

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

TEXAS DANCE HALLS

PLUS:

UT's Treasure Trove
Janis Joplin Birthday Bash
Pasture Golf

ONLY CRACKPOTS TAKE SHOTS

Transformers

It doesn't take a crack shot to hit an electric insulator or transformer, just a crackpot. During hunting season, careless shooters taking pot shots at electric equipment can cause major problems for your electric company.

Here's why:

- You are inconveniencing your fellow member-customers whose electricity has been disrupted.
- It could even be a matter of life and death to someone on a life-support system or to someone who is hit by a stray shot.
- Damage to electrical equipment is very expensive to repair. Lines may be cut or weakened from a shot, and they may sag or break, becoming a severe hazard for anyone who comes in contact with the line.
- Broken insulators can cause power outages that are hard—and expensive—to find. An insulator cracked by a bullet can remain on line for a long time before it finally fails.

Enjoy your sport, but be a responsible hunter. Teach your children to respect power lines, electrical equipment and guns so that they, too, will be responsible hunters.



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TEXAS CO-OP POWER

A MAGAZINE ABOUT TEXAS LIVING

Treasures in the Heart of Texas

This month we dance our way across Texas with Gail Folkins and photographer J. Marcus Weekley, who show us some classic dance halls still thriving in Texas. Dance halls are an intrinsic part of Texas history; days and nights spent there are woven into the memories of many Texans.

Next, we visit one of my favorite institutions, the Harry Ransom Center and its eclectic and obscure collections. It's commonly known that this world-class museum has the very first photograph ever made and a Gutenberg Bible, but did you know the collection also has everything from a lock of Marie Antoinette's hair to the set drawings of Atlanta burning from *Gone With the Wind* to a pair of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's underwear? Writer Elaine Robbins takes us on a tour of some of the amazing artifacts you will find there.

As usual in January, after all our holiday feasting, there is a renewed interest in getting in shape. This month's Recipes in Review focuses on recipes for diabetics, featuring foods that can help make you and your family healthier in the coming year, whether or not you are diabetic.

Finally, check out the artistic windmill photos in Focus on Texas. With so many submissions, Focus Editor Cheryl Tucker had a difficult time selecting the featured few.

We wish you health and prosperity in the coming year.

Enjoy!



Peg Champion
VP, Communications/Publisher



Bluebonnet EC member **BILL BROOKS** writes: "Finally, you have a Focus on Texas [topic] that I have a picture of! I shot this on a trip to West Texas at the Law West of the Pecos, Judge Roy Bean Museum." For more windmill photos, turn to page 37.



J. MARCUS WEEKLEY

The bunkhouse at Oldtimer's Roundup Hall in Stamford houses a museum.

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By Gail Folkins, Photos by J. Marcus Weekley

Although they may have air conditioning these days, many Texas dance halls have defied the inevitable march of time. Built by German and Czech immigrants, they have been part of the tapestry of Texas since the late 1800s.

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By Elaine Robbins

From the Watergate papers to Gloria Swanson's sunglasses, the Harry Ransom Center at UT-Austin preserves a wealth of collections. The public has access to many of them.

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By Clay Coppedge

Pasture Golf in Thorndale



Circus? I'm Off to Join the Indians!

Just read your story about children that were kidnapped by Indians in the 19th century ["Captured by Indians," November 2005]. Thought I'd try and tell you about my Uncle Knox.

In the late 1800s, Knox Beal was an orphan in Dallas. At the ripe age of 9, he decided he wanted to live somewhere other than the orphanage, so he simply walked away. Standing on a corner under a streetlight, he was picked up by a traveling carnival. The man with the wagon was the head clown. He liked Knox and soon made him part of his act ... making him a frog suit and teaching him to tumble.

One night they were in North Texas [where] the Army was in the process of returning a band of Comanches to Fort Sill. Two of the Comanches struck up a friendship with Knox. He told them he wanted to be an Indian, and they asked where he slept. Very late that night they took him from the clown's tent.

Of course, at daybreak, here came the clown with six soldiers looking for his little meal ticket, Knox. The Indians quickly covered Knox with a blanket and soot and ash from the fire pit and placed him among their own kids. Three days later Knox was at Fort Sill.

[Chief Quanah Parker placed him with one of his seven wives, who happened to be childless.] Knox told me many stories about those times—all

the raids, fishing trips, ponies ... an idyllic childhood.

When Theodore Roosevelt was collecting men for his little army, Quanah told Knox it was time for him to fight for the white man. When Knox got [to the recruiting post], there were 300 men there. He was one of the first picked.

Off to Cuba ... another story.

Knox Beal had five wives. My grandmother's sister, Aunt Martha, was number one and number five. They lived in Cashe, Oklahoma, close to the old reservation where both were buried. I pay the small upkeep on the plot.

I'll quit now so I won't bore you too much.

ROY WALLISER, Blossom

Editors' response: Bore us? We want to know what happened when Knox rode with the Rough Riders in Cuba!

Indian Cruelty Was Common

I have read the article "Captured by Indians" in the November issue of your magazine and though long familiar with the subject, found it interesting, factual and enjoyable reading.

However, these cases [of kind treatment] were the exception to the usual treatment suffered by captives. Other readers of this article may be misled if they are led to believe that all victims of Indian raids longed to become members of their captors' tribe.

There is the case of the crying infant that was held by his hair while its captor rode past a tree and impaled its body on a protruding branch. In my book, *The Wichita Mountains, Ancient Oasis of the Prairie* (Texan Press, 1973), I wrote of one captive, Matilda Lockhart. When she was finally recovered by the Army, her nose was completely burned away, leaving the raw bones protruding from her face.

But perhaps this topic [of cruelty] is taboo. Sales of my book, above, were effectively cut by Indians in Oklahoma because such tales were a part of it. Strangely, similar stories of fictional torture in my book, *Quest for Quivira* (Council for Indian Education, 1990) [did not affect its sales].

E. B. MORGAN, United Cooperative Services

Editor's response: We chose to emphasize the experiences of nine child captives from Central Texas because their stories were so compelling, not because they were representative of all captives.

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.

S A F E L I V I N G

Post-Holiday Safety

The post-holiday period is a time to relax, kick back, and let your hair down—but not your guard, especially if you have children.


The Electrical Safety Foundation International makes these suggestions to help you start your new year safely:

- Use the gripping area of the plug when unplugging lights and appliances. Yanking or tugging on the cord could damage the wires and insulation, possibly leading to

an electrical shock or fire.

- Separate indoor decorations from those used outdoors. Label them accordingly.
- Discard broken or faulty lights.
- Store decorations away from children, pets and water.
- Make sure all electrical lights, toys and appliances bear the seal of a nationally recognized certification agency, such as CSA, Intertek Testing Services or Underwriters Laboratories.

- Don't allow your children to use electrical toys near water and make sure they know that water and electricity never mix. Electrical toys can become shock hazards if they are misused.
- Send warranty and product registration forms to manufacturers. That way, they can notify you promptly in case of a recall.
- Post-holiday sales are a great time to purchase fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.



TEXAS DANCE HALLS



By Gail Folkins



Photos by J. Marcus Weekley





A GERMAN SINGING CLUB BUILT SAENGERHALLE (SINGING HALL) IN GUADALUPE COUNTY IN 1959. BUT THE LAND ON WHICH IT SITS HAS BEEN USED FOR FESTIVALS AND DANCING SINCE THE 1800S. THE CLUB SOLD THE BUILDING IN 1966. IT IS NOW OWNED AND RUN BY THE CHASE FAMILY. ERIC CHASE DESCRIBES SAENGERHALLE AS BOTH FAMILY- AND DOG-FRIENDLY.



Squint your eyes hard till the custom pickups fade from the parking lot, till the electric guitars melt back to old wooden acoustics, till the cell phones disappear. Hear the plaintive wail of the fiddle and the scuff of cowboy boots on a polished hardwood floor. Smell the sawdust and cold fried chicken, and match your heartbeat to the rhythmic thump of the upright bass.

