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### July

2010

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8 Places, Everyone! Story by Mary Lance and Charles Boisseau Photographs by Geno Esponda

> Community theater makes stars out of the butcher, the baker and the computer chip maker. These actors are taking bows on small-town stages from Ingram to Azle.

16 They're a Major Success Story by Jeff Siegel Photographs by Kent Barker

> Texas' minor-league baseball teams load the bases—and fill the stands -as they draw passionate fans to the diamond.



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### **TEXAS COOP POWER**

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### letters

### TESLA: WAS HE FIRST OUT OF THE BOX?

I always look forward to receiving your interesting magazine that covers many different subjects.

The May 2010 article "Plugging in, Hitting the Road" just might not be out-of-the-box thinking.

In 1931, Nikola Tesla took a gasoline engine from a new Pierce-Arrow automobile and replaced it with an 80-horse-power, 1,800-rpm electric motor. This electric vehicle was driven at speeds of up to 90 mph, and no charging was necessary. One week was spent testing the vehicle.

Tesla said his car was powered from the ethers all around us. If no charging were necessary, then there would be no need for batteries except for accessories, which could probably use the same energy source.

# POWERTALK

A.C. Greene wrote about the test in his January 24, 1993, "Texas Sketches" column in the Dallas Morning News. But Tesla, as Greene noted, was accused by the press of using "black magic." In anger, he removed the mysterious box from the vehicle and the secret of his power source was never revealed.

Many people do not know about Nikola Tesla, yet they know about Thomas Edison for whom Tesla once worked. Edison designed a direct current electrical system, but Tesla developed the alternating current electrical supply system that is used today in our homes and factories. This is only one of many items and patents by Tesla, including

the radio, that he was awarded at a later date.

HAROLD H. TAYLOR JR.

Grayson-Collin

Electric Cooperative

#### DEMISE OF DEVILS RIVER?

The Devils River (re: "Not for the Faint of Heart: Devils River," May 2010) used to be an unintentional secret due to its location and near inaccessibility. We discovered it 25 years ago when we found a man who owned a ranch [nearby], and for a nominal fee we enjoyed the river off and on several times a year.

The Houston Chronicle, Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine, Texas Highways magazine, et al, began running full-page and multipage stories about this pristine and extremely sensitive area. Now, on any fair weekend you will note a dozen or more canoes and kayaks floating past this ranch, all of them fishing and most camping on private property, eating their fish that they've caught. We used to catch AND RELEASE 3-, 4- and occasionally 5-pounders, but no more. One is lucky to catch five or six little bass per day and the smallmouth, which used to be so ubiquitous, are a rarity. In short, we don't bother to go there anymore. ... Your article was just one among many that popularized the river and led to its demise.

RAY WOLBRECHT Kvle

Editor's Note: We believe all Texans owe thanks to the landowners who have helped keep the Devils River-and other wild places in the statein near-pristine condition. Recognizing that the vast majority of our readers are unlikely to undertake this trip themselves, we hope the article offers a glimpse of the experience. For those who do make the trip, we did our best to emphasize the need for extensive research and planning and hope that those drawn to the beauty of thisand all wild places—are moved to preserve and honor it, just as the many landowners on the Devils River have.

### ENCHANTED BIRTHDAY

I enjoyed the article in the May 2010 issue about Enchanted Rock. On April 19, after spending the night alone in my tent in the quiet, dark campground, I was on the top of the rock at



daybreak. It was my 73rd birthday, and I was the only climber on the rock that early morning. As I ate a piece of my birthday cake at the summit, it was a dream come true. It was the first time I had seen or climbed Enchanted Rock, although I had heard about it for years.

Barbara Hankins, Houston County Electric Cooperative

Editor's Note: The Enchanted Rock story, "Rock of Ages," did not appear in some cooperatives' issues of the magazine. To read the story, go to the May 2010 issue in the Archives section on the Texas Co-op Power website, www.texascooppower.com.

#### SAVING DEVILS RIVER

Thanks for your support and conservation efforts.

**KELLY LEFKOWITZ** 

Dallas

Board member, The Friends of the Devils River

The Friends of the Devils River www.friendsofthedevilsriver.com

We want to hear from our readers. Send letters to: Editor, Texas Co-op Power, II22 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 7870I, or e-mail us at letters@texas-ec.org. 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. Read additional letters at www.texascooppower.com.



The twin coastal cities of Rockport and Fulton paint July 4 red, white and blue ... and myriad other colors on an Independence Day weekend that begins with the **ROCKPORT ART FESTIVAL**.

On July 3-4, more than 125 artists will display their works—ranging from pottery to watercolor paintings—on the festival grounds at Rockport Harbor. Shopping-minded tourists also will enjoy strolling Rockport's downtown historic heritage district, where merchants fly their U.S. flags high.

And what's an Independence Day celebration without a parade? Here in Rockport-Fulton, they make waves with a patriotic boat parade set for a noon start on Sunday, July 4. Sailors hoist their flags on a variety of vessels—yachts, pontoon boats,

power boats, sailboats—and deck them out in all things red, white and blue.

The weekend, of course, ends with fireworks—a brilliant nighttime display in Little Bay, with people watching from land and from sea. For more information, call

the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-242-0071 or go to www.rockport-fulton.org. For more Around Texas events, see page 40.

### <u>CO-OP PEOPLE</u>

Teen Wins Video Contest— After a Nudge from Mom

Timothy Jones can thank his mom for coaxing him to enter the 2010 Co-op Teens Power Texas Video Contest.

Timothy won the \$1,500 grand prize after she urged him to use his new interest in making videos to possibly win some money.



"She really wanted me to submit an entry," confessed Timothy, son of Bryan Texas Utilities members Jim and Anne Jones. It was just a little teenage "inertia," his mother said.

Texas Co-op
Power magazine, in
conjunction with electric cooperatives
across Texas, asked

high school students to create one- to threeminute educational videos that explored a facet of renewable energy.

Timothy's video, called "Reenergy," mixes humor with an exploration of solar, wind and biomass energy. Timothy looked into sources close at hand: finding out how a local bakery he works for uses solar panels to power its appliances and water heater; and interviewing an

official with a biomass facility, which captures methane gas at a Bryan landfill and converts it into energy.

The annual contest is becoming something of a Jones family tradition: Timothy's older brother, David, was a runner-up in 2009's contest. This year, Timothy, his parents and several siblings discussed ideas while sitting around the dinner table.

"By the end I was pretty excited," said Timothy, I6, who is home-schooled. He plans to use his winnings to buy a lighting system so he can make more professional-looking videos.

Roper Kerby, son of Bailey County Electric Cooperative members John Leslie and Susan Kerby, received \$500 as the second-place winner.

Teens receiving \$250 for excellence in other judging categories were Jacque Lewis, Pedernales Electric Cooperative; Landon Parker, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative; Levi Cooper, Wood County Electric Cooperative; and Riley Mashburn, Taylor Electric Cooperative.

To see the winning video, go to www.texas cooppower.com. And check back this fall for details about the 2011 contest.

Do you know someone we should feature in a future Co-op People? Contact Associate Editor Charles Boisseau at editor@texas-ec.org.

### WHO KNEW?

### **Out-of-State Texas Leaguers**

Formed in 1888, the Texas
League is one of the country's
oldest baseball leagues—major
or minor. The league today has
eight Double-A teams, all affiliated with Major League
Baseball clubs. But only half
of the modern-day teams are
based in Texas: Corpus Christi,
Frisco, Midland and San
Antonio. The four out-of-state
clubs are: Oklahoma (Tulsa),
Arkansas (one in North Little
Rock and one in Springdale)
and Missouri (Springfield).



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### POWER CONNECTIONS

### Landfills Become Engines of Electricity

Dumps are becoming exemplary citizens.

By Kaye Northcott

ur sport-utility vehicle slowly climbs a substantial mound, one of several hills on 248 acres dotting the North Texas flatlands at the City of Denton Landfill off South Mayhill Road. Heat-hardy sunflowers are the primary vegetation. There's nothing else to see except an occasional pipe or conduit sticking out of the ground.

The pipes are methane gas wellheads. Considered a greenhouse gas, methane accumulates as organic matter disintegrates in the mounds of garbage now covered by compacted earth. Methane can be a pollutant like car exhaust, and it can even cause explosions in the quantities generated by a dump. Although it's bad news when released into the environment, methane can be tapped and converted into electricity.

After cresting a mound, we wend our way down to a 1-acre clearing with several outbuildings. Our attention is on a piece of equipment somewhat bigger than a house trailer that emits a muffled woosh of clean exhaust. Vance Kemler, the City of Denton's solid waste department general manager, says if we were to open the door, the sound of the electricity generation from even this tiny unit would be deafening. The juice is transmitted to an on-site Denton Municipal Electric substation, which supplies power for some 1,000 to 1,200 homes a year.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promotes the four "Rs"—reduce, reuse, recycle and rebuy. In this case, a dangerous pollutant—methane—is converted into a product that utilities purchase.

