're coming—the high winds, fierce lightning and heavy rains. Prepare now so you're not caught in the dark.

Some tips:

- Listen to weather reports so you'll know when a storm is on its way.
- If someone in your home relies on electrically powered life-support equipment, arrange for a backup power supply, like a portable generator.
- Keep flashlights and a battery-powered radio (and fresh batteries) handy.
- If the power goes out, check your home's circuit breaker or fuse box. If flipping the breaker or replac-

ing the fuse doesn't get the lights back on, call your electric cooperative.

- Stay away from fallen power lines, and report them to the electric cooperative immediately.

- If the lines around your home or the wires that enter your home appear damaged, do not attempt to fix them yourself. Call a qualified local electrical contractor for help.

Keep flashlights and a battery-powered radio (and fresh batteries) handy.



Battle of Palo Duro Canyon

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

Standing on the rim of Palo Duro Canyon, overwhelmed by a myriad of emotions, Juanita Pahdopony has come for the first time to see this place where the destiny of her Comanche ancestors changed forever.

As the great-great-granddaughter of Chief Quanah Parker, Pahdopony feels deeply connected to what happened at the Battle of Palo Duro in September 1874. "The canyon represents the loss of our culture as nomadic horse people," she recalls sadly.

In May 1836, a large group of mounted Indians, mostly Comanche, appeared outside the walls of Fort Parker, a pioneer settlement located in what would later become Limestone County. The seemingly friendly Indians attacked the fort, killed several people, and kidnapped Cynthia Ann and John Parker, ages 9 and 6. Cynthia Ann later married Chief Peta Nocona and had three children, one of whom was Quanah Parker. (Cynthia Ann and her little daughter were rescued against their will by soldiers in 1860. Both died soon after.)

Quanah grew up to become one of the last great Comanche chiefs. In June 1874, he led an attack on hide hunters camped at an old trading post known as Adobe Walls in the Texas Panhandle. Public outcry against the assault reached Washington, leading President Ulysses S. Grant to lift all restrictions on the Army regarding Indians. His order was simple: Destroy the Indians or force them onto reservations.

Thus began the Red River War.

On the morning of September 28, 1874, Col. Ranald Mackenzie and his regiment of black Buffalo Soldiers

slipped into Palo Duro Canyon, acting on a tip forced from a Mexican trader. In a surprise attack, the soldiers destroyed five Indian encampments as the natives fled on foot up the canyon walls. In their wake, Mackenzie and his men burned everything left behind—teepees, blankets, dried

would forever change the Comanches' way of life: Shoot the remaining horses. More than 1,000 horses died that day in the canyon.

Most historians believe that Quanah Parker was not in the canyon that fateful September day. But without supplies, food and horses (their only

means of transportation), he and his warriors were powerless to continue their struggle against the Army. Within a year of the Battle of Palo Duro Canyon, Quanah surrendered to Mackenzie and led his surviving people to a reservation near Fort Sill in Oklahoma, thus ending the Red River War.

In the coming years, Quanah helped the Comanches adopt "the white man's ways" but still honor their own rich cultural heritage. He promoted the construction of schools and encouraged his people to establish farms and ranches as a means of self-sufficiency.

Today, Comanche descendants like Juanita Pahdopony regard Palo Duro Canyon as a sacred place where the Comanche way of life and its horse culture abruptly ended in 1874. Pahdopony, an artist and a faculty curator at the Comanche Nation College in Oklahoma, surveys the spectacular canyon and reflects on its significance.

"We see Palo Duro Canyon as a miraculous reminder that, despite all the events to exterminate the Comanches, we continue to exist generations later," she says.

The area around Palo Duro Canyon is served by Greenbelt, Lighthouse and Swisher ECs.

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, who lives in Blanco, is a frequent contributor to Texas Co-op Power.



Comanche Chief Quanah Parker.

bison meat, guns and ammunition.

Meanwhile, approximately 1,450 horses belonging to the Indians were rounded up and stampeded 20 miles away to Tule Canyon. Mackenzie gave 300 to 400 of the best to Tonkawa scouts who had guided his men into Palo Duro Canyon.

Then he issued the order that

PANHANDLE PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM, CANYON

Marvin Doesn't Know Diddley About Window Air Conditioners

Marvin was right to clean D-Wayne's air conditioner filter. A window air conditioner can't work at peak efficiency unless the filter is cleaned or replaced regularly. But he was wrong when he said the unit was in backwards and that the blowers should be on the outside, spewing the cold air into the yard. You're not supposed to air-condition the whole wide world—just the inside of your house.

Here are some other tips to pass on to your parents for efficient use of window units:

- Replace old units with energy-efficient new ones. Window air conditioners are measured by a calculation of EER (energy efficiency ratio). A new window unit with an EER of 9.5 or more is considered efficient.

- Bigger isn't always better when it comes to air conditioners, so don't buy a larger unit than you need. Before you buy, check the package information to see how many square feet of living space the unit is designed to cool.

- Window air conditioners should be installed in a shady area. Placing one on the south or sunny side of the house will make it work harder than necessary.

- Maintenance is the key to efficient operation of your air conditioner. Once a year, take the unit from the window and remove the outside housing. Vacuum the interior to remove dirt and debris. While the unit is out of the window, clean and repair the window and sill if necessary. After reinstalling, reseal around the unit with new weather stripping. Change or clean the filter monthly during warm weather.

Cartoonist Keith Graves is a popular artist and author of children's books. He lives in Austin with his wife, Nancy, and the twins, Max and Emma.



CHEWBACCA IN LOVE

BY TEREASA NIMS

Towering at 7 feet 4 inches, Peter Mayhew smiles and greets his neighbors in Granbury, 30 miles southwest of Fort Worth. He bends low to clear the doorway into a local Mexican restaurant, and finds his way to a table while carefully avoiding the overhead ceiling fans. With his 5-foot-4 wife at his side, the couple is a study in contrasts: light blonde hair to his dark curly mane, sweet Southern drawl to his deep British tones. Those in the know whisper to their companions that this is the man who plays Chewbacca, the “Star Wars” film icon, lured across the Atlantic from his London home by the small-town belle at his side.

