

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Still Swell at

70

1944-2014

Magazine marks anniversary
of keeping readers connected



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'HE KNOWS HOW I FEEL': Dave Roever's horrific injuries from the Vietnam War give him a special bond with today's troops who come home damaged.

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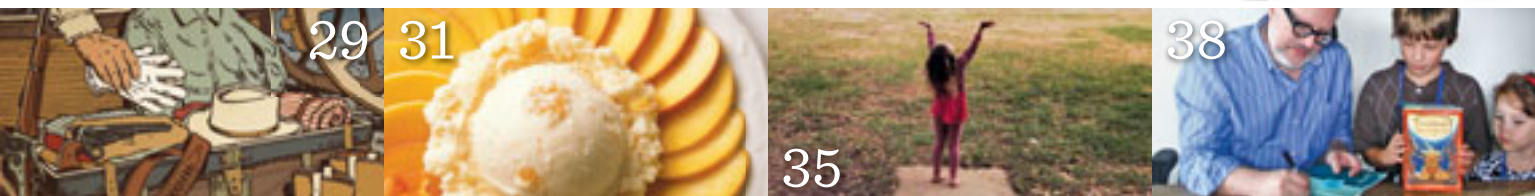
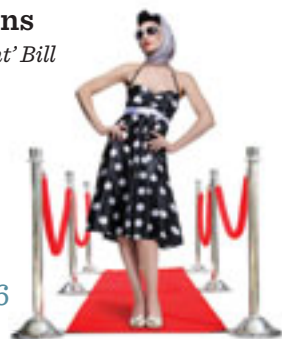
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COVER ILLUSTRATION Happy birthday to us! Texas Co-op Power, which debuted in August 1944, turns 70. Illustration by Syd Brak

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Safety on the Water

As a parent and grandparent, I am concerned that it appears these young anglers are not wearing life jackets ["Finders, Keepers," June 2014].

There was a recent accident at Braunig Lake near San Antonio in which a boat went into an out-of-control spin, and both passengers were thrown out. Neither reportedly was wearing a life jacket. The man's body was not found until days later.

If you seek to teach good boating skills that will last a lifetime, give them life jackets and teach them why it is in their best interest to use them. Modern jackets inflate when hitting the water and are not cumbersome.

Please help these young people learn great boating skills.

LAURA DYLLA | ADKINS
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

Soul Mate Dogs?

We were quite surprised to see a picture of our white boxer Minko in the Focus on Texas feature ["In the Doghouse," June 2014]. After read-



ing the caption, we realized someone else has a court jester for a dog, too. Minko is always making us laugh.

BILL AND JULIA BRADLEY | CARTHAGE
RUSK COUNTY EC

Best Telephone Man Ever

Enjoyed "Wired for Sound" [May 2014]. It fits my dad perfectly. He

A Lifetime of Fishing Fun

Really enjoyed "Finders, Keepers" [June 2014] on Texas high school fishing. My youngest son has been on the Marble Falls High School team for three years, and the program is a wonderful resource to teach our kids good wildlife management as well as water safety practices to prepare them for a lifetime of fishing fun.

It has amazed me how the student fishing population has exploded over the years and how far many of the teams will travel to participate. I urge parents whose schools do not have teams to ask their school board to open the program. And kudos to the hundreds of sponsors and volunteers for the support these kids must have to participate.

My son graduates this year, so he will move on to adult fun fishing, but we will continue to support our school program for years to come.

GARY DELZ | MARBLE FALLS | PEDERNALES EC



was a "wire chief" for the old Southwestern States Telephone Company in Wellington from 1945 to 1951.

Back then, a telephone man's goal was to have not more than six trouble reports per 100 lines.

Well, Dad met his goal but had a trouble spot that needed fixin'. It was in Quail, 11 miles northwest. Quail had a 16-party line on a grounded barbed-wire fence that worked from Wellington.

Dad got permission to order an open boxcar of telephone poles. So in his spare time, he and another man hand-dug and placed 32 poles per mile for 11 miles. This calculates to 352 poles, including crossarms, brackets, insulators and stringing four wires for 11 miles. This elimi-



nated the "fence" line and decreased the number of problems reported.