Approximately half the gas generated by a landfill is methane, and most of the rest is carbon dioxide. Methane has 20 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide and approximately half the energy potential of natural gas, according to the EPA.

Kemler said Denton speeds the production of methane by recirculating storm water and leachate, which is produced when water trickles, or filters, down through packed waste to the bottom. The liquid is collected and pumped back to the upper levels of the waste, and the process is repeated. Many advanced landfills do this.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reported in June 2009 that Texas had 24 landfill gas energy projects and at least 57 more sites suitable for such projects.

Whether cities, counties or forprofit services run them, large regional landfills are the future of the business, even in co-op country.

Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) in southeast Travis County, for example, takes solid waste from nine counties partially served by cooperatives. The contracts may be with cities—Austin is one of them—counties or private entities. The company may offer home pickup or simply gather garbage at rural transfer stations.

TDS is planning to provide electricity from methane to Pedernales Electric Cooperative, but it won't generate as much power as many landfills because the waste is already recycled so efficiently at the site.

Bob Gregory, CEO of TDS, says the reduce, reuse, recycle and rebuy philosophy works well for his company. Counties, for example, pay TDS to pick up trash, and his workers repair and resell what is salvageable at the Travis County site. Gregory said under his business concept, customers pay to send what they don't want to the dump, where everything usable has a recycled life. So he is paid when the junk comes in and again when it is converted to something useful.

The companies with the largest number of regional landfills in Texas, Republic Services/Allied Waste and Waste Management, serve 13 North Texas counties, most of which include cooperatives. Houston-based Waste Management has several methane gasto-energy plants in Texas.

Coal, natural gas and nuclear power will continue to provide major amounts of power. Wind and solar will do their part. But in addition, thousands of different initiatives, such as harnessing methane, will supply a little energy here and a little energy there. And eventually it will all add up.

Kaye Northcott is the retired editor of Texas Co-op Power.

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# PHOTOS BY GENO ESPONDA

It is easy enough to find a live performance stage theater in Texas. Think big: Go to a city, search for a marquee, a crowd, spotlights, maybe some glitz.

It's unlikely you'd think small, at least at first. But if you don't consider the small places you'll miss some special—even magical—experiences. Because far from the big crowds and glitziness—not Off-Off Broadway but Way-Way Out There—you may discover what you were looking for all along: a community coming together for raw, yet compelling live performances.

The cast and crew of 'Leading Ladies' pose backstage moments before the opening performance at Point Theatre in Ingram.



### ★ ALL TEXAS IS A STAGE FOR SMALL-TOWN THEATERS >

By THINKING SMALL, YOU CAN FIND THE MOST INTIMATE of playhouses, where it seems every member of an entire town has a role—onstage, behind the scenes or in the audience.

You'll discover people putting on shows in the most unlikely of venues—previously vacant storefronts, warehouses, empty metal buildings, rented church halls and community centers. It seems there isn't a space a theater-loving Texan hasn't retrofitted with a stage, lights and seats. A theater in Weslaco holds performances in an abandoned water tower.

At last count, theatergoers could choose from among 331 community theaters across Texas, said Linda Lee, executive director of Texas Nonprofit Theatres, an organization that represents theaters statewide. To be sure, many are in big cities, but just as many are in smaller places, such as Azle, Bonham and Cleburne.

Some stage elaborate productions, musicals requiring a cast of scores. And they do it with miniscule budgets, with most counting on all-volunteer casts and crew. The larger ones may employ small staffs and provide stipends to a director and some technicians. But the actors? They are paid nothing—except, one can hope—in applause.

When you think about it, small-town theaters simply cannot succeed unless the community comes alive for the shows. Townsfolk must join together to select a play, buy rights to a script (or write one), audition, rehearse, learn music, make (or buy or borrow) costumes, props and sets, sell tickets, apply makeup, usher, shine spotlights, and lift the curtain (if there is one).

"There is an inherent need to be involved with other people. It creates almost a family when you are working with people like that," Lee said.

The more you look, the more you'll find that—just as no two live performances are ever the same—no two theaters are alike. Here are snapshots of just a few community theaters in small-town Texas.

#### INGRAM: A 50-YEAR RUN

Only a few minutes before the lights go on, Walter Workman prepared for the biggest role of his life.

The retired Houston trial lawyer sat alone backstage at the Hill Country Arts Foundation's Point Theatre, going over his lines one last time, using a penlight to illuminate his script in the dark. At age 77, Workman fretted whether his "fading memory" was up to the challenge of his role in "Leading Ladies," a contemporary comedy set in the 1950s about down-on-their-luck British Shakespearean actors.

Workman needn't have worried. During the nearly twohour performance, he seemed to nail his lines. "I didn't flub too many of them," he joked afterward.

Workman was bitten by the theater bug only recently. He made his first entrance onto a community stage after his church choir leader coaxed him to audition for "Guys and Dolls" a few years earlier. She was directing the musical at the Cailloux Theater in nearby Kerrville. "It was a



Walter Workman, who worried about memorizing all his lines, says he has learned to do the same as those who want to get to Carnegie Hall: 'Practice, practice, practice.'

large cast and she needed warm bodies, and I qualified," Workman recalled.

He has since discovered that the theater helps sharpen his mind and is a good time, to boot. He has picked up acting tips from cast members who are young enough to be his grandchildren. "I don't think I'm in line for leadingman roles, but any time they have a need for an old geezer, I'll fit right in," he said.

Founded in 1959 in what had once been a skating rink, the Point Theatre remains one of the longest-running live community playhouses in Texas.

In addition to its cozy 120-seat indoor venue, it has an adjacent 720-seat outdoor theater along the banks of the Guadalupe River, the setting for its most popular summer musical productions. Last summer, the theater staged a musical adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast" (requiring royalties paid to Disney) with a cast and crew of about 75, said David Cockerell, executive director of the arts foundation.

With a 2010 season schedule of seven shows, plus other

### ★ ALL TEXAS IS A STAGE FOR SMALL-TOWN THEATERS ★







TOP: Brandi Neely, an actress and student at Schreiner University in Kerrville, helps Ken DeZarn just before he steps on stage for his role as a cross-dressing British actor. MIDDLE: Barbara Priesmeyer Crozier and her retired high school drama teacher, Perri Bell, have helped lift the curtain again at Crystal Theatre in Gonzales. BOTTOM: 'Leading Ladies' was the first full production ever directed by Bobby Dale Sands, left, who also serves as technical director, scene designer and actor.

fine arts educational activities, Cockerell and his small staff face a typically busy year, working not only to lure audiences but also volunteers, grants and corporate donors.

What's the formula to keep audiences coming these days? "When it's a recession, people want to laugh," said Cockerell, whose theater has found the most success performing musicals and comedies. "When there are economic troubles people want to escape."

### GONZALES: NEW ACT FOR HISTORIC THEATER

THE CRYSTAL THEATRE HAS HAD MANY LIVES SINCE IT opened in 1913, first drawing customers with vaudeville shows, then silent movies and talkies. It morphed into a coffee house and had a 20-year run as a dinner theater, where local performers staged classics such as "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Oklahoma" and "Grease."

Then, in 2002, the theater went dark for an extended intermission. No one knew if it would have another act.

Stirrings began in 2006 when a group of residents, encouraged by the chamber of commerce's downtown revitalization efforts, decided to reopen the theater. In 2007, the nonprofit group flung open the 150-seat Crystal with a production of "Greater Tuna," a satirical comedy with exaggerated rural characters that seemed to resonate with the small-town audience.

"When the Crystal reopened after five years, the community realized what it lost," said Barbara Priesmeyer Crozier, 57, who directed "Tuna" and plans to direct the comedy "Blithe Spirit" this fall. The pencil slim and persuasive Gonzales native helped lead the revival of live theater along with her old Gonzales High drama teacher, Perri Bell. Silver-haired and cherubic, Bell, now 90, played four roles in "Greater Tuna."

Gonzales Elementary Principal Randy Meyer also played four roles in "Tuna," including "Thurston," a radio announcer, and the usually buxom "Bertha," the head of the textbook censoring subcommittee. (During a quick costume change, Meyer nearly went onstage without inflating the two beach balls in Bertha's 50-inch bra. A fellow actor noticed the faux pas, and Meyer began calling his lines off stage before Bertha made her entrance.)

"Where else can an average person like me, with no theater experience, be an actor except in a small-town community theater like the Crystal?" asked Meyer, who since "Tuna" has moved to Sweet Home, east of Austin, to become its school superintendent. But he continues with the theater, now serving as president of the Crystal Theatre board.

Fundraising and recruiting new members are continual challenges. During rehearsal for "Tuna," members of the all-volunteer cast saw their breath in the cold because they kept the heat turned off to save money. After the theater's reopening, the board and community donors, including Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative, helped breathe life into the old building by funding upgrades to its near-defunct lighting and electrical systems.