A timeless magic lifts your heart in a dance hall, no matter what the decade.

While much on the surface has changed, the essence of Texas dance halls has defied the inevitable march of time. Built by German and Czech immigrants, they have been part of the tapestry of Texas since the late 1800s.

Back then, the halls were built for family outings, not just for couples to kick up their heels. Church picnics, family reunions and saint's days were celebrated on the grounds. In fact, the whole spectrum of life events—birth, coming of age, marriage, anniversary

and death—was observed at these community halls.

Surviving halls like Ammannsville's KJT Hall are still key to community kinship and history. (KJT stands for *Katolika Jednota Texaska*, the Catholic Union of Texas.) But the great dance hall era has gone the way of the horse-drawn carriage. With so many other entertainment options available, Fayette County halls like Dubina and Freyburg host only the occasional dance these days.

Weekend dances once made Fayette County a social hub. Accordion music and home-brewed beer were always part of the mix. To advertise dances in the early 1900s, the hall in Dubina relied on a nearby flagpole.

"If a flag flew, it meant there was a dance," says Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka. "The townspeople learned about funerals in a similar fashion from the church bell. It chimed once for a man, twice for a woman." For a typical Czech wedding, which sometimes lasted as long as three days, the hall could accommodate 800 people.

While growing up in Fayette County, Gary McKee, now a photographer and vice chairman of the Fayette County Historical Commission, perfected the dance hall prowl.

"We were looking for the scene, so we'd drive to Weimar, which was about 17 or 18 miles away, to the VFW Hall," he says. "If nothing was happening there, we'd go 9 miles south to New Bealeu Hall [which has since burned down], and then back to Schulenburg's KC Hall, and then back up to the Roundup Hall [in La Grange]."

Even on a Sunday night, the halls were hopping. "You could visit Cistern Hall, which was in the middle of nowhere, for a Sunday night dance with the Velvets," he recalls.

Once they'd found a place to settle in, McKee and his underage friends took pains to avoid the lone deputy who policed the dances.

"We had one light bulb over us," he says. "So we'd sit in the bleachers and unscrew that one light bulb, then sit back and clock the time it took the

deputy to screw the bulb back in.” It was a game they played often.

Despite their continued use for community gatherings, picnics and dances, dance halls have suffered from urban migration and modern demands for air conditioning. The Oldtimer’s Roundup Hall in Stamford (Jones County), for instance—once the site of weekly dances—now hosts one dance a month. Stamford native Ron Calhoun says that people used to flock to the Roundup Hall from surrounding towns for live performances by Bob Wills, Hank Thompson, Hank Snow and Lefty Frizzell.

Still, there is some new blood in the business. Dance hall ownership for the Chase family began with a move from Abilene to Central Texas in the mid-1990s. Eric Chase’s visits to

Saengerhalle in Guadalupe County led to the eventual purchase of the hall. Eric, his mother, Terrie, and cousin Justin all help run the hall today.

Considering the family’s Baptist background, Terrie Chase wasn’t sure how her immediate family, particularly her mother, would take to their new purchase. To her surprise, the family was tickled pink.

“They all come help out when we have big shows,” Terrie says. “I have an aunt who is 74, and who had never been inside a place that sold alcohol.” This aunt, wearing a black leather jacket, walked into Saengerhalle with one of Terrie’s cousins. “My cousin put a beer in her hand, and she just smiled when I took a picture. I used it as my Christmas card that year. She was a really good sport.”

Along with the music and community spirit of the hall, the family also appreciates the hall’s colorful past. “When the place is empty and quiet, you realize all the history,” Eric says. “When it’s quiet, you can hear every band who’s ever played here.”

Fayette EC serves much of Fayette County, including several dance halls. Big Country EC serves all of rural Jones County. Guadalupe Valley EC serves much of Guadalupe County.

To locate operating historic dance halls across the state, go to www.honkytonktx.com/dancehalls.

Gail Folkins, a Ph.D. candidate in creative nonfiction at Texas Tech University, is writing a book on Texas dance halls titled *Dance Hall Revival* (under contract with Texas Tech University Press). J. Marcus Weekley, also a Ph.D. candidate in poetry at Texas Tech, is shooting photos for the book.



LOUIS CORZINE IS THE LONE CARETAKER OF THE OLDTIMER'S ROUNDUP HALL IN STAMFORD. THE HALL IS NO LONGER USED FOR PUBLIC DANCES; IT'S RENTED FOR PRIVATE PARTIES. THE OLDTIMER'S ASSOCIATION, A GROUP THAT HONORED LOCAL PIONEERS AND DESCENDANTS, BUILT THE HALL IN 1939. THE ANNUAL TEXAS COWBOY REUNION AND RODEO ARE HELD ON ADJACENT GROUNDS.



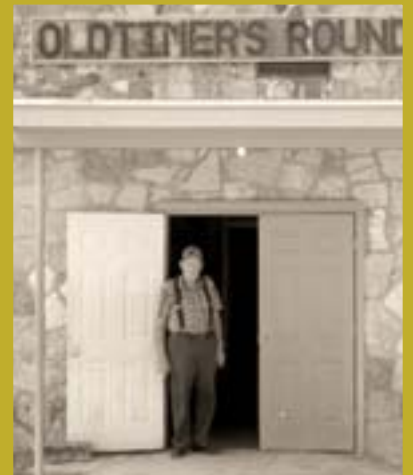
AMMANNSVILLE'S KJT HALL WAS BUILT IN 1898. THE COMMUNITY USES THE WELL-PRESERVED HALL FOR MEETINGS AND PARTIES. WHEN THE WEATHER IS RIGHT, FAYETTE COUNTY RESIDENTS HOLD PICNICS AND FUNDRAISERS OUTSIDE.



RAPT LISTENERS AT SAENGERHALLE.



A DAYTIME SERENADE AT KJT HALL.



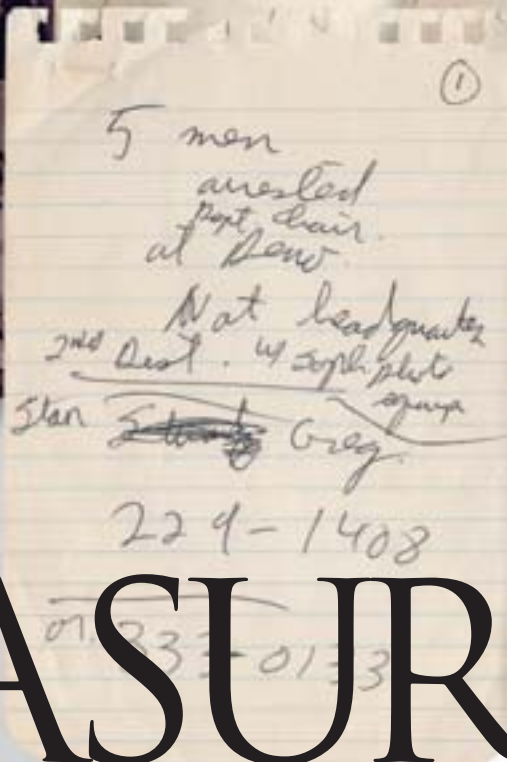
LOUIS CORZINE AT ROUNDUP HALL.



BEER AND COUNTRY MUSIC ATTRACT DANCERS TO SAENGERHALLE.



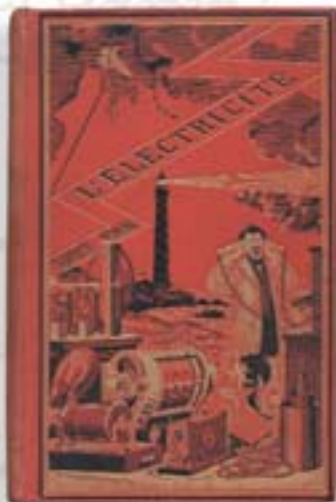
WINNER GETS A DESSERT AT KJT HALL.