That was my dad, Tony Craig, the best telephone man ever.

DON CRAIG | GEORGETOWN
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

Mustang Namesake

I heard that the Mustang car was named after the P-51 Mustang airplane ["Mustang Mania," April 2014].

RICHARD PREVALLET | DONNA
MAGIC VALLEY EC

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Texas Electric Cooperatives
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Happy Birthday to Us

The 1.3 million subscribers of Texas Co-op Power today wouldn't recognize the magazine that debuted July 1, 1944. It was a four-page broadsheet newspaper, light on photos and heavy on the message that electricity is vital to rural America and electric co-ops serve the members that own them.

That message remains, but the look and scope of the magazine, then called Texas Cooperative Electric Power, has changed immensely, as has the number of readers. Today, after copies of the magazine get shared, we reach 3 million readers. Just 14,000 copies of the August 1944 issue were printed.

Other notable developments in that first year:

- In August 1944, the magazine began to tout the benefits of electricity in the home with stories about safety, refrigerators and laundry machines under an umbrella headline that read: "Women's Work Quickly Done With Electricity." And under the headline "Cook Your 1,095 Meals Per Year on a Modern Electric Range" appeared the first recipe—for Fruit-Stuffed Spareribs.
- In September, an "All in Fun" section began featuring jokes. Here's one:
Visitor: "Well, Joe, how do you like your new baby sister?"
Joe: "Oh, she's all right I guess, but there are lots of things we need worse."
- In October, tiny display advertising appeared for the first time. One ad was for The National Electrical Service Co. in Austin; the other for National Electric Appliance Co. in Cleveland, Ohio.
- In February 1945, the name was changed to Texas Co-op Power.
- In May 1945, ads for clothing patterns appeared.
- In August 1945, jokes continued to run, including this one:
"I would like some alligator shoes."
"What size does your alligator wear?"



Also in 1944

Smokey Bear was born August 9, 1944, when the U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council agreed that a fictional bear would become the symbol for their joint effort to promote forest fire prevention. Smokey became the longest-running public service advertising campaign in U.S. history.

In spring 1950, a badly singed American black bear cub became the living symbol of Smokey Bear when a group of soldiers from Fort Bliss in El Paso rescued him from a forest fire in New Mexico.

The bear, dubbed Smokey Bear, died in 1976 at the National Zoo in Washington.

Speaking of Jokes

Sometime after electrification spread across the country and lightbulbs became ubiquitous, lightbulb jokes became part of popular culture. They almost always hold a particular group of people—those of a given ethnicity, profession or even university—up for ridicule.

We won't go there. But we will share a couple we heard:

How many Einsteins does it take to change a lightbulb?

That depends on the speed of the changer and the mass of the bulb. Or vice versa, of course. Or it just might be easier to leave the bulb alone and change the room. It's all relative.

How many mystery writers does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

Two—one to screw it almost all the way in, and the other to give it a surprising twist at the end.

The first lightbulb Richard L. Fluker's parents ever used took on an important significance for years. See this month's Observations, "Paying the 'Light' Bill," at TexasCoopPower.com.





HAPPENINGS

All Aboard, Gourd Horde

Don't ditch that dirty, dried gourd. A visit to New Braunfels could help you transform it into the newest piece of art in your home.

The 18th Annual Lone Star Gourd Festival is August 15-17 at the New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center. The event—hosted by the Texas Gourd Society—features competitions, art vendors, design and carving classes, and more.

Find more happenings all across the state at TexasCoopPower.com

INFO: texasgourdsociety.org

WHO KNEW?

STOP! Go Ahead and Celebrate

You have the green light to celebrate the 100th anniversary of waiting at a red light. The first electric traffic light was installed August 5, 1914, at the corner of Euclid Avenue and East 105th Street in Cleveland, Ohio, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

More traffic signal history was made in 1922 in Houston when 12 intersections were controlled as a simultaneous system from a central traffic tower—the first time interconnected traffic lights were automatically controlled.