The theater purposely limits its schedule to one spring

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### ★ ALL TEXAS IS A STAGE FOR SMALL-TOWN THEATERS ★



When they aren't acting, Ken DeZarn is a coffee shop manager, T.J. Ashabranner is a college student and Lyndsey Gatza is a bartender.

fundraising gala, two summer education workshops (one for amateur directors and one for children's theater) and a fall show, Crozier said. The nonprofit group decided "we would focus on quality and less on quantity," she said. They want to avoid burnout among volunteers.

### QUITMAN: A JAILER'S HOBBY

When Bob Hibbard retired from his job as a warden for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice he moved with his wife, Becky, to a lake house on the outskirts of Quitman. But instead of spending their time traveling or golfing, they decided to get busy.

The Hibbards started the Quitman Community Theatre. Since 2005, the theater company has put on 16 shows on a rented stage at the civic center. Bob usually directs and manages the productions, while Becky serves as production coordinator and frequently performs.

Bob's love affair with the stage started in 1970 when he served as an Army officer at Fort Hood and he began acting in shows at a community theater in Killeen. Later, working as a police officer in Arlington, he landed an agent and took a chance on becoming a full-time professional actor in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. But he eventually tired of the unpredictability of an actor's life. He returned to police work and then landed jobs in the Texas corrections system,

### ★ HOW TO JOIN THE SHOW ★

To join the fun, just look around. Chances are you'll find a community theater nearby. Below is just a sampling of upcoming small-town productions. (Note: Shows are subject to change. Performances are usually held Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Call ahead for show times.)

- ★ Azle: "Always ... Patsy Cline," Azle Popcorn Players, September 17-26. More information: (817) 238-7529 or www.azlearts.org
- ★ Bastrop: "Hellzapoppin' (Take-Two!)," Bastrop Opera House, June 25-July II (except Independence Day weekend), (512) 321-6283 or www.bastropoperahouse.com
- ★ Bulverde: "Is He Dead?" S.T.A.G.E. at Krause House, July 15-August I, (830) 438-2339 or www.stagebulverde.org
- ★ Cleburne: "The Wizard of Oz," Greater Cleburne Carnegie Players, June 25-July II, (817) 645-9255 or www.carnegie players.com
- ★ Cottonwood Shores (near Marble Falls): "Brigadoon," Hill Country Community Theatre, July 15-August I, (830) 798-8944 or www.hcct.org
- ★ Fredericksburg: "Suessical the Musical," Fredericksburg Community Theater, June 19-July 5 (sold out), I-888-669-7II4 or www.fredericksburgtheater.org
- ★ Gonzales: "Blithe Spirit," Crystal Theatre, November 5-14, Gonzales Chamber of Commerce, (830) 672-2402, or www .crystal-theatre.org

- ★ Ingram: "Cats," Hill Country Arts Foundation, Point Theatre, July 9-July 24, I-800-459-4223 or www.hcaf.com
- ★Quitman: "Two By Two," Quitman Community Theatre, Carroll Green Civic Center, July 30-August 8, (903) 967-2164 or www.qctheatre.org
- ★ Smithville: "Little Shop of Horrors," Playhouse Smithville, July 23-August 7, (512) 360-7231 or www.playhouse smithville.com



Longtime actor, playwright and teacher john daniels, jr. (right), his wife, April, and son, Matthew, took a break from renovating a former barbecue restaurant into Smithville's only theater, which is scheduled to open this month with 'Little Shop of Horrors.'

### ALL TEXAS IS A STAGE FOR SMALL-TOWN THEATERS

but all along continued performing on the side.

Since opening the Quitman stage, he has coaxed bank executives, a dentist, teachers and the local newspaper editor to perform. Musicals and comedies are the biggest draws.

Hibbard works closely with other nearby live theaters, the Lake Country Playhouse in Mineola and the Lindale Community Theater in Lindale. They may share props and scripts and coordinate schedules to make sure they don't compete directly whenever possible, since all three theaters share the local pool of actors, crew and theatergoers.

Financial support has come from local businesses, banks and Wood County Electric Cooperative. Each spring, the theater jointly stages a musical dinner show with the local Rotary Club, which has proved a popular fundraiser for both groups.

"It's so important to our small communities to have local entertainment that you don't have to drive very far for," said Debbie Robinson, general manager of Wood County Electric Co-op, who tries to attend most of the shows. "It's just amazing the talent we have."

Mary Lance is a frequent contributor to Texas Co-op Power. Charles Boisseau is the magazine's associate editor.

Web Extra: Go to www.texascooppower.com for a longer version of this story, more photos and a video showing opening night at a community theater.



Audience members are practically onstage at community venues like the Point Theatre in Ingram.



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# They're a Texas' minor-league teams load the bases—and fill the stands—with hard-hitting entertainment.

# MAJOR SUCCESS



his brother, 6-year-old Haley, are standing on the left-field berm, a towel draped over Hunter's shoulder. The boys are waving at a group of players who are shagging fly balls during batting practice. "Please, please, throw one up here," says Haley. His brother shouts at another player.

The boys look up—a couple of base-balls are headed their way. Their father, Gene, is watching from the walkway in back of the berm. "What do you say?" he asks. The boys shout their thank-yous, several times, and run off toward their dad, clutching their souvenirs. Their next stop? The swimming pool on the other side of the right-field fence at Frisco's Dr Pepper Ballpark. It's just another night for minor-league baseball in Texas.

Forget everything you thought you knew about the minors—the bush-league towns, the broken-down stadiums, a few fans scattered around the stands. Minor-league baseball is far

BY JEFF SIEGEL • PHOTOS BY KENT BARKER

from minor league in Texas, which is helping spark a decadelong resurgence at this level of play throughout the United States. A total of 17 teams in five leagues-including five teams that are officially associated with the Minor League Baseball organization-stretch across the state, from the Rio Grande Valley, to far West Texas, to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and the Panhandle. These days, the ballparks are just as likely to have a wine bar as a hot-dog stand, and swimming pools and rock-climbing walls are common. In fact, the action is not so much about the game on the field as it is luring families away from the local multiplex.

"More and more, minor-league operations are sophisticated businesses," says Scott Sonju, president and general manager of the Frisco RoughRiders, a Texas Rangers Double-A farm team. The RoughRiders are owned by the Mandalay Entertainment Group, a Hollywood media conglomerate that owns five other minor-league teams, including two New York Yankees affiliates. "They're sophisticated about customer service, about marketing and operations," Sonju said. "It's not as much about the win-loss record as it is the fan experience."

#### BACK IN THE GAME

This is not the way things used to be. For more than 100 years, the minors, including independent leagues, were where baseball players who weren't good enough or who weren't yet ready for the major leagues played. And after World War II, fewer and fewer people noticed. By the 1980s, the minors were in disrepair, and it wasn't unusual for a team to appear one sea-

son and vanish the next. Want to buy a team? Promise to pay off its debts, and the team was yours. Not that anyone wanted one.

But four things happened over the next decade to change that. First, major-league baseball, which would have lost its player-development system if the minors failed, reached an agreement with the minor leagues to upgrade stadiums and operations. Second, the old-timers retired or died and were replaced by modern operators like Sonju; Jay Miller, the chief operating officer and president for the Triple-A Round Rock Express; and John Dittrich, former president of the independent Fort Worth Cats who retired after the 2009 season. These men, says David Broughton, research director for the Sports Business Journal, are businessmen as much as baseball fans. It's not just about making money-it's about making enough money to plow it back into the business to maintain sophisticated operations. The RoughRiders have 42 full-time employees and more than 100 parttime employees during the season, so it's all but impossible to walk around the ballpark without someone asking if you need help.

Third, the 1988 movie "Bull Durham," starring Kevin Costner, brought romance and mystique to the minors and introduced it to a new, hipper generation of baseball fans. Fourth, and perhaps most important, cities large and small discovered the value of a minor-league team as a tourist draw and a way to market their communities to attract new businesses and residents.

"We want to be part of the global sports community, and this is one part of what we do," says Frisco Mayor Maher

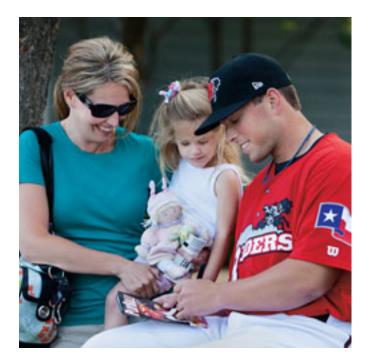








OPPOSITE: Wait for it, wait for it ... Springfield Cardinals batter Curt Smith stares down a pitch at Frisco's Dr Pepper Ballpark. TOP, FROM LEFT: All in favor of having a good time, raise your hands: Deuce the prairie dog revs up the crowd at Frisco's Dr Pepper Ballpark, where snacks won't take a huge bite out of your wallet. BOTTOM: Dr Pepper Ballpark, which opened for Frisco's inaugural season in 2003, covers all the bases when it comes to delivering fans a complete minor-league baseball experience.