UT'S TREASURE TROVE

By Elaine Robbins

Photos Courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center



FROM ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S CORRESPONDENCE
TO GLORIA SWANSON'S SUNGLASSES,
THE RANSOM CENTER HOUSES A WORLD-CLASS
COLLECTION OF CULTURAL ARTIFACTS.

Five men arrested at Demo Nat headquarters." Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward scribbled those words in his pocket notebook at a preliminary court hearing in 1972. Those seven words sparked an investigation that would eventually bring down President Richard Nixon.

Today that scrawled note—along with taped interviews and hundreds of pages of Woodward's and Carl Bernstein's other notes and drafts—can be viewed at the Harry Ransom Center on The University of Texas campus in Austin. The Watergate papers are just part of the center's vast collections, which include 36 million manuscripts, more than 1 million rare books, 5 million photographs, and 100,000 works of art. A magnificent 15th-century Gutenberg Bible is on permanent display, as is the world's first photograph, taken by Joseph Niepce in 1820, a dim view of a French village called "View from the Window at Le Gras."

Scholars have long tapped the wealth of the Ransom Center's archives, but in recent years the

public has discovered its cultural riches through exhibitions, lectures and readings. I started my exploration of the collections in the second-floor Reading Room after showing identification and watching a short video on the proper handling of fragile materials.

I asked to see a copy of *The Waste Land*, T.S. Eliot's celebrated poem about the spiritual dryness left in the wake of World War I. But the small, leather-bound book that Research Librarian Richard Workman brought to my table wasn't just any copy of *The Waste Land*. It was the very copy that Eliot gave to fellow poet Ezra Pound. I carefully opened the cover and saw Eliot's handwritten inscription to Pound: *miglior fabbro* ("the better craftsman"). Workman pointed out mold damage on the inside cover. "Pound buried it during World War II," he told me. "He was afraid it would be stolen or bombed."

On a special behind-the-scenes tour of the collections, I saw movie scripts and props from the vast David O. Selznick archive, which spans the career of the famous Hollywood producer.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Gutenberg Bible; robe from the original production of Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps* (*The Rite of Spring*), 1913; Bob Woodward's notes from the preliminary court hearing on the Watergate break-in; Russell Lee photo of barbershop signs. ABOVE: Cover from Georges Dary's *Tout par L'Électricité*, a book on new uses for electricity.



"MR. DEMILLE, I'M READY
FOR MY CLOSE-UP."



Before computers, artists painstakingly drew each scene of a film by hand so the crew would have plans for each set. Two standouts were the dramatic orange-and-black storyboard for the “Burning of Atlanta” scene from *Gone With the Wind* and Salvador Dali’s surrealistic dream sequence for Alfred Hitchcock’s *Spellbound*.

My explorations continued in antiseptic, temperature-regulated halls and workrooms on several floors. I saw Walker Evans’ haunting faces of Depression-era tenant farmers from his documentary project with James Agee, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*. The photography collection also includes works by Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Eve Arnold, photojournalist David Douglas Duncan, and Russell Lee, who established the photography program in UT’s art department.

I saw Gloria Swanson’s tortoiseshell sunglasses from *Sunset Boulevard*, stored in a box on a row of shelves. Pulling out her personal copy of the script for that Hollywood classic, Associate Film Curator Steve Wilson showed me where the actress changed the line, “Mr. DeMille, I’m ready for the close-up” to the now famous “Mr. DeMille, I’m ready for my close-up.”

And I’ll never forget Marie Antoinette’s hair. Conservator Stephanie Watkins showed me one of her golden locks. It was once the fashion to collect hair as a remembrance, and the center has locks from the likes of Napoleon and George Washington.

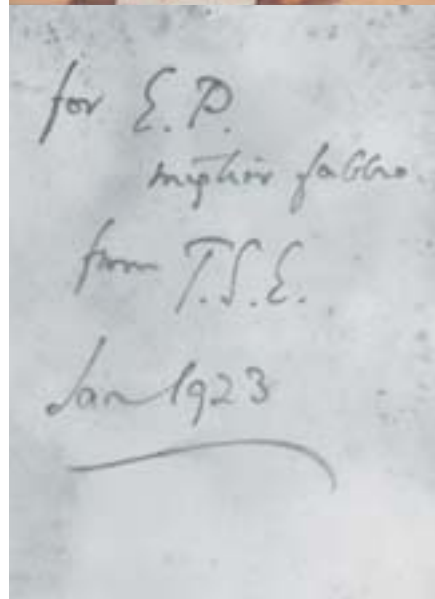
How did this world-class collection of cultural artifacts end up in Texas instead of London or Paris or New York? In the late 1950s, Harry Hunt Ransom—English professor and later dean, university president and chancellor—decided to put The University of Texas on the map by creating a research library that would attract scholars from everywhere. Ransom built his collection on the university’s existing holdings, among them manuscripts and first editions of British poets Byron, Shelley and Keats donated by Miriam Litcher Stark of Orange.

The relentless Ransom scoured Europe and New York, where he lunched with literary figures and scooped up literary archives at auctions at Christie’s and Sotheby’s. Backed by a huge UT endowment, he bought the best, no matter what the cost. In 1958 he bought the T.E. Hanley Library, acquiring in one fell swoop the manuscripts of Ernest Hemingway’s *Death in the Afternoon*, the earliest surviving draft of Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman*, George Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion*, Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot*, and William Faulkner’s *Absalom, Absalom!*

Ransom focused on the work of 20th-century writers, especially the modern literature of Great Britain, France and America. The Ransom Center also developed a broader focus than most established libraries.

“Ransom thought that you should collect all drafts, correspondence, various versions of the manuscript and proofs,” said Workman. “This gave scholars the most material to study the work as a living thing.” A scholar poring over the drafts of a Tennessee Williams play called *A Poker Night* can ponder how the play’s impact might have changed if the playwright hadn’t changed the title at the last minute to *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

This grab-bag approach to collecting has turned up many surprises over the years. “Things came with collections and turned out to be hugely important years later,” says Oliver Franklin, executive curator of public programming. For example, when three works by



OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Currency from Lester Hemingway’s island; storyboard from *Gone With the Wind*; very early X-ray photograph; Gloria Swanson’s sunglasses; lock of Marie Antoinette’s hair. THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: Harry Hunt Ransom; sheet music from *Ziegfeld Follies*; T.S. Eliot’s handwritten inscription to Ezra Pound on the flyleaf of *The Waste Land*.

Frida Kahlo arrived with the Nickolas Murray collection of Mexican art, “she wasn’t on the art radar at all,” says Franklin. “Subsequently, she has become an icon.”

Visitors can also appreciate the odd-ball personal effects that made it into the collections, such as a pair of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s underwear. The Hemingway collection includes a letter from his mother in which she wonders whether he’ll ever amount to anything, and memorabilia from a Caribbean

island colony that the author’s brother founded, complete with its own flag, stamps, and wood blocks and rocks to be used as currency.

The Ransom Center’s current director, Thomas F. Staley, continues to subscribe to the “collect everything” philosophy. When he bought Norman Mailer’s archives for \$2.5 million last year, trucks arrived in Austin with 420 boxes containing more than 20,000 pounds of material.

Indeed, for writers, the Ransom

Center offers not only top dollar, but something even more valuable: Someone else to go through all their stuff. When Staley purchased British playwright Tom Stoppard’s archives, three cargo boxes arrived weighing nearly a ton. A year later, Stoppard called Staley and asked him to stop by his offices outside of London to help him go through a few more papers.