Mayhew, who reprises his “Star Wars” role as Han Solo’s Wookiee sidekick in the May 19 release of “Episode III: Revenge of the Sith,” says meeting his future wife was one of the best things that ever happened to him. Angie Luker, a dealer in collectible toys, and her friend Dawn DuJour, a costume artist, attended a science fiction convention in Phoenix over Halloween weekend 1998. DuJour won a costume contest judged by some “Star Wars” actors. Afterwards, the actors invited DuJour to join them for dinner, and Luker accompanied them. Although Luker and Mayhew had seen each other in passing at other conventions, this was their first real conversation. By the end of dinner, they were very good friends.

The pair met again when a group of “Star Wars” actors and their fans were capping off a three-day conven-



Peter Mayhew reprises his role as the loveable Wookiee from the “Star Wars” series in the 2005 release “Episode III: Revenge of the Sith.”

tion appearance with an informal gathering at a jazz club on Austin’s Sixth Street on a chilly January evening. Luker gave Mayhew a rare pewter Chewbacca necklace. “I didn’t have anything to offer her to say thank you, so I gave her a kiss,” Mayhew says. “From that moment on, I knew that was it—this was the lady I wanted to spend my life with.”

But the thousands of miles that separated them caused problems. Luker lived in Boyd, Texas, with her two youngest daughters, and Mayhew lived in London when he wasn’t on tour, helping care for his elderly mother. They saw each other whenever they could, mainly at conventions. Then one August night, Mayhew decided he couldn’t be apart from Luker any longer. He called her and said, “Let’s get married.” A week later the two were on a plane to Mexico. As

the unusual wedding pair appeared barefoot on the beach beneath a magnificent sunset, people cheered and applauded the giant and his petite bride.

Life was never average for Mayhew. The son of a policeman and homemaker in Croyden, a working-class suburb of

south London, he was fully double the size of the infant delivered to the woman in the next hospital bed. By the time he was 6 years old, he was the same height as his 8-year-old brother. He soon towered over his older brother, mother and father. “I knew I was always a big kid going to school—I was bigger than any of the other kids,” Mayhew admits. He always was comfortable with his size, he says, because his mother taught him “to accept people as they are.”

Most children grow an average of 2 inches a year from about 3 years old to puberty. From the age of 8 until 14, Mayhew grew much faster. Still, Mayhew says, he was never made to feel different by his peers or his family. And there were advantages to his abnormal height. “I never got picked on at school,” he remembers.

Standing 6 feet tall at age 12, Mayhew remembers the doctor telling him and his 5-foot-3 mother that there was a problem. He was sent to

© LUCAS FILM LTD.™ ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

a specialist in London who was researching growth hormones. For the next two years, Mayhew says, he was subjected to “every test imaginable.” Finally, at 14, Mayhew was diagnosed with an overactive pituitary gland. This condition, known as gigantism, is caused by an excessive secretion of growth hormones during childhood, before the closure of the bone growth plates. These hormones cause overgrowth of the long bones, resulting in unusual height. In an effort to slow Mayhew’s growth, the doctor suggested an experimental treatment.

For the next six weeks, Mayhew endured 20-minute daily x-ray treatments on each side of his head. “It didn’t hurt, the only thing was I had to keep still for 20 minutes,” he remembers. “I was still growing after the treatment, but nowhere near as fast.” Mayhew reached his present height at 21. “Suddenly it all stopped,” he says.

Because Mayhew had spent much time in the hospital, he decided he would like to work in one. He took a job as an assistant at King’s College Hospital. “I liked being able to use my height and strength to help others,” Mayhew says.

While working at the hospital, Mayhew heard that a man was looking for people with big feet for the *Guinness Book of World Records*. He decided he would try it. Photos of Mayhew and his size 16 feet were published in a London newspaper. Movie producer Charles Schneer subsequently cast him to play the Minotaur, a minotaur-like character in “Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger.” Six months later he was asked to audition for a role as a 200-year-old Wookiee named Chewbacca. When “Star Wars” writer/director George Lucas saw him he said, “I think we found our man.”

Chewbacca was a “two-week character,” meaning if he didn’t make it in the first two weeks, he would be cut. “I apparently did it right,” Mayhew says.

Lucas’ inspiration for Chewbacca was his loyal Alaskan malamute, Indiana. The character’s voice was developed using a combination of animal sounds—walruses, camels, bears and badgers blended together—and Mayhew was covered in a ginger-brown fur costume made of knitted mohair

and yak hair. Chewbacca’s defining characteristics are immense strength and fierce loyalty, but despite his savage appearance, he is sophisticated and savvy. Chewbacca is a good-hearted fellow, often serving as Han Solo’s conscience.

While shooting the first “Star Wars” film, Mayhew met actor Kenny Baker, who played the robot R2-D2. Baker, who is 3-foot-8, greeted Mayhew with, “Wow, you’re big.”

“He and I had the same challenges, only reversed,” observes Mayhew. “This, I think, sort of made our friendship. He was one of the first people to appreciate what I was going through. We’ve known each other for a very long time and we’re still the best of mates.”

Mayhew made his “Star Wars” debut in the 1977 release, and returned for subsequent movies, “The Empire Strikes Back” and “Return of the Jedi.” In 1997, as Chewbacca, Mayhew accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award at the MTV Movie Awards to a standing ovation. Mayhew is still a star on the science fiction convention circuit.

The past six years in Texas have been a wonderful change for Mayhew. The open spaces suit him. When he adds a tall black cowboy hat to his towering stature, Mayhew is an impressive sight. His appetite for a good grilled steak or the local Tex-Mex specialties is well met here, and he finds his continual travel to worldwide fan conventions much more enjoyable

with his wife at his side. Being a father figure to her three daughters is dear to his heart.