Purpose 101:

Where the Co-op Way Starts

It all started 78 years ago in a wooden farmhouse near Bartlett. A determined community living in darkness pulled together and, with a little help from the Rural Electrification Administration, a string on a bulb was tugged, and darkness turned to light. That's just some of what employees of Bartlett Electric Cooperative, the first to bring REA-funded electricity to rural America, heard at a daylong training event, Cooperative Purpose 101, May 28 at the co-op's headquarters.

Rural Utilities Services Administrator John Padalino addressed the training group, assuring them that the role of cooperatives in their communities is just as important now as it was in the 1930s. His message came to light when Mary Saage, daughter-in-law of the family who lived in that first electrified farmhouse, made a brief visit to address the audience. She shared stories about how the electricity improved the quality of life for her and her family.

Texas Electric Cooperatives offers Cooperative Purpose 101 to co-ops across the state to invigorate employees with a renewed purpose: to power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives. Now more than ever, it is important for cooperative employees to emphasize to members: You are members, not customers, and it pays to be part of a cooperative. Your co-op doesn't just keep the lights on, it helps your community thrive—with scholarships, Operation Round Up, changing out the lights at the ballpark. And that's just the start of it.

Holding Cooperative Purpose 101 in the very community where the co-op purpose was first put into practice in Texas—when Charles Saage yanked on a string March 7, 1936—is significant. It shows the staying power of the co-op way and the rewards of empowering members to improve the quality of their lives. It emphasizes that co-ops and members thrive when the cooperative purpose—whether worded as it is today or as it might have been in 1936—is embraced and practiced by all employees.



FROM TOP: The first home to receive REA-funded electricity. Bartlett EC employees participate in Cooperative Purpose 101 training.

The Baby Is Born

Texas Co-op Power marks 70 years as a trusted ally of co-ops in improving the quality of members' lives

IT WAS WARTIME WHEN THE FIRST issue of what is now Texas Co-op Power rolled off the press. That July 1, 1944, edition, called Texas Cooperative Electric Power, was only four pages of newsprint, but it packed a mighty punch.

A front-page article, "The Baby Is Born," heralded the arrival of the "husky baby among Texas newspapers" and assured co-op members they would no longer "be forced to stand by with a feeling of distress" when confronted with attacks on the Rural Electrification Cooperatives. "The answer should be found in the columns of this new publication."

Indeed. The premier issue practically burst with optimism and pride. "Your Cooperative Newspaper" introduced the purpose of the publication: "[We] believe there is a definite need for a statewide news organ of this sort—to help in coordinating the activities of the various co-ops, to keep members informed of developments, both state and national, that affect them as consumer-owners of rural electric systems, to carry information and suggestions regarding new and more efficient uses of electricity ..."

A notice of the upcoming statewide meeting of Texas Power Reserve Electric Cooperative, later renamed Texas Electric Cooperatives, announced discussion of cooperatives' contributions to wartime food production and the expectation that nothing would be of greater importance in the postwar period than the laborsaving service of electricity.

And lest they forget, readers were reminded, "Rural electric cooperative members of Texas, this is your paper."

During this 70th anniversary commemoration of Texas Co-op Power, we celebrate those pioneers in cooperative journalism who created a strong foundation for the staying power of the magazine and who, early on, stated a goal that still holds today: "Together, let's work to give Texas the best cooperative newspaper in these United States."

POSTWAR PROSPERITY

The arrival of electricity to Texas farms and ranches revolutionized rural life and created an environment ripe for inclusion in the mushrooming postwar economy. Once they saw the light, rural residents' interest in improving the quality



Texas Electric Cooperative Power debut issue, July 1944

of their lives took hold. More people wanting electricity created more electric cooperatives, which stimulated economic growth in rural areas across the state.

The pages of Texas Co-op Power reflected co-op members' enthusiasm for electrically powered farm equipment and household appliances. In the June 1945 issue, in a story titled "Power Saves Time, Labor on Farm," a farmer declares: "If I had to give up my electricity I'd quit farming." Advertisements touting the latest laborsaving equipment and devices appeared throughout Texas Co-op Power.