After a hard day’s work, the two men were about to go to a pub when a woman told Stoppard there were three more boxes in an old log house that were drawing mice. Staley, of course, insisted on seeing what was there. “We went into a damp outbuilding and saw hundreds of moldy paperbacks and several boxes overflowing with papers,” he recalled. “I bent over and fell two feet through the rotted wood on the floor, and as I went down, I caught a file folder of letters.” The file contained the proverbial buried treasure: letters from such theater luminaries as Harold Pinter and Samuel Beckett.

The challenge of cataloging and caring for this ever-growing mountain of materials falls to the Ransom Center’s archivists and conservators. In the conservation lab, I watched as Mary Baughman repaired a huge leather-bound book, one of 33 volumes of Diderot’s 1751 hand-illustrated encyclopedia. She carefully pulled a thread through the spine and cover. “Our approach to books has changed,” explained Senior Conservator Olivia Primanis. “In the past we did more invasive treatments. Today we just try to stabilize deteriorated, original materials for scholars to study.”

In the ongoing battle against aging paper and detached spines, what is Primanis’ biggest peeve? “Scotch tape,” she blurted out. “They Scotch tape things.”

Then she reflected a moment, and added, “But if they didn’t, who knows what we would have lost?”

The Ransom Center is on the campus of The University of Texas, at the corner of Guadalupe and 21st streets in Austin. Admission is free. For more information, call (512) 471-8944 or go to www.hrc.utexas.edu.

Elaine Robbins, who is based in Austin, wrote “Drive Yourself Wild” in the April 2004 Texas Co-op Power.

Emergency Kit

PACK YOUR EMERGENCY KIT NOW!

Have you taken steps to prepare for severe storms before they strike? Why not put together an emergency supply kit now?

Here’s what your kit should include:

- First-aid kit
- Cash (banks and ATMs may be unavailable in a power outage)
- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlight (and extra batteries)
- Important documents and records, photo IDs, proof of residence
- Three-day supply of nonperishable food
- Three gallons of bottled water per person
- Coolers for food and ice storage
- Fire extinguisher
- Blankets, sleeping bags and extra clothing
- Prescription medications, written copies of prescriptions, hearing aids and other special medical items
- Eyeglasses and sunglasses
- Extra keys
- Toilet paper, clean-up supplies, duct tape, tarp, rope
- Can opener, knife, tools



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

Best of Co-op Country Contest 2006

Win a weekend for two at Messina Hof Winery, valued at \$1,000!



We invite you to participate in our fourth Best of Co-op Country contest. Print your choices on the form below in whatever categories you wish. Please include the location and a phone number if possible. Provide your name, address, telephone number and co-op. Mail this page or a copy to "Best of Co-op Country," 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704.

Entries will be judged on the number and legitimacy of nominations received. Co-op members who provide nominations for at least half the categories are eligible for a drawing. The form will also be published in several future issues. The winner of the drawing will receive a free weekend for two at Messina Hof Winery and Resort in Bryan, valued at \$1,000. Messina Hof has a bed and breakfast and a restaurant, The Vintage House, which was the readers' choice for Dining Worth the Drive this year.

Now for the rules: No petitions, each form must be mailed separately, and establishments promoting themselves cannot provide stamps or envelopes for entries.

Tours, Tastings, Gift Shop, Bed and Breakfast, Fine Dining, Picnic and Events

A visit to Messina Hof Winery and Resort is like a romantic journey to the European Wine Country. You'll find the perfect blend of Italian and German cultures, resulting in premium wines made in Texas. One hundred acres of rolling hills and two picturesque lakes help make Messina Hof unforgettable. Our wines have received many accolades, including Best Texas Wine in 2004 and 2005 in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's International Wine Competition. Among other destination awards, The Villa, our 10-room luxury country inn, was voted Most Romantic Hideaway in the U.S. by Arrington's *Book of Lists*, and The Vintage House Restaurant was chosen one of Texas' Best Restaurants by the East Texas Tourism Association.



Best of Co-op Country General Contest Entry Form

Enchilada: _____

Water Tower: _____

Fourth of July Parade: _____

Lake: _____

Your Name: _____

Public Mural: _____

Co-op: _____

Riding Trail: _____

Address: _____

Spa: _____

City/Zip: _____

Texas Musician: _____

Phone: _____

The deadline for submitting nominations is March 15, 2006. The results will be published in the September 2006 issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL? CHECK THE ELECTRICITY



That foul smell coming from the garage might not be musty old boxes. Unpleasant odors could be a warning sign that your home's electrical wiring needs attention.

Shoddy home wiring contributes to 35,000 fires and 300 deaths every year, especially in older houses, estimates the National Fire Protection Association. Decades-old circuit breakers, switches, receptacles, outlets, cords, plugs and fixtures might not be equipped to operate today's appliances.

Further, the American Society of Home Inspectors says improper wiring is the second most common problem in home inspections. Inspectors blame inadequate overload protection and amateur-installed wiring.

If you smell burning metal or plastic, it could be time to replace your

electrical system. Other symptoms of a "sick" system are:

- Shocks. Good, modern systems are grounded so that you will be protected from shocks and injuries.
- Flickering or dimming lights, often caused by connections that are coming loose.
- Wobbly plugs. The prongs on today's appliances slip out of outdated outlets. Replace the outlets.
- Hot or discolored receptacles, switch plates, cords or plugs. If they're too hot to touch for more than five seconds, they're probably overloaded or malfunctioning. Replace worn cords.
- TV or computer screens that waver when you turn on a large appliance. This either means your house needs more electrical capacity or a circuit is overloaded.

IT COULD PAY TO SAVE ENERGY IN 2006

Homeowners who make energy-efficient improvements around the house this year and next will be able to claim a 10 percent tax credit for many of them.

The home tax credits are good only for purchases made in 2006 and 2007, and come with limits. A homeowner who installs efficient windows, for example, can claim 10 percent of the cost—up to \$200. Those who add energy-saving doors, skylights, insulation and some metal roofs could get a credit of up to \$500.

The credit toward the purchase of a hybrid car can range from \$1,700 to \$3,000. The amount you get depends on how much fuel your new car saves compared with 2002 models, and on the car's estimated lifetime fuel savings.

But the hybrid car tax credit, which begins January 1, will be reduced as auto manufacturers sell more of the



Purchasing a hybrid car, such as this Toyota Prius, may entitle you to a federal tax credit.

PHOTO BY PETER PANAYIOTOU, COURTESY TOYOTA

cars. Some estimate that only those who buy in the first quarter of 2006 will see the full tax credit.

Indeed, the energy bill is stuffed full of details. Tax experts recommend that anyone hoping to reap an energy-related tax credit consult with an accountant who is familiar with the reams of regulations.

For more on the energy bill, visit www.energy.gov.

How Safe Is Your Electric Blanket?

Electric blankets cause 5,000 fires and 20 deaths each year, mostly because they're old and worn out. Minimize the risk of fire because of a faulty blanket by taking a few precautions:

- Toss your blanket in the trash if the fabric is tattered or has scorch marks, if control or plug connections are loose, or if tie-tapes are damaged or missing.
- Choose a new electric blanket that has a built-in overheating protection system. Stay away from secondhand blankets.
- Unplug your blanket before drifting off to sleep.
- When the weather starts to warm up, store your electric blanket separate from other winter bedding with as few creases as possible.

NEW WASHERS/DRYERS OFFER STYLE AND SAVINGS

Looking to replace that old washer that sounds like an earthquake on the spin cycle and is ratcheting up your electric bill? Take advantage of new washers and dryers that boast both stylish design and energy-conserving features.

Washer and dryer manufacturers are introducing colorful new models in red, blue, silver and more—along with sleek designs that include storage drawers for detergent and other laundry supplies.

Most new washers also are Energy Star-certified, which means they use 50 percent less energy to clean your clothes than standard models, and could save you up to \$110 a year. Dryers cannot earn Energy Star certification because they all use similar amounts of energy.