At home in Granbury, Mayhew putters around in his large workshop. The backyard pool is a great place to cool off in the summer heat, and during the brief Texas winter he builds a fire with hand-chopped logs in his large, rough-hewn stone fireplace. The satisfaction on his face as he sits in his living room, stroking his favorite cat, Emmy, on his lap is ample evidence he is happy with his choices. Emmy has been curling up in his remarkably huge hands since she was a very tiny kitten, and her purring seems to acknowledge that this is, indeed, a very gentle giant.

United Cooperative Services and Tri-County EC serve parts of Granbury.

Tereasa Nims is a staff writer for the Hood County News and a contributor to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.



© GLEN ELLMAN

A 2-foot height differential was no barrier for couple Peter Mayhew and Angie (Luker) Mayhew.

Create a Salad

The perfect salad balances “good for you” with “good tasting.” The lettuce (or spinach or other green) is the palette on which you, the artist, can create your masterpiece. Just about anything tastes good on a salad—use your imagination and try to include something salty and something sweet, and, of course, your favorite dressing. Add some grilled chicken or fish on top and you’ve got a meal!

Here are some of my favorite salad combinations:

- peeled grapefruit sections, toasted pecans and blue cheese
- bacon pieces, raisins and sunflower seeds
- cucumbers, red onion, olives and feta cheese
- tomatoes, mozzarella and fresh basil leaves torn into small pieces
- garlic croutons and sun-dried tomatoes
- dried cranberries (craisins) and walnuts
- artichoke hearts, roasted bell pepper strips and goat cheese crumbles
- tart apples, candied pecans and

cubes of brie cheese

- cubed ham, hard-boiled egg and cheddar cheese
- smoked salmon, capers and red onion

Cabbage is another leafy green that begs for flavorful toppings. There are hundreds of recipes for slaw, but this one, developed by Executive Chef Terry Thompson-Anderson for the Texas Peanut Producers Board, has an Asian-style kick to it—plus, it’s quick and easy to make. Chef Thompson-Anderson, author of *Texas on the Plate* and *Cajun-Creole Cooking*, suggests making the dressing the day before serving so that the flavors can meld. She also suggests using Savoy cabbage instead of regular cabbage for its milder flavor, but you may substitute regular cabbage if you like.

Asian-Style Slaw With Peanut Dressing

Texas Peanut Dressing

- 2 large garlic cloves, peeled and trimmed
- 1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey

- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 2 serrano chilies, seeds and veins removed, roughly chopped (or use Thai chilies)
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
- 1/3 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup peanut oil

Slaw

- 3 cups thinly sliced Savoy cabbage
- 1/3 cup grated carrot
- 6 green onions, thinly sliced, including green tops
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro leaves
- 1/4 large red pepper, cut into thin strips
- 1 small Asian pear, peeled, cored and cut into thin strips

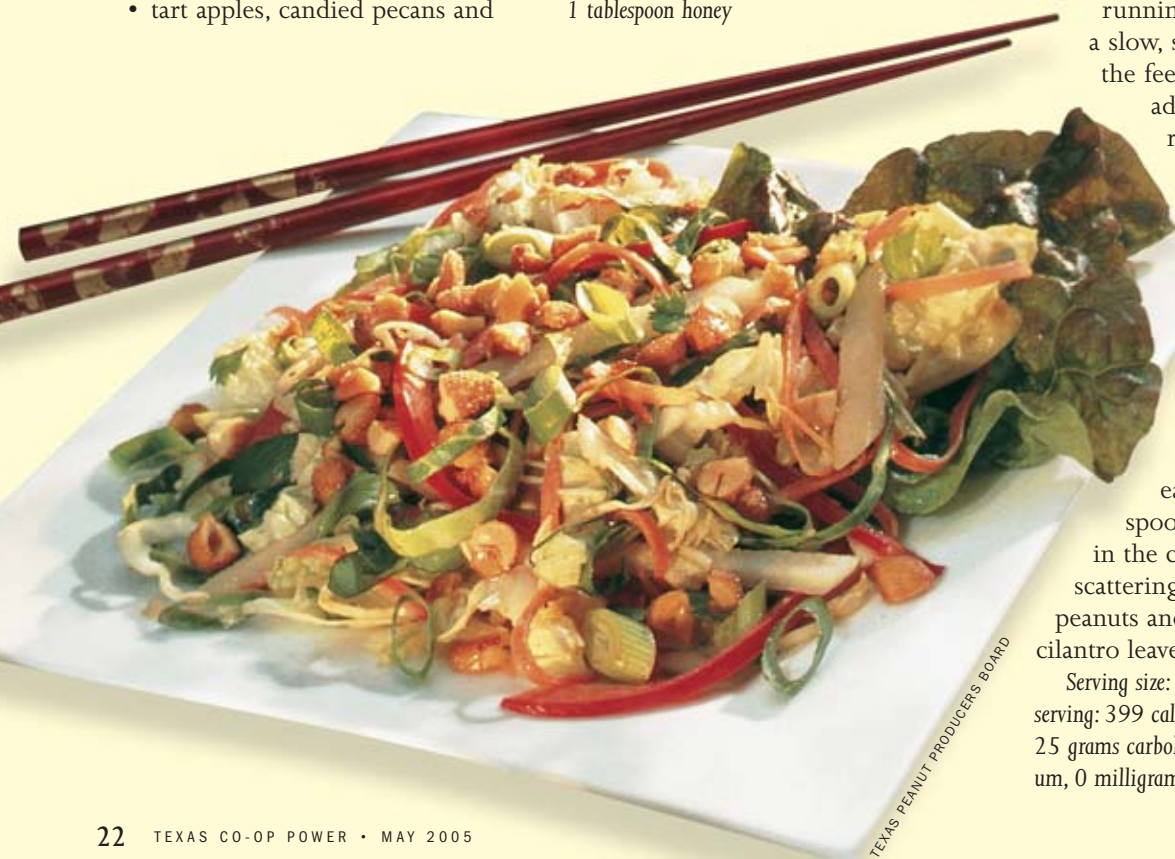
Red-tipped lettuce leaves for serving
Chopped honey-roasted peanuts and cilantro leaves for garnish

Begin by making the dressing the day before serving to allow flavors time to meld together. Place the steel blade in work bowl of food processor. With machine running, drop the garlic cloves through the feed tube to mince. Stop machine and scrape down side of bowl. Add all remaining ingredients, except peanut oil. Process until smooth. With machine running, add the peanut oil in a slow, steady stream through the feed tube until all has been added. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

To make the slaw, toss all ingredients except lettuce leaves and garnishes in a bowl.