Homemakers on the farm, once depicted as bedraggled and somber, now appeared in stories and ads as youthful, smiling and confident women with their electric irons, refrigerators and stoves. Texas Co-op Power recognized women's

hunger for information about using new appliances to their advantage. What was variously called Woman to Woman and The Woman's Page grew so popular it received its own editor in

Our First Recipe

Readers tell us recipes are one of their favorite features in Texas Co-op Power. The first recipe appeared in August 1944. Here it is:

An excellent receipe [sic] which is most successful in the oven of a modern electric range follows:

FRUIT-STUFFED SPARERIBS

- 3 lbs. spareribs (2 sides uncracked)
- 4 large apples, chopped
- 1 tbsp. brown sugar
- ½ lb. chopped raw prunes
- 1 tbsp. salt

Put two sides of spareribs together to form pocket, season, inside and out, and stuff with mixture of apples, prunes and sugar. Skewer or sew together. Bake. For gravy, remove excess fat and pour one cup of hot butter into pan and thicken with three tablespoons of flour with one-half cup cold water.



Many early stories and ads in Texas Co-op Power targeted homemakers who, thanks to electricity, could modernize their homes and ease their workloads with electric irons, refrigerators and stoves. What was variously called Woman to Woman and The Woman's Page grew so popular it received its own editor in May 1946.



May 1946. Women were certainly not lagging behind the men-folk in their appreciation for electricity.

During the late '50s and early '60s, another sign of rural optimism and community pride was the annual Miss Rural Electrification pageant. Winners from local co-ops competed at the statewide annual meeting, where a young woman was chosen to enter the Miss Rural Electrification contest held during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting. The competition eventually lost favor and was ended, but for a time it was as if the Miss America pomp and circumstance extended to Texas co-ops.

GROWTH AND CHANGE

In 1964, Texas Co-op Power celebrated its 20th anniversary. By that time, the magazine was going to 245,000 homes and businesses served by electric cooperatives. An editorial in the July edition reminded readers that the magazine's pur-



In 1964, an editorial stressed Texas Co-op Power's broadened coverage of 'the features of interest to women' and stories about Texas living, including travel. The January 1968 cover featured the Tower of the Americas at HemisFair Park in downtown San Antonio.

Reader surveys consistently rank Texas Co-op Power as a reliable and trusted source of information, whether about issues of the electric industry or feature stories about the people and places of Texas.

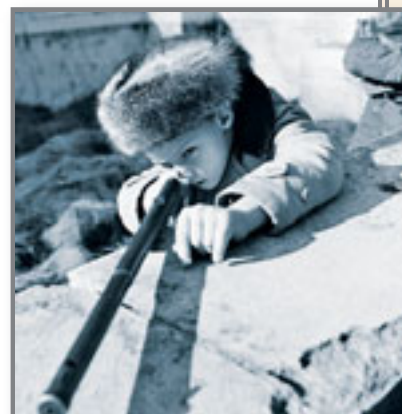


pose to inform members about the activities of their local cooperatives remained unchanged. News of governmental and judicial actions affecting co-ops would still be covered.

But readers wanted more.

The same editorial also declared, "... in response to reader requests, Texas Co-op Power has greatly broadened its coverage of the rural scene—now presenting colorful articles such as the travel stories in this issue and the features of interest to women which are now run in each issue."

That editorial mix—of co-op news; explanatory stories about industry issues; and articles about Texas living, food, travel, history, people and events—established a format that still guides the basic makeup of the publication today. Survey after survey of Texas Co-op Power readers consistently rank the magazine as a reliable and trusted source of information, whether about interesting travel destinations or examinations of crucial issues such as power constraints or water shortages.



© GENEVIEVE NAYLOR | CORBIS

Even some youngsters looked to Texas Co-op Power for help. In 1956, an 8-year-old boy wrote this letter that appeared in the local pages of South Plains Electric Cooperative:

Dear Sirs:

I have a new B-B gun. Will you please come put a new glass cover over our meter? I am going to pay for it by washing dishes for my mother.