LEFT: No curveballs here: Former Frisco RoughRiders pitcher Ryan Falcon creates a special memory for a young fan. RIGHT: Brothers Miles and Lennon Berthelot look ready to take the field for the RoughRiders.

Maso, whose city paid \$22 million to help build its 8,800-seat ballpark. Frisco is also home to a professional soccer team, FC Dallas, which plays at the 20,000-seat Pizza Hut Park, and a minor-league hockey team, the Texas Tornado, which plays at Dr Pepper Arena. The city also plays host to a variety of regional and national competitions for gymnastics and figure skating.

"It's all about the economic impact," says Maso, whose community opened three hotels last year in the bottom of the recession. "It's not just the jobs they create, but it's the people they draw."

### SOME TEAMS MAJOR-LEAGUE AFFILIATES, OTHERS INDEPENDENT

Texas' 17 teams consist of two groups. As official members of Minor League Baseball, five teams develop players for Major League Baseball: Round Rock, which plays in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League; and Corpus Christi, Frisco, Midland and San Antonio, which play in the Double-A Texas League. The remaining 12 play in three independent leagues: El Paso, Fort Worth and Grand Prairie in the American Association of the Independent Professional Baseball; Amarillo, Coastal Bend (Robstown), Edinburg, Laredo, Rio Grande Valley (Harlingen) and San Angelo in the United League; and Alpine and two teams currently based in El Paso, the Desert Valley Mountain Lions and the Coastal Kingfish, in the revamped Continental Baseball League.

Affiliation is the main difference; the major-league teams pay the players in the affiliated leagues, while the independent teams foot the salaries themselves. Otherwise, the approach is much the same.

"We're an alternative at an affordable cost," Dittrich said while he was still president of the Fort Worth Cats. "That's why it works in places like Fort Worth and the suburbs, where people never thought it would work. You can go to one of our games and be home in time to watch the 10 p.m. news, and you don't have to pay major-league prices."

Dittrich has a point. There are three independent-league teams in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, each theoretically competing with the major-league Texas Rangers. But there's nothing minor about the bargains: You can buy a hot dog, soda and chips at a RoughRiders game for \$7—a jumbo hot dog alone at a Rangers game costs \$4.50. And a seven-game RoughRiders ticket package is \$63, or \$9 per game, while a mid-price-range, single-game ticket for a Rangers game typically costs between \$25 and \$30.

"There's an abundance of entertainment options, and they keep growing," says Sonju. "You can go out to a restau-

rant for dinner or you can participate in youth sports. So we have to find a way to get you to come to our ballpark."

Hence the proliferation of mascots like the RoughRiders' Deuce the prairie dog (and his cousin Daisy) and the park's nonbaseball activities like the swimming pool, playground and wine bar. At Round Rock's Dell Diamond, you can sit in a rocking chair beyond the left-field fence. And there are more promotions and special events than seem possible, from birthday parties and between-innings giveaways to Scout night and old-timers games.

It's no surprise then that minor-league attendance is skyrocketing. The minors set an attendance record in 2008, though slumping slightly last year during the recession. In Texas, top teams like Frisco and Round Rock have mostly set records each year of their existence.

"The kids get more out of this than they do if it's a major-league game," says Gene Nicodemus, watching his sons run for the swimming pool. "It's more personal. When you got a big stadium, it's overwhelming. And you can't beat the price."

Or the swimming, either.

Jeff Siegel has written about chili and chicken-fried steak for Texas Co-op Power.



### Metal Roofs Keep Things Cool

BY JAMES DULLEY

**DEAR JIM**: I need to replace my shingle roof, and I heard metal roofs qualify for an energy-efficiency tax credit. How does a metal roof conserve energy? Are they worth the additional cost? —*Robert K*.

**DEAR ROBERT:** Many—but not all—metal roofs qualify for the federal energy-conservation tax credit for 2010. Metal roofs save energy by reflecting heat, keeping your house cooler during the summer. That can dramatically improve

Metal roofing can provide visual interest to your home while lowering cooling bills.

comfort inside and reduce electric bills if your home is airconditioned. During the winter, a metal roof has a negligible effect on the energy efficiency of your house.

In general, to qualify for the energy tax credit the roof must meet Energy Star qualification standards. For roofing, this means the TSR (total solar reflectivity) must be greater than 25 percent when new and 15 percent after three years. To be sure that the roofing qualifies, ask for the specifications and a manufacturer's certification statement (MCS). It pays to be diligent: I recently got quotes on a roof installation, and several roofers told me their asphalt shingles qualified for the tax credit. In actuality, they did not qualify.

The amount of the tax credit is 30 percent of the material cost of the roof (not installation expenses) up to a maximum of \$1,500. Use IRS Form 5695 to apply for the tax credit and save the payment receipt and MCS in case of a tax audit.

For my own home project, I eventually selected a Classic Metal Roofing Systems aluminum roof. It is made from 98 percent recycled aluminum, and the 1-by-2-foot panels are formed to simulate a cedar shake roof. It's attractive and certainly unique: Many neighbors were stumped trying to figure out exactly what it is.

Although it is more expensive to install than an asphalt shingle roof, my new metal roof will never have to be replaced. From a lifetime cost comparison, it is cheaper than installing an asphalt roof every 20 to 30 years. I also get a 3 percent reduction on my homeowner's insurance

because of reduced fire hazard.

Most metal roofs reflect more of the sun's heat than do asphalt shingles, particularly black shingles. My Classic metal roof has a TSR of 0.43, whereas a black asphalt shingle roof has a TSR of only 0.05. This keeps the roofing materials cooler so less heat is radiated down through the ceilings to the living area. Also, the underside of the aluminum metal surface has lower "emissivity" (the ability to emit heat) than shingles, so even less heat radiates downward.

It was warm, sunny weather when my metal roof and ridge vent were installed, and the second floor was noticeably cooler than before.

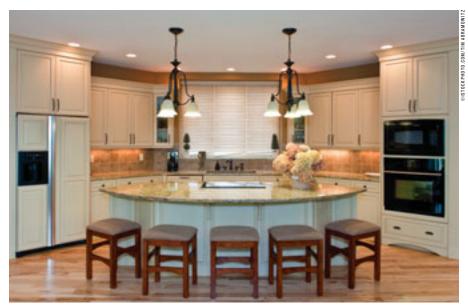
The final energy advantage is that the Classic Metal Roofing aluminum panels are relatively thin with the contour of shakes formed into them. This contour creates an air gap between most of the roofing and the roof sheathing or shingles below it. This gap allows some outdoor air to naturally circulate up under the metal roof panels to keep them

cooler. I sealed off my gable vents so outdoor air is now drawn in the soffit vents and exhausted out the ridge vent.

One minor drawback to the aluminum shake panels is they can dent if you indiscriminately walk on the high points of the contour. This can be avoided by stepping on the lower nailed area of the panels. Contoured insulating foam pieces were placed under areas of panels to provide walkways on the roof to clean my skylight and service the ridge vents.

Steel roofing is another option becoming more popular on homes. Painted standing seam or tile steel roofing is very durable. Instead of trying to simulate some type of standard roofing material, the bright colors and unique appearance are signatures of upscale homes. The finish coating on aluminum and steel often uses a Kynar-based paint with heat reflecting additives in a multistep process.

 $@ James \ Dulley$ 



Having a variety of lighting options—overhead as well as task lighting—gives you more control, illuminating what you need without wasting energy.

### **Light Only the Space You Use**

Are you lighting your whole kitchen, home office or family room every time you sit down to read or work on the computer? If so, you're wasting energy.

If you're just occupying a small portion of a room, light up your spot with task lighting. That allows you to reduce lighting costs while adding character and ambience to a room.

Both track lights and recessed lights offer a streamlined look that can make a room feel bigger, add more light or highlight certain areas of a room.

Track lighting and recessed lighting were once restricted to incandescent and halogen bulbs—which use a lot of energy and produce heat along with light, making a room hotter in the summer. Today, you have energy-efficient options in the form of compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs).

You can buy track lighting fixtures designed especially for CFLs and CFL replacements for existing track lighting systems. For recessed lighting, choose a CFL that's marked especially for recessed lighting, with a reflector to push light out into the room.

Follow these tips for effective task lighting:

- For a reading or desk area, place the light directly above where you sit so your head and shoulders won't block the light.
- Task lighting can increase visibility and safety above kitchen counters. Place lighting directly above kitchen islands, but center lights over the edge of countertops with cabinets.
- When creating a row of lights, place the first light about 3 feet from the wall to avoid making the corners look dark.
- Recessed lighting will typically light an area of floor space equal to the height of the ceiling. To brighten the room, space the bulbs so the area of each halo of light overlaps. A spacing of 6 to 8 feet typically distributes the light evenly.
- Give yourself some lighting options by having your electrician wire different sets of lights to multiple switches so you can turn only one set on for specific tasks, or turn them all on to illuminate the entire room.