Add enough of the dressing to lightly coat the greens. To serve, place a small red-tipped lettuce leaf on each serving plate and spoon a portion of the slaw in the center. Garnish with a scattering of the honey-roasted peanuts and place two or three cilantro leaves in the center. Serves 4.

Serving size: 1/4 of slaw with dressing. Per serving: 399 calories, 11 protein, 32 grams fat, 25 grams carbohydrates, 429 milligrams sodium, 0 milligrams cholesterol



TEXAS PEANUT PRODUCERS BOARD

The subject for August's recipe contest is **Microwave Cooking**. I know you don't want to stand over a hot stove in August, much less overtax your air conditioner by turning on the oven. August is the time of year to rely on that modern convenience, the microwave. What do you make in yours? Send us your recipes by May 10. The top winner will receive a copy of the Texas Co-op Power Cookbook and a gift pack from Adams Extract. Others whose recipes are published will also receive a gift pack from Adams Extract. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, as well as your co-op affiliation. Send recipes to Home Cooking, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. You can also fax recipes to (512) 486-6254 or e-mail them to recipes@texas-ec.org.

When you think "salads," you probably think "green and leafy," but our favorite salad this month is neither. United Cooperative Services member **LINDA BAILEY** sent us her recipe for Cracker Salad, a simple dish that is simply satisfying. She says, "Most of the time, my husband does not like new recipes. He's strictly a meat-and-potatoes man. But I made this recipe for him one night and he just loved it and wanted it again." We do, too! Linda will receive a copy of the Texas Co-op Power Cookbook. She will also receive a gift pack compliments of Adams Extract, as will the other winners whose recipes are published below.

Cracker Salad

1 sleeve saltine crackers
1 large tomato, finely chopped
3 green onions, finely chopped
1 hard-boiled egg, finely chopped
1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
Salt and pepper to taste

In medium-sized bowl, coarsely crush the crackers with your hands (you should have big cracker pieces). Add the remaining ingredients and mix well. Season to taste with salt and pepper (not too much salt because the crackers are already

salty). Serve immediately. It will not keep. Serves 6-8.

Serving size: 1 serving spoonful. Per serving: 375 calories, 3 protein, 38 grams fat, 12 grams carbohydrates, 440 milligrams sodium, 41 milligrams cholesterol

Taco Salad

1 head iceberg lettuce
1 avocado, chopped
1 tomato, chopped
1 small can sliced black olives
1 can kidney beans, drained
1 small bottle Catalina salad dressing
1 small bag regular Fritos (not snack-size)
Shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Shred lettuce into large bowl; add avocado, tomato, black olives and kidney beans. Pour dressing over all and mix thoroughly. Add Fritos just before serving and top with cheese. Serves 6-8.

Tester's note: Add cooked, drained ground beef for a heartier salad.

Serving size: 2 cups loosely packed. Per serving: 532 calories, 9 protein, 36 grams fat, 47 grams carbohydrates, 989 milligrams sodium, 9 milligrams cholesterol

ANN ELLEDGE, Nueces EC

Saltine Salad Dressing Mix

15 saltine crackers
2 cups dry parsley
1/2 cup dry minced onion
2 tablespoons dried dill
1/4 cup onion salt
1/4 cup garlic salt
1/4 cup onion powder
1/4 cup garlic powder

Put crackers in food processor and crush; add next 3 ingredients and blend to powder. Dump into bowl and stir in remaining ingredients.

To use, take out 1 tablespoon of mixture and stir into 1 cup mayonnaise and 1 cup buttermilk. Dry mix can be stored up to a year in the fridge. Makes 32 tablespoons of dry mix.

Serving size: 2 tablespoons prepared dressing. Per serving: 100 calories, 1 protein, 11 grams fat, 1 grams carbohydrates, 170 milligrams sodium, 5 milligrams cholesterol

GEORGIA FOYT, Jackson EC

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Holiday Baking Contest

\$5,000 in Prizes!

SPONSORED BY

ADAMS EXTRACT

**\$3,000 GRAND PRIZE
FOUR \$500 RUNNERS-UP**

We're looking for the best baked goods from your holiday celebrations. All recipes must be original and the ingredients must include an Adams Extract flavoring. Winners will be announced in our December issue.

Up to three entries are allowed per person. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper and include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your electric cooperative. All entries must be postmarked by September 10, 2005. Send entries to Holiday Baking Contest, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, or fax to (512) 486-6254. To enter by e-mail (recipes@texas-ec.org), you must include "Holiday Baking Contest" in the subject line and submit one recipe per e-mail, not an attachment.

For official rules, visit texascooppower.com/bakingcontest.html or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address above.



Save 55¢

ON ANY ADAMS PRODUCT

LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE



This coupon good only on product indicated. Any other use constitutes fraud. COUPON CANNOT BE BOUGHT, TRANSFERRED, OR SOLD. LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. VOID IF TAXED RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED BY LAW.