Special features on new washers

also make it easier for you to save energy. Look for these features when buying a new washer or dryer:

- Front-loading washers. They use 40 percent less water and less energy because there is no agitator.
- More temperature control options. Washing and rinsing in cold water saves the most energy.
- Models with several options for load size and shorter gentle cycles. Make sure you do a full load every time, or adjust the water level if you don't.
- A dryer with a moisture sensor that shuts off when clothes are dry. This saves energy and is better for the fabric.



PHOTO COURTESY WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION

- A dryer with a cool-down or permanent press cycle. This uses cool air at the end of the cycle, which saves energy and prevents wrinkling.

WE PROMISE, AS ALWAYS...



Happy New Year!

To work as diligently as we can to provide adequate, reliable electric power for our community—striving constantly to keep quality of service high and costs as low as possible.

To search out and pass along to you ideas and other information to help you conserve energy and save money in the process.

To be open and forthright with you, our members. If there's something you want to know about our activities or our policies, tell us; we'll pay attention.

WE WISH YOU A HEALTHY, SAFE, COMFORTABLE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Your Electric Cooperative

The Second Battle of the Alamo

BY BILL CRAWFORD

We're all familiar with the story of William Travis, James Bowie and some 200 other Texas freedom fighters who nobly sacrificed their lives in the historic siege known as the Battle of the Alamo. But the fighting didn't end there. Almost 70 years after Mexican forces overwhelmed the Texians in 1836, two determined society women launched a vicious fight in defense of Texas heritage that has been dubbed "the second battle of the Alamo."

Adina Emilia De Zavala, granddaughter of the first vice president of the Republic of Texas, firmly believed that historical structures had the power to change lives. In 1893, the young schoolteacher formed the De Zavala Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) and set about preserving San Antonio's missions, including Mission San Antonio de Valero, better known as the Alamo.

Ten years earlier, the State of Texas purchased the Alamo church building from the Catholic Church, the first time public monies had been spent for historic preservation west of the Mississippi. But in 1902, hoteliers from the East planned to build a park and raze the old *convento* (convent) structure that stood next to the church. Although the mercantile firm of Hugo & Schmeltzer Co., which owned the property adjacent to the Alamo, had draped the historic structure in a gaudy wooden superstructure (complete with parapets and fake cannon), De Zavala knew that the old convent was the site of the fiercest fighting during the original battle of the Alamo. She went to work to save what she knew was the "real" Alamo.

While seeking supporters at the Menger Hotel, De Zavala met 21-year-old Clara Driscoll. Daughter of wealthy rancher and investor Robert Driscoll, Clara had spent her youth on the East Coast and in the capitals of Europe. She shared De Zavala's devotion to historic preservation and was appalled when she heard the plans for further commercialization of the Alamo property.



ALETHA ST. ROMAIN

After the DRT tried and failed to raise the \$75,000 (equivalent to more than \$1 million today) needed to purchase the property, Driscoll bought the old convent and surrounding grounds herself. In 1905, the State of Texas purchased the property from Driscoll and gave the DRT the rights to manage the Alamo and the convent as an historical attraction.

The convent was saved. Or was it?

As it turned out, Driscoll did not believe that the original convent walls survived beneath the wooden commercial structure. She proposed razing the convent and replacing it with a park. De Zavala was outraged at what she viewed as a betrayal. The women of the DRT quickly took sides. The fighting got so fierce that Driscoll, who was treasurer for the De Zavala Chapter, seceded and formed her own historical preservation society, the Alamo Mission Chapter of the DRT.

The battle wore on. First, De Zavala's group gained custody of the mission, then Driscoll's group. But before Driscoll's group could retake control, De Zavala snatched the keys and shooed away a locksmith who was trying to change the locks on the

Alamo building. Driscoll's group took possession of the property only after filing a lawsuit.

In 1908, De Zavala heard that Driscoll, who had moved to New York City, and her supporters planned to lease the former convent for vaudeville shows. This was the last straw. De Zavala dispatched three guards to preserve the convent's dignity. The sheriff arrived with an injunction, ordering De Zavala's henchmen to leave. But when the sheriff tried to enter the convent, De Zavala emerged from an inner room. The sheriff and his men hesitated, and De Zavala locked herself in the historic structure.

"There was nothing else for me to do but hold the fort," De Zavala explained. "So I did." De Zavala spent three days and nights barricaded inside the structure before she surrendered to state officials dispatched from Austin.

The battle continued until 1910, when Governor Oscar B. Colquitt, who supported De Zavala's position, retook possession of the convent for the state and ordered the convent's restoration. Two years later, Colquitt stood next to De Zavala as the wooden superstructure was removed, revealing that much of the old convent had indeed survived. The Texas Supreme Court gave the rights to manage the property back to the DRT but permitted restoration of the convent to continue.

Today, the second battle of the Alamo still smolders as historians, politicians, socialites, reporters, developers and treasure hunters spat over control of the peaceful mission grounds in the center of San Antonio. Despite the continued wrangling, everyone has come to agree on the importance of preserving the convent.

A pamphlet published by Driscoll's supporters echoes De Zavala's belief: "Historically, the church of the Alamo was of very little consequence. The *convento* was the real Alamo."

Bill Crawford has written about Governor Pappy Lee O'Daniel and journalist William Cowper Brann for *Texas Co-op Power*.

Keeping Cozy

Well, D-Wayne needs to work on his aim with a caulk gun, but he's on the right track. With electricity prices as high as they are, you sure don't want any of that expensive heated air leaking out of the house or the howling winter wind blowing in.

Caulking can be messy, especially for the inexperienced, as D-Wayne learned. It's best left to grownups. Kids, however, can help by finding air leaks in the house. The main culprits, and how much air escapes through them, are:

- Floors, walls and ceilings: 31 percent
- Ducts: 15 percent
- Fireplace: 14 percent
- Plumbing penetrations: 13 percent
- Doors: 11 percent
- Windows: 10 percent
- Fans and vents: 4 percent
- Electric outlets: 2 percent

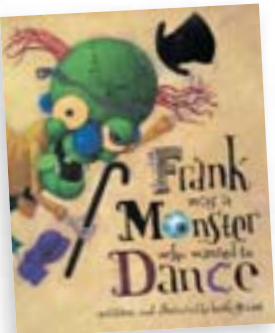
Caulking and insulation can go a long way toward plugging those leaks.

Another strategy for energy savings is simply to set your thermostat for 68 degrees or lower in the winter. You can always wear sweaters to keep warm. The thermostat can be set even lower when you are away from home or asleep.

And don't forget the number one way kids can keep that warm air inside where it belongs during the winter—close those doors!

Cartoonist Keith Graves is a popular artist and author of children's books. Among his greatest hits are *Frank Was a Monster Who Wanted to Dance*, *Uncle Blubbafink's Seriously Ridiculous Stories* and *Loretta: Ace Pinky Scout*. He lives in

Austin with his wife, Nancy, and the twins, Max and Emma.



My First “Bought” Hat



BY WAYLAND CORGILL

Last summer, I bought a straw hat. A Texas country boy is prone to do that once in a while. Hat prices have crept up over the years but, until last year, \$40 was the most I had ever spent on the straw variety.

This last hat cost almost \$70. I had to shop around for awhile and swallow hard before parting with that much dough. I reluctantly paid the price because the hat looked better, fit better, and felt better than the other hats on display. However, \$70 was a lot for just a batch of straw to shade my balding head, even if it was an eight “X” John B. Stetson.

My problem with present-day hat prices has a lot to do with the cost of my first “bought” hat. That first “non-hand-me-down” hat was purchased during the early days of World War II when I was 5 years old. As I recall, the hat cost no more than four bits and maybe even as little as three bits. (For those who may have forgotten, a quarter is two bits.) At the time, \$70 would probably have bought a whole truckload of hats. The vivid memory of my first bought hat and what it cost has permanently warped my sense of value for hats.