### SEND HALOGEN LAMPS PACKING

During the hottest month of the summer, it's time to throw out one of the biggest heat producers—and fire hazards—lurking in your family room: the halogen floor lamp.

These torchiere-style lamps initially gained popularity because they are inexpensive and stylish. But their 300-watt bulbs consume an enormous amount of energy and burn extremely hot—around 1,000 degrees—making them an instant fire hazard if cloth or paper comes into contact with them.

Operating these lamps also can send your energy bill soaring—much higher than their pricier but more efficient counterparts will. It costs nearly twice as much annually to operate a \$20 halogen floor lamp than other kinds of lamps.

The smart alternative is a safe, efficient and equally stylish compact fluorescent floor lamp. Choose an Energy Starqualified model to reap the biggest savings. Though they start at about \$40, they can save you more than \$130 in energy costs over the life of the lamp.

When you send your halogen lamp packing, however, don't send it off with your college-bound kid. Many college dormitories have banned the lamps because of the fire hazard they pose.

## Landscapes Reimagined

Lubbock Artist Laura
Lewis paints what
she sees ... and what
many of us don't.

By Mary Lance



Laura Lewis' paintings translate the vast expanses of earth and sky from north of Amarillo and south toward Midland into neon-electric images so dynamic that admirers of her art might gasp and say: "I know that scene. But not like that!"

Indeed, you've probably seen some of these places. In her interpretations of Panhandle, High Plains and West Texas landscapes, Lewis traverses rural asphalt and dirt roads in a huge radius around her hometown of Lubbock to photograph a wide range of subjects—sunsets, sunrises, cotton fields and cotton-harvesting equipment, horses, windmills, sunflowers, mesas and sandy riverbeds. She then assembles the assorted photos—a sunset with just the right pinks and stratified clouds, cows or horses in a pasture, Canadian geese in flight—into one immensely satisfying collage-like picture.

One of Lewis' biggest fans is Wally Darneille, president and CEO of the Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Cooperative Association (PCCA), who owns several of Lewis' works and displays them in his home and in the co-op's offices. "West Texas lands are stark, but Laura makes it beautiful; she captures the power of the country and its culture," he says. "Her work reminds me of Georgia O'Keeffe, who took stark land and made it beautiful."

The PCCA is so appreciative of Lewis' works that the organization and some of its employees and members also own several of her paintings.

Lewis, 56, says one of her biggest challenges comes from working with mostly flat landscapes. "Because vertical elements are not abundant, my compositions are assemblages of content from various locations," says Lewis, who paints in oil on Masonite boards (tempered and pressed wood). "I am forced to think of a painting in terms of what it needs instead of what might be present at any particular place."

On photographic jaunts, the nimble, 5-foot-1-inch-tall Lewis—typically dressed in blue jeans, work boots, T-shirt and baseball cap—climbs to the roof of her Nissan Pathfinder for a better view of the landscape. She photographs during sunrise and sunset, the best times for slanted lights and shadows. She click-click-clicks on all kinds of subjects: pink-tinged clouds, wheels that carry irrigation pipe through fields, cactus. But after the pictures are taken, Lewis paints in an indoor studio, thereby avoiding dusty winds and the occasional rattlesnake ... or, as she once experienced near Justiceburg, southeast of Post, bullets that went zipping across the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River during someone's outdoor target practice.

But since Lubbock represents the largest contiguous cotton-growing region in the world, it follows that much of Lewis' work focuses on cotton: close-ups of fluffy-white, open bolls, expansive scenes of farmers planting their crops, cotton-stripping and module-building machinery at work (module builders compress cotton, readying it for transport to the gin). And much of her work is done at night.

For example, Lewis' "Kyle's Night Out" painting started in a field west of Meadow, near Lubbock. There, 22-year-old farmer Kyle Bingham was replanting



cotton deep into the night in an effort to make a good fall crop. From early evening until dark, when Bingham turned on his tractor's headlights, Lewis snapped picture after picture of a scene familiar to all Lubbock-area farmers.

Lewis used the photos she took that night—of tractor, plowed rows and progressing glow of sunset—to assemble the painting. "I had an idea where the tractor needed to be as a focal point, and I arranged the rows to lead the eye around the whole image, trying not to let your eye leak out of a self-contained picture," she says. "And I allowed myself artistic license to make the red-brown dirt redder. Then I took one image of the clouds with that brilliant pink sunset and placed it to achieve a balanced arrangement."

One of Lewis' first steps toward an artistic future came as a 14-year-old in Lubbock when she studied with sculptor Glenna Goodacre, a Lubbock native who today is best known for creating the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. Lewis then took art classes in college before switching to a health career, working first as a respiratory therapist and then as a neurodiagnostic technician.

But it was an aha moment on a honeymoon trip through Wyoming in 1993 that ended her health career and launched her future as an artist. "It was that vast feeling of space in Wyoming that gave me the inside urge to express that bigness—a time and space where there was no background noise except for the chirp of crickets," Lewis says. "It was an imagery I'd grown up with which I think somehow got imprinted on me."

So the newly married Lewis returned home with zeal to capture her Texas scenes—which now are exhibited in dozens of private homes and businesses, as well as in Supreme Court of Texas offices.

For Lewis, whose résumé includes three awards at the juried Lubbock Arts Festival and a Best of Show award at the Red River Valley National Juried Show, it's always been about painting what she knows: "I do have a soul connection with West Texas, and that motivates me to choose my imagery from where I have lived my life so far."

Laura Lewis' paintings are sold through Weiler House Fine Arts & Antique Gallery in Fort Worth; Art on Texas Avenue and the Frame Mart & Gallery, both in Lubbock; the Mason Gallery in Mason; King's Keepsakes ♂ Framing in Plainview; and Fredericksburg Art Gallery in Fredericksburg. Lewis' 20x40-inch works sell for \$3,800 to \$4,000. To see her paintings, go to www.lauralynnlewis.com.

Mary Lance is a writer based in San Antonio.

'Kyle's Night Out'

### Pen Pals 50 Years Later

Letters (and e-mails)
from Australia

BY JOHN ROTHBAUER

was out in the garage digging through boxed-up possessions and miscellaneous junk when I came across treasures from my boyhood.

I uncovered my old collection of model cars and planes. I was amazed to find a sleek Continental Mark II still in its original packaging. Then I found a worn Nestlé's candy box. Inside were several black-and-white photos and a small collection of beautiful shells from Australia's east coast.

The memories of 50 years ago washed in, and for a moment I was taken back, as if awakened from a dream.

The bright green box had faded over the decades, and the tissue wrap had yellowed, but the magnificent shells inside (cowries, cardiums, abalones and Australian scallops) were still miraculously intact. I gently examined each shell, amazed by their beauty and delicate features.

I carefully handled each photo as if rare currency, gently touching the images with their old-fashioned scrolled borders. They, too, had stood the test of time with only minimal discoloration and surface wear. In the photos, I recognized a tall, lanky young man and his younger brother and sister posing separately on the lawn of their home and at the rock entrance of a park.

The scenes were rather mundane and could have been taken anywhere. But I knew they were from halfway around the world—from my Aussie pen pal.

In the late 1950s, when I was a teenager attending Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville, our teacher encouraged us to take part in an international pen pal program. At the time, I had seldom traveled farther than the Texas Gulf Coast, and so I thought it intriguing to learn how people lived far away from my little town, halfway between San Antonio and Houston. I picked three pen pals my own age—two in the States and one in Australia.

I remember mostly the correspondence with John Kilpatrick, my Aussie friend. Each time a letter from him arrived in our mailbox, I carefully opened the envelope, not wanting to harm the odd-looking Australian stamps. I learned that John resided in the small town of Yass, about an hour from Canberra, Australia's capital. We wrote to each other for some time, sending each other photos and other souvenirs. He always seemed so proper in all that he did. His short letters were always carefully creased, the cursive writing properly spaced and the postage stamp never askew. His pithy prose contrasted with my profuse ramblings. The

contrast in our personalities was helpful to each of us, providing a view of the world from a different perspective.

Over time, I grew more interested in cars, girls and dating, and having a pen pal was no longer "cool." We stopped writing each other, and the ties of adolescence faded into obscurity.

But as I was out in the garage looking at photos of John and his family, I began to wonder if he was still shy and reserved—traits that were evidenced by his adroit, laconic prose. What was his occupation? What were his interests? Did he ever marry? Have kids? But mostly I wondered: Was he still alive? And if so, would he still be living in the same town where he had grown up?

I sat down at our home computer and entered my old friend's name and location into an Internet search engine. But no clues were apparent in the listings that came up. Admittedly, I am among the many sexagenarians (I am now 66) who are not very proficient when it comes to using the Internet. But I decided to continue searching. Next, I checked a list of places in the area of his hometown and came across a website that promoted the small community where he grew up. I wrote an e-mail to a contact person and asked for any information about John Kilpatrick.