Retailer: You will be reimbursed for the face value of the coupon plus \$.08 if submitted in compliance with Adams Extract & Spice L.L.C. Coupon Redemption Policy, incorporated herein by reference. Cash value 1/100th of a cent. FOR REDEMPTION MAIL TO: P.O. Box 1726, Gonzales, TX 78629



MANUFACTURER'S COUPON EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

AROUND TEXAS

May

1. Cinco de Mayo Festival, **Sonora**, (325) 387-2880 or www.sonoratx-chamber.com
1. Boys' Haven Crawfish Festival, **Beaumont**, (409) 866-2400 or www.beaumontcvb.com
1. Spring Festival, **Blanco**, (830) 833-5227
1. Battle of Port Jefferson Reenactment and Living History, **Jefferson**, (903) 665-3733
5. Cinco De Mayo Celebration, **Huntsville**, (936) 295-0223
5. Cinco de Mayo Celebration, **Marshall**, (903) 935-4484
- 5-7. Viva! Cinco De Mayo, **San Marcos**, 1-888-200-5620
- 5-7. Gedenke!, festival, **Weimar**, (979) 725-9552 or www.discoverweimar.com
- 6-7. Rains County Founder's Day Festival, **Emory**, (903) 473-3913
- 6-7. Drumfest, **Victoria**, (361) 788-9842
- 6-8. Wildflower Trail Ride, **Mason**, (830) 456-6745
7. Calhoun County Quilt Guild's Annual Quilt Show, **Port Lavaca**, (361) 972-6023
7. VFD & Rescue Fundraiser Auction, **Willow City**, (830) 685-3321

7. Airing of the Quilts, **Huntsville**, (936) 294-0212
7. Blackland Prairie Festival, **Elgin**, (512) 281-4741
7. Noche en Mejico, **Victoria**, (361) 573-5277
7. Cinco De Mayo Celebration, **Marshall**, (903) 935-4484
7. Native American Social Dance Powwow, **Coolidge**, (254) 786-2683
7. Sidewalk Cattlemen's Steak Dinner and Dance, **Madisonville**, (936) 348-1300
7. Founder's Day, **Howe**, (903) 532-4693 or www.howetx.org
7. Sebastopol May Day, **Seguin**, (830) 379-6382
7. Cinco De Mayo Celebration, **Schulenburg**, (979) 725-8862 or (979) 725-8703
7. Three Rivers Bottle and Jar Show, **Tuleta**, (361) 375-2558
7. Cinco De Mayo Festival, **Athens**, 1-888-294-2847
8. Mother's Day Tea, **Granbury**, (817) 573-3800
- 12-14. Lions Club PRCOA Rodeo, **Crockett**, (936) 546-2265
- 13-14. Moonlight Jubilee & Outhouse Races, **Mount Pleasant**, (903) 572-8567 or www.mtpleasanttx.com

- 13-14. Potato Fest, **Pearsall**, (830) 334-9414
- 13-15. May Fest, **Blanco**, (830) 833-1442
- 13-15. Bluegrass Festival, **Flomot**, (806) 469-5278
14. Highland Lakes Annual Barbecue Cook-Off, **Burnet**, (512) 756-4297 or www.burnetchamber.org
14. Butterfield Stage Days, **Bridgeport**, (940) 683-2076
14. Folklife Festival, **Sulphur Springs**, (903) 885-8071
14. Chisholm Trail Tractor Show & Pull, **Decatur**, (940) 748-2691
14. Stagecoach Stopover Festival, **Anderson**, (936) 825-6600
14. Wein Und Sangerfest, wine festival, **New Braunfels**, (830) 608-2100, ext. 252
14. May Fest, **La Grange**, 1-888-785-4500
14. A Day in the Country, **Richmond**, (281) 343-0218 or www.georgeranch.org
14. Joe Ary Memorial Car Show & Swap Meet, **Shepherd**, (936) 628-3796
14. Good Ol' Times Festival, **Hawkins**, (903) 769-4482
14. Legends of Texas Swing Music Festival, **Dripping Springs**, (512) 694-0874 or

FESTIVAL OF THE MONTH

BY JIM GRAMON

Scarborough Faire: Waxahachie, April 9–May 30

Only in Texas can you drive to a town named for the Indian word for buffalo and visit a 16th century English village, authentically recreated to reflect the time of King Henry VIII. There, for eight glorious spring weekends, you can step into a time warp and experience life in England in 1533.

Scarborough Faire is a fun and educational look at a fascinating time,

with 11 entertainment stages and 200 shoppes (that's the way they spelled it back then). One of the things I love about the Faire is the array of artisan demonstrations—16th century glassblowing, coin minting, blacksmithing, sword making, soap making, bookbinding and many others.

You will also find plenty of food representative of that period of his-

tory (20 tons of giant turkey legs are consumed each season), as well as more contemporary cuisine. So you can drop into a pub and try a fine honey mead to wash down your Scottish eggs, or order some fajitas with a

margarita instead.

There are three full-combat jousts each day and plenty of swordplay, and the "earthy" humor of the Theatre in the Ground mud show. Acrobats, jugglers, mimes, comedians, bawdy wenches, musicians, belly dancers and bagpipe players swirl around the 35-acre "village." Enjoy falconry demonstrations or attend one of the royal Renaissance weddings held each year.

Scarborough Faire is 30 minutes south of Dallas/Ft. Worth near Waxahachie. Take I-35E south to Exit 399A, then go west on FM 66 for 1.6 miles. For more information, call 1-888-5-FESTIVAL or visit their website, www.scarboroughrenfest.com. The Faire is wheelchair accessible. HILCO and Navarro County ECs serve the Waxahachie area.

Jim is author of FUN Texas Festivals and Events. Jim@JimGramon.com, www.JimGramon.com. E-mail Jim with Festival feature suggestions.



SCARBOROUGH FAIRE

Amazing falconry demonstrations help create the illusion of a 16th-century English village at Scarborough Faire in Waxahachie.