I took possession of that first bought hat early one spring Saturday in 1943. My dad made a trip to Olney with me and my younger brother. This was a rare occasion. It was the only time I can remember that my dad ever took time off from his Young County cotton farm just to go to town to buy hats.

At the Ben Franklin store, we tried on hats

until we found ones that fit. Wearing our new hats, we proudly walked up one side of Main Street and back down the other before getting back in our Model A for the trip home. That new hat felt good.

The trip home down the dirt roads in the country south of town was only about four miles, but it seemed like a long one to me. In the old Model A, we motored at a leisurely pace of perhaps 20 mph or less.

The warmth inside the car and the coolness of the air slipping past the window invited me to feel the breeze with my hand. After a while, I was tempted to ease my face into the edge of the delightful air stream. Not wanting to remove my new hat, I pulled it down tight on my head. Surely the breeze was not strong enough to blow the hat from my head.

My dad thought otherwise and told me so. He was a man of few words and rarely repeated them. Thinking back to that day, I still remember exactly what he said. “If that hat blows off, I will not go back for it,” he warned. I heard him. I understood him. I evaluated the matter-of-fact tone of his voice. For a few minutes, I pulled my head back inside. However, the experience of the cool spring air brushing against my face was too enticing. It wasn’t long before I was flirting with disaster again by positioning my head with hat into the edge of the slip-stream.

Suddenly, the hat blew off. I grabbed for it and had a sick feeling when it brushed past my fingers. I watched through the rear window as the

hat rolled down the road and came to a stop at the edge of the ditch. My dad did not stop. He didn't even slow down. Neither did he say another word, nor did I.

I knew it would be so easy to retrieve. For several moments I expected the car to stop, but it did not. How could this be? It did not seem reasonable to allow a brand new hat to be lost so easily. That hat had a couple of years' wear in it. What was I going to do for a hat in the coming summer?

I sure wished that I had not put my head out of the window. I wished that my dad would relent and go back. After a few minutes, the reality of the situation began to soak in, and I realized my dad was going to be true to his word. The car was not going to stop. I watched the hat fade into the distance until it was gone.

For a long time afterward, I would look for that hat whenever we made an infrequent trip to town. I never saw it. I wondered who could have picked it up. Who was wearing my hat? By mid-summer, I had just about learned to accept my loss and quit thinking about what might have been. Eventually, I even forgot to look closely when passing that special place in the road where the hat had come to rest.

That summer, I wore my tattered, worn-out hat from the previous year while my brother

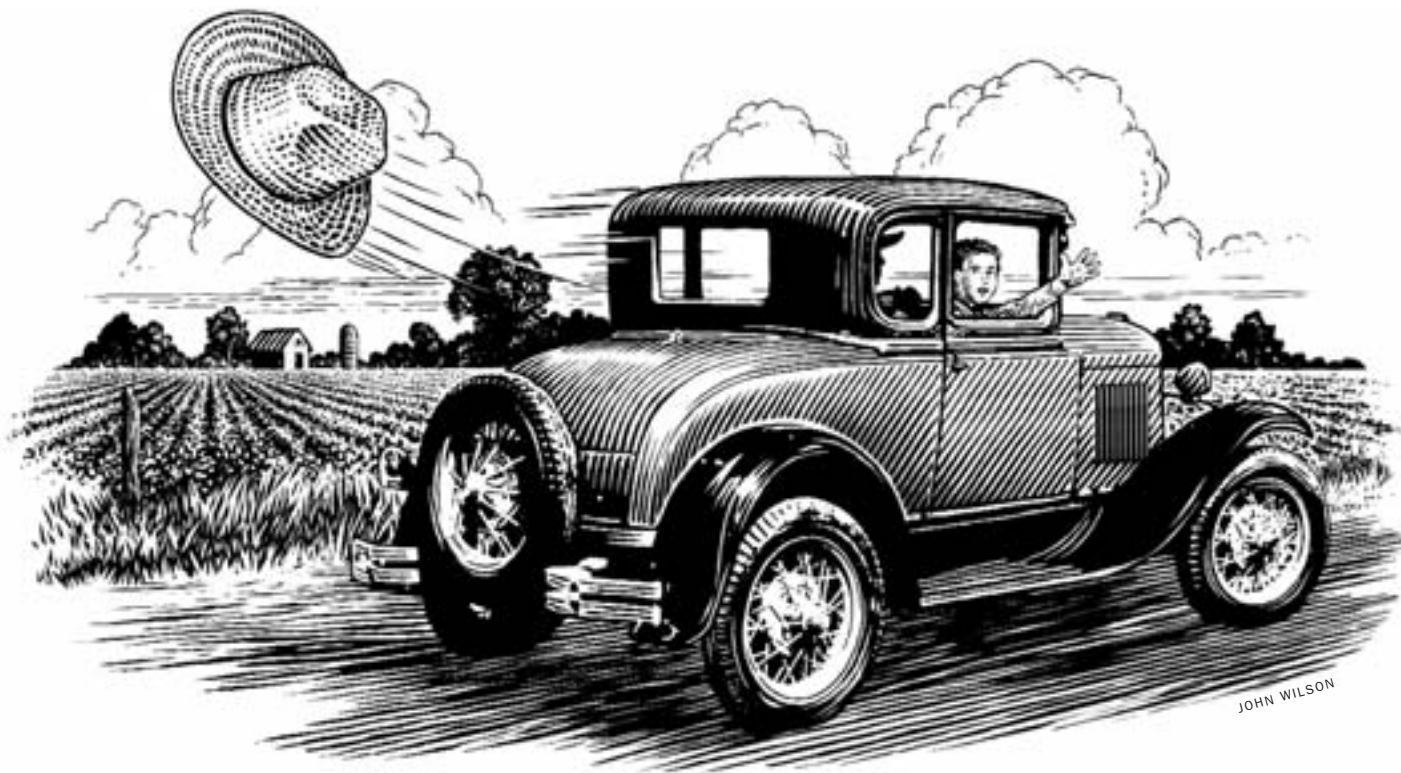
enjoyed his new hat. My mother patched my old hat with cloth scraps sewn over the breaks and gaps in the straw. It did not look very good, but it was functional in the cotton field. I reflected many times on the fact that I could have had a new hat if I had paid attention to my dad's advice. That lesson in life is the main reason I remember my first bought hat, not just because of the cost.

I believe my dad really would have liked to stop and retrieve my hat. He was patient, understanding, caring and kind. He was one of the best men I have ever known. He was also a man of principle and a man of his word. I am sure he thought it was more important to teach me a lesson than to save a four-bit hat, even though it cost half a day's wages for him. It took me quite a few years to appreciate that lesson, which, regrettably, I never did thank him for. It was a valuable lesson, and I am still learning from it. I just now realized, while writing this story, that \$70 is not too far from half a day's wages today. I feel better about my John B. Stetson straw hat already.

Thanks, Pop.

Most of Young County is served by Fort Belknap EC.

Hamilton County EC member Wayland Corgill of Gatesville retired to his native state of Texas in 2004 and now has time for his favorite pastime, writing. This is his first published article.



Treats for Healthy Living



PAUL POPLIS/FOODPIX

Diabetics have good habits that we can all adopt in our New Year's commitment to healthier eating. The diabetic menu is not one of deprivation, but of balance. Here are some things that you can do to make yourself and your family healthier, whether or not any of you are diabetic:

- Cut out processed foods, especially white bread, potato chips and packaged sweets.
- Eat more whole grains like whole-wheat bread and brown rice.
- Eat plenty of fresh vegetables. They are "nutrient dense," meaning

they have essential vitamins, minerals and other nutrients our bodies need.