Yours truly,

Herman Barnett

*P.S. I am Wallace Barnett's son.
We live east of Anton.*

ENERGY CRISIS

On a cold night in February 1977, President Carter addressed the American people from a chair by a fireplace in the White House library. His topic was the nation's energy shortage and what his administration and Amer-



The 1977 issues of Texas Co-op Power delivered President Jimmy Carter's message about conserving energy to readers, explaining higher electricity costs, the impact of conserving electricity in the home and how the national crisis affected nearly every aspect of co-op service.

icans could do about it. The 1977 issues of Texas Co-op Power took the President's message to co-op members, using it as a platform for explaining higher electricity costs, the impact of conserving electricity in the home and how the national crisis affected nearly every aspect of co-op service.

Saving on energy consumption was nothing new to co-op members. Since the early days of Texas Co-op Power, educational ads and articles about energy efficiency appeared regularly.

Throughout Texas Co-op Power's 70 years of archives, energy conservation—whether to save on electric bills or reduce demands on a limited power supply—is a common theme. In the September 1947 issue, readers learned about simple ways to save electricity, including some interesting ones, such as cleaning lampshades and lightbulbs: "... dirt can steal 30 to 50 percent of the light and wastes electricity."

From the mid-'70s to the mid-'80s, co-ops relied on Texas Co-op Power to communicate with members about high electric rates and power supply. Members learned about the underlying causes of the rate increases, including higher fuel prices, inflation, recession, unemployment, high interest rates and America's dependence on foreign oil.

Once again, Texas Co-op Power was the most consistent link between local cooperatives and the members they needed to reach with crucial information.

TECHNOLOGY

When computers replaced electric typewriters and 3-by-5-inch index cards in co-op offices, one administrative assistant recalls thinking, "I can't do this. I'll have to quit my job." Today, the same person says she would have to quit her job if she didn't have a computer.

And so the story repeats itself with a host of high-tech solutions whenever cooperative challenges arise.

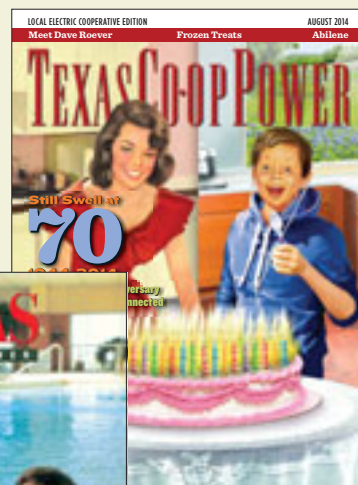
As they did during the energy crisis, co-ops continually use

their pages in Texas Co-op Power to educate members about new technology, such as online bill paying or meters that communicate directly with the co-op. On a broader scale, in February 2011, a Texas Co-op Power feature story took readers to seven cooperatives to see how high-tech systems improved service to their members.

The array of high-tech systems, gadgets and appliances available to individual members can get confusing, and their effectiveness and value can be misrepresented. That's why Texas

Growth and Evolution

2014
Still growing
Circulation:
1,300,000



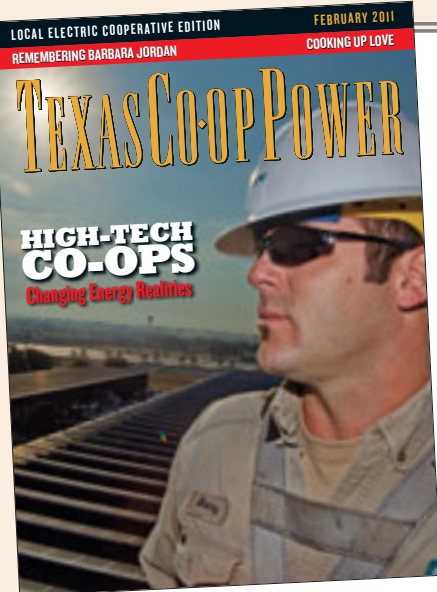
1992
Switch from tabloid
to magazine format
Circulation: 390,000



1960
Introduction of
two-color printing
Circulation: 145,000

1944
Texas Cooperative
Electric Power debuts
Circulation: 30,000





In February 2011, Texas Co-op Power's cover story took readers to seven cooperatives to see how high-tech systems improved service to their members. The array of high-tech systems, gadgets and appliances available to individual members can get confusing, and their effectiveness and value can be misrepresented. That's why Texas Co-op Power regularly presents credible evaluations of consumer products, such as solar panels, tankless water heaters, programmable appliances and other energy-saving devices.