- www.legendsoftexaswing.com
14. Blackjack Grove Festival, crafts, bike tour, **Cumby**, (903) 994-2892
 - 14-15. Choo Chili and Beans Festival, **Mineola**, (903) 569-2087 or www.chamber.mineola.com
 - 19-21. Pickin' in the Pines, **Pine Mills**, (903) 857-2253 or www.t-roymiller.com
 - 19-22. Special Olympics Texas Summer Games, **San Marcos**, 1-888-200-5620
 - 20-21. Sidewalk Cattlemen's BBQ Cookoff, **Madisonville**, (936) 348-1300
 - 20-22. Round Up Days, **Ingleside**, (361) 776-2906 or www.inglesidetxchamber.org
 - 20-22. Main Street Days Festival, **Grapevine**, 1-800-457-6338 or www.grapevinetexasusa.com
 21. John Wesley Harden Days, **Comanche**, (325) 356-2032 or 356-9558
 21. May Day, **Castroville**, (830) 931-4070
 21. Texas Natural & Western Swing Festival, **San Marcos**, 1-888-200-5620
 21. Power of the Past, tractor show & pull, **Paris**, (903) 784-1822
 21. Pioneer Round-Up, **Plainview**, (806) 293-8283
 21. Four Corners Fest & Campout, **Trenton**, (972) 977-1101
 21. Scottish Beltane Festival, **Austin**, (512) 327-3377
 21. Castroville Pioneer Day, **Castroville**, (830) 931-2133
 - 21-22. Stagecoach Days, **Marshall**, (903) 935-7868 or www.marshalltxchamber.com
 - 21-22. Commemorative Air Force Air Show & Dance, **San Marcos**, 1-888-200-5620
 22. Living History Days, **McKinney**, (972) 562-8790 or www.chestnutsquare.org
 - 25-29. SummerFest, **Kyle**, (512) 268-5341
 27. Old Fiddlers Reunion and Contest, **Athens**, (903) 675-2325 or 675-1859
 - 27-28. Crawfish Festival, **Fredericksburg**, (830) 997-8515
 - 27-29. National Polka Festival, **Ennis**, 1-888-366-4748 or visitennis.org
 - 27-29. Hill Country Quilt Guild Show, **Kerrville**, (830) 995-2122
 - 27-30. Texas State Arts & Crafts Fair, **Kerrville**,



SCOTS OF AUSTIN

The Capitol City Highlanders will perform at the Beltane Festival hosted by the Scots of Austin May 21.

- 1-888-335-1455 or www.tacef.org
28. Cowboy Breakfast, **Leakey**, (830) 232-5199
28. Fair on the Square Festival, **Rusk**, (903) 683-4242 or www.rusktx.com
28. Woodlawn Bluegrass Show, **Marshall**, (903) 938-0719
28. Shrimp Boil, **Leakey**, (830) 232-5222
28. Blue Hole Benefit, **Wimberley**, (512) 847-3869
- 28-29. 150th Birthday Celebration, **Luckenbach**, 1-888-311-8990 or www.luckenbachtx.com
29. May Festival, **Ellinger**, (979) 378-2311
31. Walt Whitman's Annual Birthday Celebration, **Conroe**, (936) 524-6537
- 3-5. Stars Over Abilene Quilt Show, **Abilene**, (325) 695-4242
4. West Texas Championship Cook-Off, **Sonora**, (325) 387-2880 or www.sonoratx-chamber.com
4. Rod, Custom & Classic Car & Motorcycle Show, **Bandera**, (830) 589-2609
- 4-5. Fireman's Festival, **Weimar**, (979) 725-9511
- 4-5. Back Through Time History Trail, **Floresville to Taft**, (361) 375-2558
- 4-5. Fireman's Festival, **Oakland**, (979) 224-5563
- 4-11. Dairy Festival, **Sulphur Springs**, (903) 885-8071

Event information can be mailed to Around Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, faxed to (512) 486-6254, or e-mailed to aroundtx@texas-ec.org. It must be submitted by the 10th of the month two months prior to publication. E.g., July submissions must be received prior to May 10. Events are listed according to space available. We appreciate photos with credits but regret that they cannot be returned.

June

- 2-4. Texas State Bluegrass Festival, **Brownwood**, (325) 643-8011 or www.lakebrownwoodfriends.org
- 3-4. Sidewalk Cattlemen's Parade, Rodeo & Dance, **Madisonville**, (936) 348-1300

SAFE LIVING

Should You Upgrade Your Home's Wiring?

How do you know if your home's electrical system is properly wired or in need of repairs or upgrades?

Here are four key indicators:

- When you turn on an appliance, such as a dishwasher, clothes washer or dryer, the lights in your home dim.
- You frequently have problems with fuses blowing or circuit breakers

tripping off.

- Appliances that heat up, such as toasters and irons, don't get as hot as they should or take a longer time to heat up.
- Your television picture shrinks when other lights or appliances come on.

If any of these problems plague your home, call a licensed electrician quickly. Old, inadequate wiring,

overloaded circuits and other problems are dangerous.

Our reliance on electricity makes it important to ensure that our homes' electrical systems are appropriate to our needs. So play it safe, and remember—rewiring a home, adding circuits or upgrading electrical systems is a job for a qualified, professional electrician. Contact your local co-op for additional information.

'You Are Getting Sleepy' (and Photographed!)

If the number of entries we received for “caught napping” is any indication, don’t close your eyes for a quick nap when there’s a camera in the house—unless, of course, you’d like to see how you look at your most vulnerable. We received so many entries for our “Caught Napping” contest that this month’s Focus on Texas has swelled to two pages. Enjoy the blissful slumber of others on these pages—and try not to yawn!