- Eat lean meats and have fish at least once a week.
- You don't have to cut out sugar altogether, but do balance your carbohydrates (sugars and starches). For instance, if you want to have a cookie with lunch, a low-carb soup or salad would be a better choice for lunch than a sandwich made with two pieces of bread.

Here are some recipes for sweets that will help you keep a healthy balance while satisfying your sweet tooth.

Chocolate Meringue Kisses

- 4 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 cup Splenda
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa

Preheat oven to 225 degrees. Put baking parchment on a cookie sheet. Beat egg whites until foamy. Add vanilla extract and cream of tartar slowly. Beat until soft peaks form. Add Splenda and cocoa a little at a time.

Using a pastry bag, pipe meringue onto parchment paper on cookie sheet or use a spoon to make rounded shapes. Bake 1 hour. Turn off oven, open oven door a crack, and cool 5 to 10 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool fully before removing from parchment paper. Makes 25-30 kisses.

Serving size: 2 kisses. Per serving: 90 calories, 2 grams protein, trace fat, 20 grams carbohydrates, 16 milligrams sodium, 0 milligrams cholesterol

Whole-Wheat Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups Splenda
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups whole-wheat flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In mixing bowl, cream butter and peanut butter together; add Splenda and blend well. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Sift dry ingredients into creamed mixture and mix thoroughly. The mixture should be crumbly. Form 1-inch balls with hands, place on cookie sheet, and press flat with fork. Bake 12 to 15 minutes. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

Serving size: 1 cookie. Per serving: 132 calories, 3 grams protein, 7 grams fat, 16 grams carbohydrates, 152 milligrams sodium, 18 milligrams cholesterol

The subject for April's recipe contest is **Cast Iron Cooking**.

Every great Texas cook has at least one piece of cast iron cookware that is indispensable. What recipes do you make that just seem to demand your old reliable cast iron? You may send recipes to Home Cooking, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. You may also fax them to (512) 486-6254 or e-mail them to recipes@texas-ec.org. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. The deadline is January 10. The top winner will receive a copy of the *Texas Co-op Power Cookbook* and a selection of spices from Adams. Others whose recipes are published will also receive a selection from Adams.

JAN MONCRIEF, a member of Houston County Electric Cooperative, sent in this month's winning recipe, Sugar-Free Mississippi Mud Pie. She writes, "I got the original recipe, made with real sugars, from a co-worker in the 1980s. When my husband was diagnosed with Type II diabetes in the 1990s, I converted this recipe—one of his favorites—to sugar-free so he could continue to enjoy it. Now that we have Splenda, it's even easier and tastier."

Sugar-Free Mississippi Mud Pie

Before starting, blend 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons of Splenda in a blender with 1 tablespoon cornstarch until the mixture has the consistency of traditional powdered sugar. Set aside for Steps 2 and 4.

Step 1:

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup finely chopped pecans
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons Splenda

Mix ingredients in Step 1 and spread in the bottom of a 9x13-inch pan and bake at 350 degrees until lightly brown. Cool completely.

Step 2:

- 1 cup Cool Whip

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened to room temperature

- 1 cup Splenda powdered sugar (from above recipe)

- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix ingredients together until smooth and spread over cooled crust.

Step 3:

Prepare 1 small package of sugar-free chocolate pudding using 1¾ cups milk. Spread on top of the cream cheese mixture. Prepare 2 small packages (or 1 large package) of sugar-free vanilla pudding with 3½ cups milk. Spread on top of the chocolate pudding.

Step 4:

Completely cover top with Cool Whip and finely chopped pecans (optional). Dust top with remaining powdered sugar made from Splenda. As an added garnish, finely grate a very small piece of chocolate over top.

Refrigerate 1 to 2 hours to allow pudding to set.

Serving size: 1 serving spoonful. Per serving: 211 calories, 4 grams protein, 15 grams fat, 15 grams carbohydrates, 176 milligrams sodium, 37 milligrams cholesterol

Creamy Sugar-Free Sweet Potato Pie

- 3-4 large sweet potatoes (about 2¼ pounds)

- ½ cup butter or margarine, softened

- 2 cups Splenda

- Egg substitute to equal 4 eggs

- ½ teaspoon salt

- 1 can (13 ounces) evaporated skim milk

- ½ teaspoon nutmeg

- 2 9-inch unbaked pie shells

Cook sweet potatoes in boiling water until fork easily pierces potatoes. Cool and remove skins. Place potatoes in a large mixing bowl and beat with electric mixer until smooth. There should be about 3½ cups of potatoes. Stir in butter and sweetener. Add egg substitute, salt, milk and nutmeg. Pour mixture into unbaked pie crusts. Place pans on cookie sheet. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes, then lower heat to 325 degrees. Bake 30 to 45 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.

Serving size: 1 slice. Per serving: 295 calories, 10 grams protein, 17 grams fat, 25 grams carbohydrates, 475 milligrams sodium, 22 milligrams cholesterol

CAROLYN COATS, Rusk County EC



SUSAN MARIE ANDERSON/FOODPIX

Janis Joplin Birthday Bash: Port Arthur, January 28

It was a cool evening in the fall of '64, or maybe '65. (If you can clearly remember the '60s, you probably weren't a Janis Joplin fan.) The band and I had stepped out to take a break from the frat party we were playing in Austin.

A beautiful voice came to us over the crisp night air. This girl's voice was clear, strong and even on key (no small feat at beer-buoyed bashes on the college party circuit).

I followed the sound to a nearby gathering, and that was when I first met Janis Joplin. She seemed to have a burning desire to sing, but her

voice was tempered by an underlying sadness. We visited that night, and would only cross paths one other time. Later, I was shocked to hear the raspiness of her vocals on her recordings, a combination of years of singing what she referred to as "full-tilt boogie," hard liquor and other vices. Life on the road had taken its toll on her beautiful voice.

The world would come to love that raspy sound, coming from a woman who really never seemed to feel enough love. Her powerful music seemed to pour from her very soul.

In 1970, when Janis was only 27,

her full-tilt lifestyle caught up with her and she died of a heroin overdose. A year later her final album, *Pearl*, was released, including classics like "Mercedes Benz" and "Me and Bobby McGee." Her marvelous musical legacy is celebrated each year in her hometown of Port Arthur.

On January 28, the town will hold the 19th Annual Janis Joplin Birthday Bash with a host of fine musicians and bands paying tribute to her work. In addition, Johnny Winter will be inducted into the Gulf Coast Music Hall of Fame and will perform with his band.

NOTE: As of this writing, the folks in the Port Arthur area are still trying to recover from Hurricane Rita. When I called producer Don Ball, he was sitting in his home with no electricity and no water. The phone was the only thing working, but Don assured me the Birthday Bash will be better than ever. It is always good to help our neighbors, and going to the Birthday Bash might just help the folks in the Port Arthur area bounce back a little quicker. Besides, it will be a lot of fun.

Since the usual site of the Birthday Bash was damaged by Rita, the event will be held at the Carl Parker All-Purpose Center (Lamar University) on Lakeshore Drive. The Ramada Inn on Highway 73 will be the Birthday Bash Headquarters Hotel. Tell them you want the Janis Joplin Birthday package to get the special price, which includes two tickets to the concert.

Port Arthur is 17 miles southeast of Beaumont on Highway 69. For more information, call (409) 722-3699 or 1-800-235-7822 or go to www.PortArthurTexas.com.

Jim Gramon is the author of FUN Texas Festivals & Events. Jim@JimGramon.com, www.JimGramon.com.



Port Arthur will celebrate Janis Joplin's 62nd birthday this month with a concert.