Co-op Power regularly presents credible information about consumer products, such as solar panels, tankless water heaters, programmable appliances and other energy-saving devices.

Members can often find easy-to-understand material that helps them unravel questions about even the most complex high-tech innovations, employed to improve the quality of their lives and the effectiveness of their co-op in the 21st century.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER: THE DIGITAL EDITION

Never fear: Your printed copy of Texas Co-op Power is alive and well. It's just that the magazine now has its own website (TexasCoopPower.com) and Facebook page. For co-op members who grew up with computers, digital reading formats are often preferable and better suited to a lifestyle on the go.

The digital edition allows us to expand stories and include additional information about a topic that couldn't be included in the print version because of space constraints. We can run extra photos and even video to provide readers with a multifaceted experience.

The Texas Co-op Power Facebook page is a fun place to frequent. See reader photo submissions, comments, energy-saving tips and events happening around the state. "Like" us and add your own two cents.

70 YEARS

There's a saying that goes: The more things change, the more they remain the same. In many ways, that describes Texas Co-op Power. During its 70 years as a messenger between Texas co-ops and their members, the magazine has gone from a four-page newspaper to a tabloid, to a



TexasCoopPower.com allows the magazine to expand stories and present videos and additional photos. The Facebook page invites readers to join the magazine community and participate in reader photo submissions, comments, energy-saving tips and events happening around the state.

magazine format. It changed editorial content from mainly political and industry-related articles to more news from co-ops and more educational features about using electricity in the home and on the farm.

In response to reader requests for more Texas-centered stories, the magazine widened its scope—more features, more photographs, more recipes.

But no matter how much Texas Co-op Power changes its look or expands its content, it remains true to the founding intention of promoting the value of Texas' electric cooperatives to their members. And that won't change.

Carol Moczygemba is a former editor of Texas Co-op Power.

Texas Co-op Power Honors

Texas Co-op Power is a five-time winner of the George W. Haggard Memorial Journalism Award, the highest honor for a statewide electric cooperative magazine, presented by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The Haggard, established in 1958, recognizes the statewide publication that best presents "lucid, forthright contributions to electric cooperative objectives." The award was named for George W. Haggard, the first editor of Texas Co-op Power, who was killed in a plane crash in 1951.





Dave Roeber, who suffered horrendous injuries in Vietnam, tries to help more recent war veterans confront, accept and move past the physical and mental trauma they've experienced.

'Never Let a Good SCAR Go to Waste'

Harsh reality of war is common bond as Vietnam vet strives to help more recent troops discover their reward

DAVE ROEVER DOESN'T HAVE ANY FANCY letters after his name or degrees on his wall. His counseling credentials are measured in blood, scar tissue and bone grafts.

He went to Vietnam in 1969 as part of a riverboat crew—lean, muscled and confident from Naval Special Warfare—as a recently married 21-year-old who yearned to be a minister. He came back after 14 months in military hospitals a one-eyed, hideously burned, insecure, self-conscious, post-suicidal—in his words—“beast.”

Fortunately, Roeber (pronounced REE-ver) was grounded by his faith and his bride, Brenda, who encouraged him when he needed it; provided a self-pity antidote when he needed that, too; and loved him unconditionally throughout. During his recovery, he discovered that his ordeal served a higher purpose. His calling was still to minister, but his flock was another lost generation of injured war veterans. His message was one of acceptance of their

scars and lost limbs and psychological wounds, and a desire to move forward with their lives.

The dirt road to Eagles Summit Ranch is largely unmarked. Travel about 15 miles southeast of Junction, take a right and follow the dirt road past the gnarled cedars, the deer blinds and the scrubby brush that marks the end of the Hill Country and the start of West Texas, and you're there, at a large iron gate flanked by cast eagles. Beyond these gates, the Dave Roeber Foundation uses a multifaceted approach based mostly on faith and public speaking to help wounded war veterans confront, accept and move past the physical and mental trauma they've suffered.