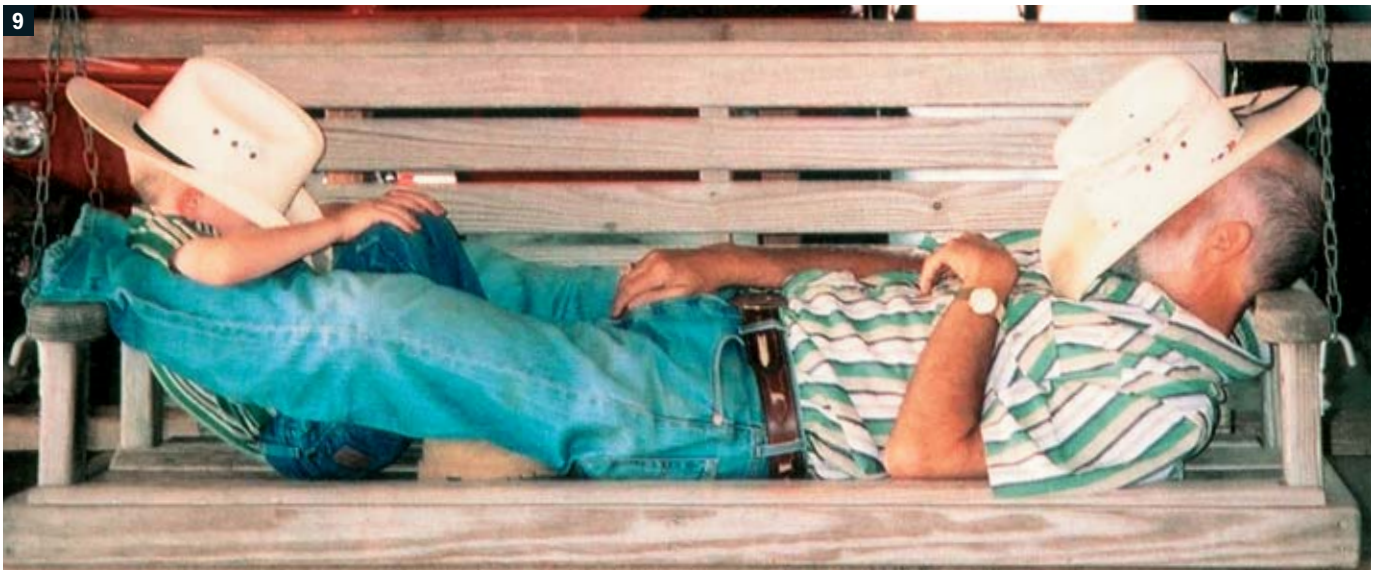
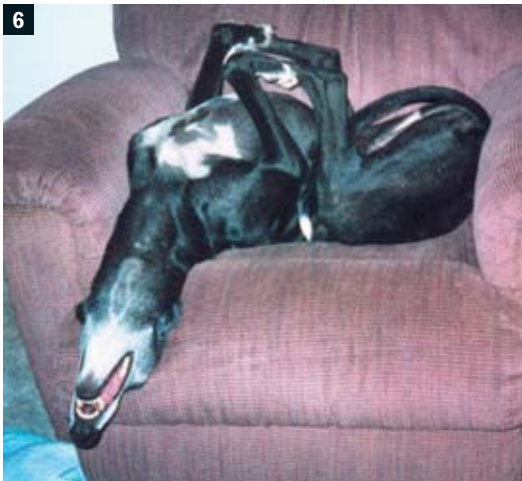
Water Gardens and Ponds is the topic for our July issue. Send your photos—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to Water Gardens and Ponds, Focus on Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, before May 10. A stamped, self-addressed envelope should be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). If you use a digital camera, e-mail your highest resolution images to focus@texas-ec.org.



1: Little **BRYANT PARKER** was caught napping with his best friend—and pillow—**GUS** the Great Dane. Grandparents **LARRY** and **SANDRA PARKER** belong to Bowie-Cass EC. **2:** **GINGER ROOT**, a yearling goat, finds a comfy spot for a nap on top of **MISTY**, a 9-year old mare belonging to Central Texas EC members **JOHN** and **MARY SANDSTEDT**. Mary says Misty loves baby goats and acts like a surrogate nanny. **3:** **ANDI WILKS'** mom calls this shot “A Tired Ballerina.” “I am not sure how she could possibly go to sleep in such a fashion, but there she was, sleeping peacefully,” says Comanche EC member **JO ANN WILKS**. What a balancing act! **4:** After spending the night at a stake-out in Naples, Texas, for a bank robber and murderer who had escaped from an Oklahoma penitentiary, Morris County Sheriff **BEN GARRETT** took a well-deserved short “rest” at the Jenkins Drug Store, one of his favorite hang-outs. The photographer was **MAX MCGEE**, a clerk at the store, who many years later became the interim sheriff. Bowie-Cass EC member **FANNIE GARRETT** submitted the photo of her father taken in 1936. Her brother, **GEORGE T. GARRETT**, is a BTU member. Incidentally, Sheriff Garrett did capture the criminal.

UPCOMING in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
July	Water Gardens & Ponds	May 10
August	Those Were the Days	June 10
September	Bridges	July 10
October	Pumpkin Patch	August 10
November	The Big Hunt	September 10
December	Santa Claus	October 10



5: It's a "paws" that refreshes for **SCOUT** the beagle, who is often found asleep in peculiar positions (usually in forbidden places), according to his owner, Farmers EC member **CHRIS DOLTER**. **6:** South Plains EC members **BILL** and **SALLIE MORRIS** adopted their greyhound, **LAPIS**, in June 2002. Lapis quickly discovered the best napping spot in the house, Sallie's recliner. Is that a smile on Lapis' sleeping face? **7:** Sunlight warms this peaceful Thanksgiving tableau of young **MARIE WEBSTER** sleeping in the lap of her great-grandfather, **SAM AULT**. Sam's daughter-in-law, Concho Valley EC member **MAGGIE AULT**, says the 91-year-old tells vivid stories of his actor/stuntman days in Hollywood. **8:** When **PAUL JENSEN** took a short time-out from helping his son install a wood floor, **COOPER** and **BANDIT** snuggled in to join him. Son **PETER JENSEN**, a Pedernales EC member, took the photo, submitted by **KATHI JENSEN** (Paul's wife, Peter's mother, and Cooper's and Bandit's "godgrandmother"). **9:** Like grandfather, like grandson. **GARY PURDY** was napping in the patio swing when his grandson, **JOHN COLE**, climbed aboard. Gary's wife, **JUDY**, who grabbed the camera before they moved, says these two are best buddies. The Purdy family belongs to Fannin County EC.