Amazingly, within 24 hours, a website volunteer had not only found a relative of John's, but also had gone to the person's home—on his bicycle. As it turned out, a gentleman was house-sitting for the woman who owned the place while she was away in Sydney. Apparently, she had been married to John's uncle. The man supplied an address for him in another city. The volunteer e-mailed all this information and wished me luck.

Soon I tracked John to Kambah, Australia, another town not far from Canberra. I wrote to him the same day I obtained his mailing address. (Not having his e-mail address, I used the old-fashioned method we used a half-century earlier: regular mail.) Weeks later, I felt a familiar excitement when I received an Australian-postmarked letter in the mail. It came from his wife, who reported that her husband was on his annual walkabout, the term Australians use for a temporary return to aboriginal custom by traveling through the Australian bush. I learned that he was married, had two grown boys and was semiretired from his administrative role in local government. Coincidentally, not only do John and I share the same first name, our wives have the same name, too: Margaret.

I scanned and sent photos of our four grown children and eight grandkids, along with copies of his old photos. He wrote that he was most grateful, since their family photos had been lost long ago when a water heater flooded the basement of his parents' home.

After all this time, I felt as if we'd caught up with the past. He seems the same kind and reticent soul he was back then, a man of few words, but with an enthusiasm for adventure and living life to the fullest. (Early last Christmas Eve he e-mailed me a warm—but concise—note: "As Margaret is wrapping our Xmas presents (except one), I thought I might wish you a Merry Xmas. Love from us.")

I hope that one day John and I will have the opportunity to meet in person, say hello to each other's families and possibly imbibe a pint or two (Foster's, of course, or maybe I'll introduce him to Shiner Bock). Until then, I look forward to swapping stories and photos via e-mail. After 50 years, there are many stories to share. Now, if there were only 50 more years in which to tell them.

John Rothbauer splits his time between Galveston and the Huntsville area, where he and his wife are members of Houston County Electric Cooperative.





### Finally, a cell phone that's... a phone!

"Well, I finally did it. I finally decided to enter the digital age and get a cell phone. My kids have been bugging me, my book group made fun of me, and the last straw was when my car broke down, and I was stuck by the highway for an hour before someone stopped to help. But when I went to the cell phone store, I almost changed my mind. The phones are so small I can't see the numbers, much less push the right one. They all have cameras, computers and a "global-positioning"

something or other that's supposed to spot me from space. Goodness, all I want to do is to be able to talk to my grandkids! The people at the store weren't much help. They couldn't understand why someone wouldn't want a phone the size of a postage stamp. And the rate plans! They were complicated, confusing, and expensive... and the contract lasted for two years! I'd almost given up when a friend told me about her new Jitterbug phone. Now, I have the convenience and safety of being able to stay in touch... with a phone I can actually use."

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The cell phone that's right for me. Sometimes I think the people who designed this phone and the rate plans had me in mind. The phone fits easily in my pocket, but it flips open and reaches from my mouth to my ear. The display is large and backlit, so I can actually see who is calling. With a push of a button I can amplify the volume, and if I don't know a number, I can simply push one for a friendly, helpful operator that will look it up and even dial it for me. The Jitterbug also reduces background noise, making the sound loud and clear. There's even a dial tone, so I know the phone is ready to use.

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### The Dead Bank Robber Bounty

### BY CLAY COPPEDGE

aced with an epidemic of bank robberies during the 1920s without a corresponding number of captures, the Texas Bankers Association took extreme and controversial action by establishing the Dead Bank Robber Reward Program.

The program offered a cash reward of \$5,000 for the killing of bank robbers—or alleged robbers, as was often the case.

The late 1920s was a perilous time for banks, especially in rural areas where only a constable or marshall patrolled a large territory. Texas banks were being robbed at a rate of three or four a day.

In the fall of 1927, the Texas Bankers Association (TBA) declared it would pay \$5,000 to anybody who killed an individual caught in the act of robbing a bank. To clear up any misunderstanding this might have caused, the association added that it would not pay a single penny for live robbers.

Today, we can easily view the dead robber bounty as an extreme and risky measure, but the offer met no formidable opposition when it was announced.

"It was a gesture born of and worthy of the frontier society that had spawned most of the Texas bankers of the day," A.C. Greene wrote of the "dead robber" reward in his book The Santa Claus Bank Robbery. "It was the kind of retribution, the old-timers said, that the criminal mind could understand and would waver in the face of."

Inherent flaws in this kind of carte blanche retribution were soon revealed. A scout for the Gulf Oil Company was shot and wounded one January night in 1928 while driving to Post, southeast of Lubbock. The men who fired on him with shotguns and rifles—they parked beside the road and waited for a criminal on the run—thought he might have robbed a Sylvester bank earlier that day. Most of the bullets were fired at where the victim's head would have been if he hadn't leaned down in the front seat and kept driving when the shooting started.

The president of the West Texas Oil Scouts Association sent a telegram to Gov. Dan Moody noting that the \$5,000 offered for dead bank robbers prompted the fusillade. Moody decided to have the Texas Rangers look into the matter.

Into this volatile environment strode Frank Hamer, an already legendary Ranger who would go on to track down and ambush real bank robbers Bonnie and Clyde. Hamer quickly learned that bank robberies were increasing and that some who were slaughtered had been tricked into ambushes by local officers, who then split the rewards.

But bankers refused to withdraw the bounty, arguing that anybody who could be convinced to participate in a bank robbery should be killed.



At his wit's end, Hamer did something he had never done before and would never do again: He held a press conference. "I can't keep silent any more," he told reporters. "I have seen too much. I know too many of the so-called 'bank robbers' who have died over this state who were nothing more than pigeons, sent to their doom by grasping, dishonest men who are much worse than any of the bank robbers they profess to want to see die."

Hamer described a robbery in Stanton, northeast of Midland, where four Mexican laborers were picked up by a deputy sheriff and one of his friends under the pretense of offering them work. The workers were let out in Stanton and told to wait by the Home State Bank. When a church across the street from the bank mysteriously caught fire, drawing the attention of most of Stanton's 1,200 or so inhabitants, the deputy and his friend rushed up to the laborers and started shooting. Two were killed, and a third was seriously wounded.

The deputy and his friend who staged the murders (they claimed they saw the men preparing to rob the bank) were eventually prosecuted for their crimes, and the TBA reworded its reward program to include only legally killed bank robbers.

As for the bank robbers, they continued to enjoy what has been called a Golden Age of Crime. Between 1920 and 1929, the Travelers Insurance Company reported that property crime—from bank robberies to drugstore stickups—jumped from 17 to 965 in its Dallas office alone. The trend continued through the Great Crime Wave of 1933-34 and ended when bank robberies became classified as federal crimes, and the FBI got involved.

In 1964, almost four decades after Texas' dead robber reward was instituted, it was quietly discontinued altogether.

Clay Coppedge frequently writes history stories for Texas Co-op Power.

### RECIPE ROUNDUP

### Add a Spoonful of Flavor

BY KEVIN HARGIS You don't need to visit the condiments aisle in your local grocery store to stock up on tasty additions to your meals. With little effort, you can whip up salsas or sauces that both enhance the food you serve and reflect your individual taste.

It's just a matter of planning ahead. The tools you'll need are, most often, just a sharp knife and perhaps a blender or a food processor.

Raw salsas and sauces made with vegetables, fruits and spices can add the crowning touch to a meal without much additional preparation. To reach the full flavor of a fresh salsa, it's best to make it a day ahead and let the flavors blend.

San Antonio restaurateur Blanca Aldaco has put a spin on traditional pico de gallo, replacing the tomato with a blend of mango and grapefruit that gives the spicy concoction a hint of tart-sweetness. She recommends using Rio Star grapefruit, a Texas-grown variety that she says has a deeper red color and more natural sweetness than other varieties.

Aldaco, who owns two San Antonio-area restaurants, suggests serving the pico atop grilled or baked tilapia filets.

#### GRAPEFRUIT AND MANGO PICO DE GALLO

- 1/2 cup fresh grapefruit juice
- 2 to 3 green onions, chopped fine
  - I tablespoon olive oil
  - I mango, peeled, seeded and cut into 1/2-inch cubes



- 2 fresh jalapeños, cut into thin strips
- 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
- I grapefruit, sectioned and chopped
  Dash oregano, optional
  Salt to taste

Combine juice, green onions, olive oil, mango, jalapeños and red onion in a non-reactive container (glass, ceramic or stainless steel). Marinate overnight in refrigerator. Bring to room temperature just before serving and add grapefruit and oregano, if desired. Blend well. Taste and salt.

Servings: 8. Serving size:  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup. Per serving: 54 calories, 0.6 g protein, 1.8 g fat, 10.1 g carbohydrates, 93 mg sodium, trace cholesterol

**COOK'S TIP:** Use just the pulp of the grapefruit without the membrane, and definitely remove the bitter white pith with the skin.