The work is intensely private and personal, say those who've been through it, very much like a 12-step program. Except it doesn't have 12 steps. It has however many it takes. And though it doesn't have an established set of steps for recovery, it

does share one fundamental truth with programs like Alcoholics Anonymous: It takes someone who's been through hell to rescue another from it.

Without a Scar

A M34 WP smoke grenade is a particularly insidious weapon. Its charge is white phosphorus and—unlike a fragmentation grenade, which destroys with shrapnel, or a standard explosive charge, which kills with blunt force—it burns. Vegetation, grass, wood, munitions, flesh—whatever it gloms onto, it burns. It even burns underwater.

Roeber had learned to use such a weapon. As the son of a hard-edged minister in Mission, he had grown up committed to three things: tinkering with cars, Christianity and a pretty local girl named Brenda. He enrolled in a Bible college, but when his grades dipped and he received his draft notice, he figured he owed it to his country to serve. Expecting that serv-

ing on a ship in a land war would be safer, he enlisted in the Navy.

Roever showed an aptitude for weapons, learning how to deploy nuclear missiles, and was assigned to Naval Special Warfare training and, ultimately, to wearing the black beret of the Brown Water Black Beret, an elite riverboat flotilla that patrolled the winding rivers of Southeast Asia.

"I knew I wasn't coming home," Roever says. "It didn't look dangerous because we didn't have a high KIA (killed in action) rate. Instead, we were listed as MIA (missing in action) because when a boat went down, they didn't recover the body."

On July 26, 1969, on the Vam Co Tay River, Roever was on patrol when he pulled the pin on a white phosphorous grenade, cocking his arm behind his right ear to throw it toward an area he suspected was hiding a munitions cache. His plan was to start a fire, maybe destroy the arms or just create some smoke for cover. The grenade was still in his right hand when it detonated. And the man who had promised his bride—to ease her fears—that he'd return from war "without a scar" began to burn.

The fire incinerated his ear, his hair and parts of his scalp. It ravaged his face, destroyed his right eye and eyelid; split his right hand in half and tore a hole in his chest through which he could see his own heart beating beneath the thin layer of flesh that was left.

Later, a forensics expert told Roever that a sniper hidden behind him likely had aimed

at his head but hit the grenade as Roever drew it back. The grenade that seemed to have ruined his life also likely saved it.

Worth Saving

In the field hospital, he heard two doctors argue over whether it was worth trying to save him. At the base hospital, he watched the wives of other badly wounded men recoil at their sight and remove their wedding rings as a prelude to divorce. He weighed his wounds against the pain of the treatment and decided he wanted out. Fighting the pain, he reached for his intravenous tubes, yanked and waited to die. "Then I started getting hungry," he says. "I had pulled out my feeding tubes. I realized I didn't want to die. I wanted to eat."

When Brenda came to visit, she didn't recoil. Roever apologized that he would never be good-looking again. Brenda quipped, "You never were that good-looking." Roever realized he was one of the lucky ones.

In the ensuing years, he built a career as a motivational speaker and minister and raised a family, including son Matt and daughter Kimberly, despite dire warnings from doctors that the trauma from the burns had almost definitely left him sterile.

A Renewed Purpose

Then came September 11, 2001. America went to war again, and a new generation of young men and women would be going off to battle—and coming home horribly

damaged. "I felt my life had meaning again," Roever says. "God took the experience of my life and gave me a purpose. Never let a good scar go to waste."

Formed in 1991, the Dave Roever Foundation uses two Eagles Summit Ranches—the other is one near Westcliffe, Colorado—to host Operation Warrior RECONnect programs. Nearly all those attending have traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), although Roever's group only recognizes the first three letters of the latter.

"We drop the 'D,'" says Kathy Wampler, Roever's top aide. "We tell them, 'You are not disordered.' Disordered means you are reacting oddly to something. Their reaction is natural to what they've been through."