My Day in the Dickens Jail

As you climb the Caprock on Highway 82, the landscape spreads for miles before disappearing into the ever-receding horizon of West Texas. The spectacle can play tricks on your brain, making a traveler feel ant-like in such vastness.

In summer, the air itself seems to blossom with the aroma of sage. Sandstone formations sculpted by windstorms through the millennia look like red domes or cathedrals. Wait long enough and a buzzard will appear overhead, sliding along on the surface

time at the Knox County line, the edge of his jurisdiction.

Lowell and A.J. go with him to Dickens and I wait in the scraggly shade of a solitary mesquite tree for the tow truck. For an hour I am but another creature in the silence, though a helpless one compared to the hardy lizards and jackrabbits. A dirt devil approaches as if to investigate, then changes its mind and whirls away.

Soon comes young rescuer Steven Taylor, who hitches up the car and sets out for the Dickens County Jail, where

trapdoor, thankfully long out of use. She introduces me to the three inmates. "And the cat over there is Circe," she says. "Belongs to Cisco, the night dispatcher. State inspector said it couldn't stay because of allergies. Cisco said, 'Any prisoners with allergies will just have to be transferred to another jail. Circe stays.'" There's also a dog, Coosie, a free spirit who belongs to no one but calls the jail home.

Anthony, an inmate with trusty privileges, takes me to freshen up and tells me to make myself at home in the visitor's waiting room. I am the only visitor.

The evening dispatcher, Julie Alexander, moonlights from her teaching job at Patton Springs. "Tell Mr. Stan I said hello," Julie says. I say that I wish he had never left here, that I miss visiting him.

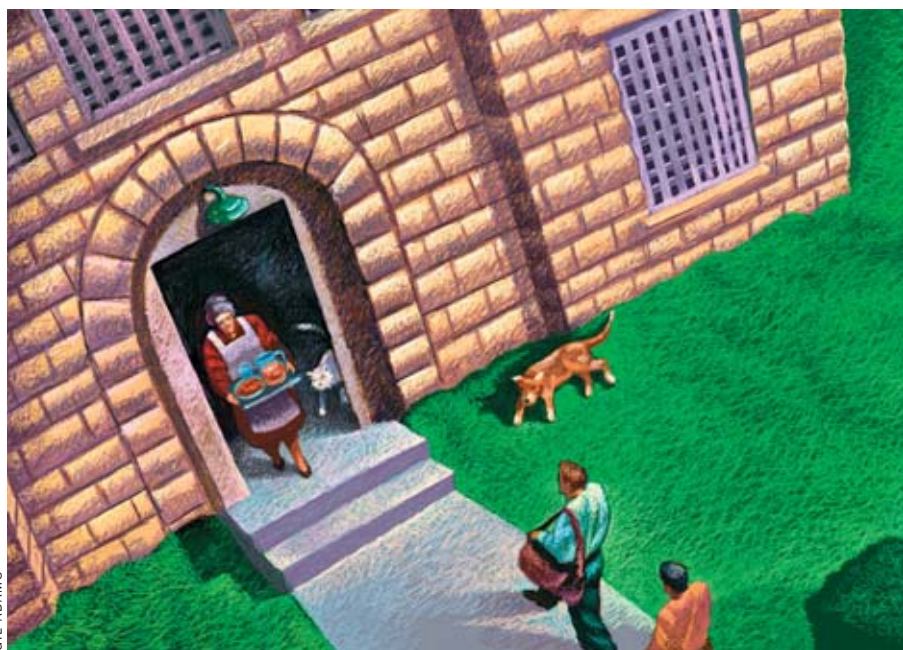
But his leave-taking is typical. Like most neighboring counties, Dickens County loses population each year, dwindling from 8,000 in 1930 to 2,700 today. Dickens, the county seat, is down to 408. There's no industry, only farming and ranching, Deputy Sheriff Jimmy Land tells me.

Just before dark, I cross Highway 82 to the abandoned storefront and stand in the spot where Roy Rogers once bent over his old truck and poked a sharpened stick into a hole in his own leaking radiator. "Leak, leak, leak," Roy said. It was in his last movie, "McIntosh and T.J.," about a battered cowboy and the abandoned boy who learns through their relationship what it's like to have a father.

Lowell and A.J. return at 10 and I say goodbye to Anthony the trusty, Julie the dispatcher, Janie the jailer, Circe the cat and Coosie the dog. Before I go, I ask Janie's granddaughter Jennifer if she likes living in such a small town. She says she does. "I know everybody. Everybody's your friend."

South Plains EC serves Dickens County.

Tom Dodge, who lives in Midlothian, is a frequent contributor to Texas Co-op Power.



GIL ADAMS

of the wind. Or a coyote will lope across the cactus slopes, glancing suspiciously over its shoulder. Even the lizards waddling along on their short legs have a prehistoric beauty.

Into such a world I set out with son Lowell and grandson A.J. Near Vera, a map dot in Knox County on the edge of desolation, the car's radiator blows.

Lowell makes cell-phone calls but technology can't penetrate the vastness. Help arrives nevertheless. A mysterious, serendipitous call goes through as if transmitted by soaring bird to prairie chicken to a Dickens County trooper arriving at just that

the boys wait. Steven and I find we are connected by a family friend, Lennie Stan, Steven's teacher a decade ago at nearby Patton Springs, who has since moved to Florida.

At the jail we decide to tow the car to Lubbock. Oh, the joy! A.J. has ridden in a police cruiser with a real trooper. Now a tow truck is in his future!

Inside, jailer Janie Walker invites me to share the meal she's preparing for the inmates. As I dig into the mashed potatoes and ground beef wrapped in cabbage, she proudly tells me this is the second oldest operational jail in Texas. Upstairs we see the hangman's