### **APPLE CHUTNEY**

For those more ambitious cooks, especially those with canning experience, this chutney recipe developed by Texas Co-op Power Communications Assistant Sandra Forston is a wonderful topper to pork tenderloin or ham. If you are not sure how to safely can, please consult a good resource or reference book before attempting this recipe.

- I lemon (unpeeled), seeded and chopped
- I clove garlic, chopped
- 5 cups peeled, chopped apples
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 cups raisins
- 1/4 cup peeled and chopped fresh ginger
- 11/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 cups vinegar

Combine ingredients in stockpot and simmer, stirring frequently, at least 2 hours or until thickened. Spoon boiling hot chutney into hot sterile pint jars and seal. Process 10 to 15 minutes in boiling water bath. Yields about 3 pints.

Servings: 96. Serving size: I tablespoon. Per serving: 30 calories, 0.1 g protein, trace g fat, 7.9 g carbohydrates, 38 mg sodium, trace cholesterol

Web Extra: For more on canning, take a look back at the March 2006 issue in our online archives at www.texascooppower.com.

28 TEXAS CO-OP POWER July 2010 PHOTOS BY RICK PATRICK

### RECIPE ROUNDUP



 $\textbf{MARSHA A. STAMPER,} \ \textit{Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative}$ 

Prize-winning recipe: Triple Fruit Salsa

Quick, easy and flavorful sums up these salsa and condiment recipes that make it simple to spice up your meals. Marsha Stamper's fruit salsa bowled taste testers over with its savory-sweet flavor. What's more, the concoction is simple to prepare, can be made well in advance of a meal and delivers tremendous flavor without adding many calories or significant fat or sodium.

"It is delicious served over any grilled meat, fish or poultry," Stamper wrote.
"I serve it with fajitas as an option to sour cream, guacamole or traditional salsa."

#### TRIPLE FRUIT SALSA

- I cup diced fresh pineapple
- I cup chopped fresh mango
- I kiwi fruit, peeled and chopped

1/2 to 3/4 cup diced red bell pepper

- 3 tablespoons minced cilantro
- I1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 21/2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
  - 1/4 teaspoon dried crushed red pepper flakes, or to taste

Combine all ingredients in glass bowl, tossing gently. Cover and chill up to 8 hours. Serve at room temperature.

Servings: 8. Serving size: \(^1/2\) cup. Per serving: 44 calories, 0.5 g protein, 0.1 g fat, 11.1 g carbohydrates, 1 mg sodium, trace cholesterol

### TOM'S GARLIC SANDWICH SPREAD

This mixture serves not only as a changeof-pace spread for hamburgers and sandwiches, but also, when topped with a sprinkle of paprika, it makes a tangy dip for celery, carrots, etc. Options are available to match your personal taste.

- 2 to 4 garlic cloves, minced
  - I teaspoon olive oil
  - I cup mayonnaise
  - 2 tablespoons of your favorite ground, spicy, Cajun or Dijon mustard

6 to 8 green olives, coarsely chopped

- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon rubbed sage or Cajun seasoning (or both)

Sauté garlic in olive oil until it just begins to brown. Mix all ingredients and serve.

Servings: I6. Serving size: I tablespoon. Per serving: 62 calories, 0.3 g protein, 5 g fat, 3.9 g carbohydrates, I26 mg sodium, 3 mg cholesterol

TOM GURN

Nueces Electric Cooperative

### SWEET HOT MUSTARD

- 2 ounces dry mustard
- 1/2 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar

- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup oil
- I teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- I teaspoon fresh lemon juice

Combine all ingredients in small bowl and whisk until smooth. Refrigerate in a covered jar for a couple of days to allow flavors to blend.

Servings: 36. Serving size: I teaspoon. Per serving: 32 calories, 0.4 g protein, I.9 g fat, 3.6 g carbohydrates, 2 mg sodium, trace cholesterol

#### **NORLENE RAZAK**

Pedernales Electric Cooperative

#### CREAMY CILANTRO HEAT

- 1/2 bunch cilantro
- 6-7 slices pickled jalapeño
  - I clove garlic
    Juice of one lemon
- 16 ounces plain Greek yogurt Creole seasoning to taste

1/3 white onion, finely diced, optional Process cilantro, jalapeño, garlic, lemon juice and yogurt in a blender or food processor until cilantro is finely chopped. Season to taste with Creole seasoning. Increase or decrease amount of garlic or jalapeño according to your individual tastes.

Servings: 10. Serving size: <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup. Per serving: 35 calories, 1.9 g protein, 1.5 g fat, 4.5 g carbohydrates, 242 mg sodium, 5 mg cholesterol

#### **JEANENE WILLIAMS**

 $Pedernales\ Electric\ Cooperative$ 

Web Extra: Check out more delicious and easy condiment recipes from our readers at our website, www.texascooppower.com.



### RECIPE CONTEST

Want a chance to win \$100? November's recipe contest topic is Not Your Everyday Thanksgiving. Do your Thanksgiving Day dinner traditions stretch beyond the traditional roast turkey, mashed white potatoes and cornbread dressing? Do you serve a side dish or a dessert that is anything but ordinary? If so, we'd like to see your recipes. The deadline is July 10.

Send recipes to Recipe Roundup, II22 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 7870I. You may also fax them to (5i2) 763-3408, e-mail them to recipes@texas-ec.org, or submit online at www.texascooppower.com. Please include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. The top winner will receive \$100, a copy of 60 Years of Home Cooking and a Texas-shaped trivet. Runners-up will also receive a prize.

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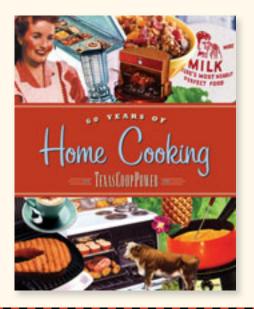


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Attention, cooks: We'd like to share your best original holiday recipes with 2.8 million Texas Co-op Power readers and give you a chance to win cash prizes—and the acclaim of your friends and family. All recipes must include pecans. Be sure to use real Texas pecans for the best results. Deadline for receipt of entries is September 10, 2010. Winners will be featured in our December 2010 issue.

Each entry MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Send entries to: Texas Co-op Power/Holiday Recipe Contest, II22 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can fax recipes to (512) 763-3408 or e-mail them to recipes@texas-ec.org. E-mails must include "Holiday Recipe Contest" in the subject line and contain only one recipe (no attachments). Up to three entries are allowed per person/co-op member. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries can all be in one envelope. For official rules, visit www.texascooppower.com.



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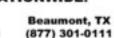


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True to Machine Art esthetics, the sleek brushed stainless steel case is clear on the back, allowing a peek at the inner workings.

actual jumping complication). The stainless steel 1 1/2" case is complemented with a black alligator-embossed leather band. The band is 9 1/2" long and will fit a 7-8 1/2" wrist.

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### **BEAT THE HEAT**

Summer in Texas: Enough said. When not seeking refuge from the blazing sun indoors, these South and Central Texas co-op members—and their furry friends—definitely knew how to keep their cool.

-ASHLEY CLARY

Bandera Electric Cooperative member Charles Carlson captured this charming moment between 4-year old cousins Campbell Carlson and Jakob Carlson as they waded in the Frio River. ▶

Brothers **Gabriel** (left) and **Bailey Ewan** cooled off with their first taste of homemade strawberry ice cream. Their grandfather, **Henry Wilson**, is a Pedernales Electric Cooperative member.

Fries, who succumbed to lymphoma in March, left Bartlett Electric Cooperative members Woody and Peggy Ray with many wonderful memories, like the one captured here when she was tuckered out after playing with her favorite toy, the sprinkler. V



Lacy (left) and Cricket know how to deal with the dog days of summer. Pedernales Electric Cooperative member Nancy Herrmann snapped this shot of the two chilling out in their very own swimming pool. ▼



Grayson Smith, Colton
Mendenhall, Rylan Smith and
Garrett Neiman (from left)
jumped into the South Llano
River to beat the heat. Brothers
Grayson and Rylan's mother,
Kayla Smith, is a member of
Pedernales Electric Cooperative.



#### Upcoming in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
Sep	At the Fair	Jul 10
Oct	Eeeek!	Aug 10
Nov	Fall Leaves	Sep 10
Dec	Curious Cats	Oct 10
Jan	Jan Man's Best Friend	
Feb	Heroes	Dec 10

AT THE FAIR is the topic for our SEPTEMBER 2010 issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, day-time phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to At the Fair, Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, before JULY 10. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must 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. Please note that we cannot provide individual critiques of submitted photos. If you use a digital camera, e-mail your highest-resolution images to focus@texas-ec.org, or submit them on our website at www.texascooppower.com.



### AROUNDTEXASAROUNDTEXAS

This is just a sampling of the events and festivals around and about Texas. For the complete listing, please visit www.texascooppower.com.