© CORBIS

January

1. Polar Bear Swim Club, **Kyle**, (512) 268-4220
- 1-7. Festival of Trees, **Lufkin**, (936) 633-5233
3. Brush Country Music Jamboree, **Three Rivers**, (361) 786-3334
6. Fish Fry, **Dripping Springs**, (512) 894-4470
7. Ole Time Music, **Pearl**, (254) 865-6013 or www.pearlbluegrass.com
7. Resolution Ride and Bike Rodeo, **Conroe**, (936) 494-3820
7. Gospel Opre, **Odessa**, (432) 580-3177
7. Citywide Market, **Sinton**, (361) 364-2307
- 13-15, 27-29. Chicken House Flea Market, **Stephenville**, (254) 968-0888
- 13-15. Trade Days, **Livingston**, (936) 327-3757 or www.cityoflivingston-tx.com/tradedays
15. Chamber Music Series, **San Angelo**, (325) 653-3333
15. Pineywoods Pickin' Parlor Concert, **Mineola**, (903) 569-8037
16. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, **Grand Prairie**, (469) 556-1955
- 20-21. Woodcarving Show, **McAllen**, (956) 581-2448
- 20-21. South Texas BBQ Shootout, **San Benito**, (956) 778-8555

- 20-22. Girlfriend Weekend, **Jefferson**, (903) 665-7520
21. Coastal Bend Doll Show & Sale, **Corpus Christi**, (830) 606-5868
21. Music City Texas, **Linden**, (903) 756-9934 or www.musiccitytexas.org
21. Texas Indian Hobbyist Association Winter PowWow, **Burnet**, (956) 682-5775
21. Casino Night & Fish Fry, **Port Aransas**, (361) 749-6222
21. Allegro Chamber Trio, **Waxahachie**, (972) 938-0404
- 21-22. Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show, **Fredericksburg**, (830) 669-2639
22. Bluegrass Music Show, **Quitman**, (903) 763-4411
22. Benefit Dinner & Auction, **Dime Box**, (979) 884-1021
- 24-26. Southwest Farm & Ranch Classic, **Lubbock**, (806) 798-7825 or www.swclassic.com
- 27-29. International Sister Cities Festival, **Laredo**, 1-800-361-3360 or www.laredosistercities.com
- 27-29. Texoma WestEnd Winterfest, **Gordonville**, (903) 523-5982 or www.texomawestend.org
- 27-29. Quilts on the Bayou, **Jefferson**, (903) 665-7311

- 28-29. East Texas Gem & Mineral Show, **Tyler**, (903) 581-4068 or www.tylertexas.com
30. Merchant's Dine Around, **Port Aransas**, 1-800-45-COAST or www.portaransas.org

February

- 2-5. Old Mill Marketplace, **Canton**, (903) 567-5445 or www.oldmillmarketplace.com
3. Fish Fry, **Dripping Springs**, (512) 894-4470
- 3-19. Stock Show & Rodeo, **San Antonio**, (210) 225-5851 or www.sarodeo.com
4. Ole Time Music, **Pearl**, (254) 865-6013
4. Citywide Market, **Sinton**, (361) 364-2307

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., March submissions must be received prior to January 10. Events are listed according to space available. We appreciate photos with credits but regret that they cannot be returned.



TEXAS CO-OP POWER

EACH MONTH, WE BRING YOU THE VERY BEST TEXAS HAS TO OFFER!

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! See page 4 for an order form.

A Texas Tilt on Windmills

Artists and photographers love windmills. You'd be hard pressed to find someone who hasn't stopped to snap a photo of one at some time or other. We were delighted with our readers' submissions for this contest. We didn't realize that there were so many ways to photograph a windmill!

"Oops!" is the topic for our March issue. Send your photos—along with your name, address, day-time phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to "Oops," Focus on Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, before January 10. A stamped, self-addressed envelope should be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We regret that Texas Co-op Power cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline. If you use a digital camera, e-mail your highest-resolution images to focus@texas-ec.org (if you have questions about your camera's capabilities, please check the operating manual).



LAURA WRIGHT GOLDENSCHUE took this spectacular shot of a windmill silhouetted by the glow from the rising moon, stars and the Hale-Bopp Comet (when it made its appearance in the spring of 1997). Goldenschue is a member of both Pedernales and Central Texas ECs.



Longtime co-op members JENIFER and DAN FUMAGALLI took this photo south of the old community of Verbena just after an ice storm. The Fumagallis belong to South Plains EC.



Talk about "co-op"eration! This windmill was painted by Lighthouse EC member ANN MARIA HAM on a gate belonging to South Plains EC members RAY and CHERYL HINDMAN. The photographer is Big Country EC member DEANNA THOMAS.

UPCOMING in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
March	"Oops!"	January 10
April	Bluebonnets	February 10
May	School Projects	March 10
June	Summer Fun	April 10
July	Close Calls	May 10
August	Classic Vehicles	June 10



Bowie-Cass EC member CONNIE TUCKER REDFEARN snapped this photograph of her dad, TOM TUCKER, on his farm at sundown on a winter day. The windmill was "rescued" from a farm in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, where it was taken down to make way for a housing development; it now stands in Omaha, Texas.



Pasture Golf in Thorndale

In the beginning, or some time soon after that, a couple of Scottish shepherds decided to knock a gutty, a ball made from dried sap of the Sapodilla tree, around the pasture with a brassie, cleek or niblick, better known as a 9-iron. If the gutty fell where the sheep had dug out shelter from the prevailing winds, you landed in what is known today as a sand trap. With any luck at all, your gutty came to rest in or near the rabbit hole (the target of choice in those days of yore).

At Lackey Farm Pasture Golf Course in Thorndale and a growing number of such golf courses around the nation, the game of golf is played under pretty much the same conditions those Scottish shepherds endured. Here, modern-day duffers can bogey until the cows (or horses) come home. Speaking of horses, watch out for them at this course because—make no mistake about it—we are talking about a real pasture.

Donald Lackey, on a recent golf-cart tour of the place, pointed out the odd crooks and turns the course takes.

The clearest indication that golf might be played here is the identifiable flagsticks dotting the landscape.

Lackey explains a few rules peculiar to the course. “If a dog carries off the

ball, you play it where it’s dropped,” he says, then adds, “but you do get to deduct a stroke.”

There are no actual holes—too hard on the horses—but if you can get a ball to within a club’s length of the flagstick, you are officially “in the hole.”

Donald and Beth Lackey began carving the course from their pasture to surprise some golf-obsessed relatives on a Thanksgiving visit. The next thing anybody knew, they had a nine-hole course out where the horses, dogs and coyotes roam. “We called it ‘pasture golf’ and charged \$5 a round,” Donald says. Today the course is used only by the Lackeys and their friends.

They soon found out others also used the phrase “pasture golf.” There is, in fact, a Pasture Golf Association (pasturegolf.com). Golf has been played in even more remote places than Thorndale. The patron saint of pasture golf could be astronaut Alan Shepard, whose tee shots from the moon in 1969 must have created some interesting approach shots. Pasture golf is even played at the Arctic Circle, though there it might be called “tundra golf.”

Growing up in Lubbock, my first exposure to golf was at a sandy course out in the Caprock Canyonlands where a friend’s Uncle Hubert lived.

The first shot I hit that stayed in play ended up in a pile of rocks close to one of the flagsticks. But when I reached down to pick up the ball, I spied a big ol’ rattlesnake curled up just a few inches away.

“Oh my heavens, I do believe my ball is perilously close to a venomous reptile,” I declared, or at least words to that effect.

Uncle Hubert ambled over to have a look and said, “That’s no rattler, it’s a copperhead!”

The difference, in my opinion, was not enough to quibble over. My friend and I made it down the side of the mesa and away from that so-called golf course in record time.

In contrast to that rugged canyon land, the Lackeys’ course is soft and rather plush in the spring, but can get hard-packed quickly by the horses.

“Sometimes, when the course gets real hard, the ball will hit a horse track or something and take a crazy bounce,” he says. “What can you say? That’s the way the ball bounces.”

The Scots who invented the game couldn’t have said it better.

Thorndale is served by Bartlett EC.

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GIL ADAMS