JULY 23-24

National Day of the American Cowboy, (830) 796-4447, www.frontiertimes museum.org



### JULY

GRAPEVINE [1-4]
Independence Day Train,
1-800-457-6338, www
.grapevinetexasusa.com

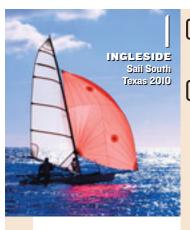
INGLESIDE [1-5] Sail South Texas 2010, (361) 749-5919, www.sail southtexas2010.com

DEL RIO [2-3]
Rotary Rodeo, (830) 7753551, www.drchamber.com

**SEGUIN** [2-3] Freedom Fiesta, I-800-580-7322, www.visitseguin.com

KINGSLAND [2-4] Aqua Boom 2010, (325) 388-6211, www.kingslandchamber.org

SCHERTZ [2-4] 4th of July Jubilee, (210) 619-1000, www.schertz.com



COLUMBUS Children's Parade, (979) 732-8385

#### COMFORT

Independence Day Celebration in Comfort, (830) 995-3131, www.comfortchamberof commerce.com

#### **TYLER**

Country Gospel Fest, (903) 570-8065, www .texasrosehorsepark.com ROCKPORT [3-4]
Art Festival,
(36I) 729-55I9,
www.rockportartcenter.com

) BUDA

Red, White n Buda, (512) 312-0084, www.ci.buda.tx.us

GONZALES

Summer Concert & Fireworks Display, (830) 672-2815, www.cityofgonzales.org/ mainstreet

ROSENBERG

Family 4th Celebration, (832) 595-3520, www.rosenbergevents.com

STONEWALL

Chili Cook-Off, (830) 644-2681, www.beckervineyards.com

WASHINGTON

Fireworks on the Brazos, (979) 878-2214, www.birthplaceoftexas.com

COWBOY: 2010 © JEANNE HATCH. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. SAILING: 2010 © BRIAN STUBBINGS. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. ICE CREAM: 2010 © IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. GOSPEL: 2010 © ANNEKE SCHRAM. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM





### **AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS**



**Parker County Peach Festival** 

**BURNET** 

Taste of the Hill Country Food & Wine Festival, (512) 756-6180, ext. 4

ABILENE [9-10] "Giant." Paramount Film Series, (325) 676-6026

**FAYETTEVILLE** 

Texas Pickin' Park Jam Session, (979) 378-2753, www.texaspickinpark.com MARBLE FALLS

Founders Day, (830) 798-2157, www.fallsmuseum.org

**NAZARETH** 

German Festival. (806) 945-2285. www.nazarethgermanfest

**WEATHERFORD** 

Parker County Peach Festival. 1-888-594-3801, www.peachfestivaltx.com

UVALDE [10-11] **Animal Shelter Arts** & Crafts Show, (830) 591-8041

**HILLSBORO** 

Hunting Heritage Banquet, (254) 582-3734

**TULIA** 

Swisher County Picnic Celebration. (806) 995-2296. www.tuliachamber.com

**BUFFALO GAP** Military Appreciation Day, (325) 572-3365

NAVASOTA [19-8/1] **Summer Music Theater** Camp presents "Annie Jr.," (936) 825-3195. www.navasotatheatre.com

NAPLES [22-24] Rodeo & Watermelon Festival, (903) 897-2041

FREDERICKSBURG [23-24] Gourmet Chili Pepper & Salsa Festival, (830) 997-8515

**SHERMAN** [23-24] Gospel Festival, (903) 546-6893, www.chrystalopryhouse com

**MCKINNEY** Cooper Summer Sprint Triathlon, (214) 383-1004

**CASTELL** BBQ Fundraiser, (325) 247-2752

Sts. Peter & Paul Festival. (979) 732-3430

> Event information can be mailed to Around Texas. II22 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 7870I, faxed to (512) 763-3407, e-mailed to aroundtx@texas-ec.org, or submitted on our website at www.texascooppower.com. Please submit events for September by July IO.





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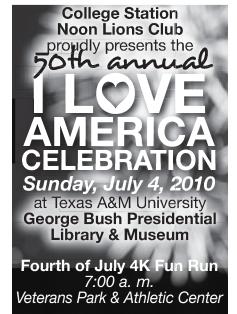
(800) 323-5055

\*Prices could be higher or lower depending on the price of metals. Call for up to date quotes.



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Kerr County seems like a second home to thousands of Texans who have enrolled over the years at one of the 27 summer camps in this naturally blessed section of the Hill Country. Approximately 25,000 children pass through the camps every summer.

The children can grow into adulthood appreciating canoeing past towering cypress trees on the clear green waters of

the Guadalupe River without ever having ventured into Kerrville itself. That's an oversight. Kerrville, which accounts for almost half of the county's 44,000 residents, has something for everyone.

Let's start with the cowboy angle, since Kerrville is headquarters for THE MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART. The modest, gracious building was the last designed by San Antonio architect O'Neil Ford. In addition to offering artwork from the museum's permanent collection or a traveling exhibit, the building has to-die-for Western touches. The recently refinished floors are made of mesquite, and the brick skylight ceilings are Mexicanstyle domes known as bóvedas. There's a nice children's exhibit and a 6,000-volume research library.

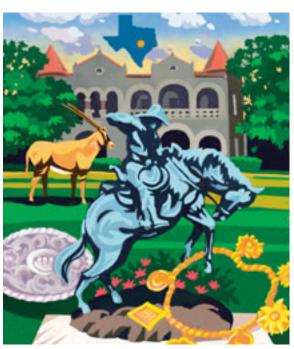
The town's most prominent family, the Schreiners, traces its roots back to Capt. Charles Schreiner, Texas Ranger, cattle and sheep rancher, Confederate officer, merchant and banker. His Victorian home, now the HILL COUNTRY MUSEUM, is open again after being closed for renovations. The KERRVILLE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU has brochures detailing an in-town tour of historical markers, and a local historian has created a driving tour of nearby Civil War sites.

It would be easy to spend thousands of dollars cruising area Westernthemed shops specializing in art, jewelry and crafts. Just west of Kerrville on State Highway 39 in Ingram is a one-block shopping area called the **OLD INGRAM LOOP**. Here, engraver and silversmith Clint Orms crafts gold and silver belt buckles that are works of art. Next door, 81-year-old boot and saddle

### HILL COUNTRY PARADISE

Culture, creatures and custom crafts lure tourists off the river in Kerrville.

BY KAYE NORTHCOTT



maker Don Atkinson is still doing special orders. One pair of boots on display was commissioned by his dentist. The elegant black boots each boasted patches of red ostrich leather shaped like Texas; a shiny white leather "molar" marked the location of Kerrville.

The best-known artist in Kerrville is James Avery, who started crafting silver crucifixes 56 years ago and now has 54 retail stores in Texas and a handful of other states and brisk mail-order and online services. His headquarters in Kerrville is worth a tour. One can see a video, watch craftsmen working on individual pieces through a glass window and walk across the grounds to the sophisticated Southwestern-themed sales shop to purchase elegantly simple pieces made of silver and gold.

Kerrville's cultural attractions include the CAILLOUX THEATRE, where the SYMPHONY OF THE HILLS performs, and the KERR ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER

and the HILL COUNTRY ARTS FOUNDATION. I particularly like the Arts Foundation's outdoor theater that's situated on THE POINT, where the Guadalupe River and Johnson Creek merge. (See story page 9.)

At nearby ranches one may hunt exotic game—the Schreiners' Y.O. RANCH being the most famous—and preserves where one can simply appreciate them. Just driving down ranch roads you're

likely to spot aoudad (Barbary) sheep, Corsican sheep, greater kudu (African antelope), wildebeest, sika (Asian deer) and many other species.

After learning that exotic axis deer now flourish in more than 27 counties of central and southern Texas, I gave myself permission to order an axis deer hamburger with cheddar cheese at RAILS ... A CAFÉ AT THE DEPOT, 615 E. Schreiner St. It was everything a hamburger should be-thick, tender, juicy, delicious—and not a bit gamy. The menu had many other tempting items as well. Other good bets are RIVER'S EDGE. A TUSCAN GRILLE (right on the Guadalupe), 1011 Guadalupe St., and the rather grand MAMACITA'S RESTAURANT Y CANTINA, 215 Junction Highway,

with its Mexican, Texan and Middle-Eastern architecture.

Well, we're not even getting into the famed Kerrville Folk Festival, the spring event that highlights singer/songwriters. That's nine miles south of town on QUIET VALLEY RANCH. The truth is, inside Kerrville or out on the road, the attractions are glorious.

Kerrville Convention and Visitors Bureau, I-800-22I-7958, www.kerrvilletexascvb.com

The Museum of Western Art, (830) 896-2553, www.museumofwesternart.org, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday

Clint Orms Engravers & Silversmiths, (830) 367-7949, www.clintorms.com

Don Atkinson Boots & Saddles, (830) 367-5400, http://donatkinson.com

James Avery, (830) 895-6800, www.james avery.com

Kaye Northcott recently retired as editor of Texas Co-op Power, but she intends to continue exploring Texas.





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