The group setting is designed to put a damper on self-pity and maximize hope, the idea being there's always somebody else worse off, in one way or another. And Roever is there to play the trump card. Says Wampler, "The soldiers' reaction is, 'He knows how I feel. His scars are on the outside. Mine are on the inside. Here's a man who understands pain.'"

Straight Talk

"Nobody speaks to a vet like a vet," says Matt Roever, an ordained minister who assists his father.

Nobody laughs at a vet's misfortune like the vet himself, either. Robert "B.J." Jackson was in the first class at the Colorado ranch in 2007. His Army unit was

LEFT: Rupert Harrell, right, a Vietnam War veteran, chats with Iraq War vet Todd Plybon in the physical therapy facility at Eagles Summit Ranch near Junction. **RIGHT:** Brandon Byers' prosthetic leg is visible below his rolled-up jeans. Byers helps conduct Operation Warrior RECONnect programs at the ranch. He was a gunner in the turret atop a Humvee in Iraq when a series of roadside bombs ripped through his convoy in 2006. His left leg was amputated above the knee in 2013 as a result of his injuries.





LEFT: Brenda and Dave Roever were still newlyweds when Dave was deployed to Vietnam. When they said their goodbyes, Dave promised he would return to her ‘without a scar.’ But on July 26, 1969, he was on patrol on the Vam Co Tay River when a white phosphorous grenade detonated inches from his face, and he was burned beyond recognition. **RIGHT:** Matt Roever, their son, helps Clay Rankin with physical therapy at the Eagles Summit Ranch. Matt is an ordained minister.

ambushed in Baghdad in August 2003, and he was badly burned and lost both his legs below the knee. The other vets call him “Stumps.” Once, at a speech both men attended, Roever was making the point that a lost limb doesn’t require lessened expectations. “What is a leg worth?” Roever asked, rhetorically. From the back of the room, Jackson held up one of his prostheses. “I’ll sell mine right now,” he said enthusiastically.

Jackson didn’t fall into self-pity after he awoke in the hospital after the ambush. Learning he was already being given antidepressants even before he regained consciousness, he angrily made the doctors stop. But he saved his real anger for the staff psychologist, who had never seen action. “I asked him, ‘No disrespect, but where were you deployed?’” Jackson recalls. “At the time I was angry. I wanted someone who’d been there, done that.”

Shortly after his return, Jackson started working with the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes. He poured himself into the outreach, helping others even as he ignored himself. Then he met Roever in 2005. Jackson invited Roever to speak at his events. Roever invited Jackson to be in the first class at Eagles Summit. “It was an emotional roller coaster. We would cry one minute, laugh the next,” Jackson recalls. “He was the first person who told it like it needed to be told.”

That way is blunt, even to the point of being harsh—though not unnecessarily so.

Jackson exemplifies the approach. He is wearing a pinstriped suit coat, white shirt, tie—and shorts. He wears shorts everywhere. He wants people to notice his prosthetic legs, even having them emblazoned with cartoon characters to disarm wary children.

Meeting the Challenge

The program is a visceral experience. The vets fish, mountain bike and ride horseback, if able, and shoot guns—even AK-47s, the same weapon of choice for the forces they fought in the Middle East. They are allowed one bullet at a time, and they fire only under strict supervision.

All wounds, visible or not, don’t heal the same. That’s the challenge here. Aside from what they’ve seen and done, this generation’s vets face the puzzle of understanding where they fit into history. Roever points out that World War II veterans know what they accomplished. They crushed Nazi tyranny, stymied Japanese imperialism and ended evil genocides. They saw Germany and Japan surrender. They won.

Vietnam veterans weren’t left with a clear purpose or resolution from a highly unpopular war and were treated not at all like heroes when they returned home. Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan have more public support, if no more purpose or resolution. “As humans, we live for sacrifice and reward,” Roever says. “What if there’s no reward?”

It’s Roever’s mission now to help the veterans find a reward, or at least a footing

where they can find one. Ask Roever about success stories, and he’s guarded. He tells about a female combat medic, whose traumatic experiences drove her to a suicide attempt. He tells how she came through the program and returned for another tour of duty in a combat zone.

“We don’t win them all,” he says. “We don’t even try to put a percentage on it.”

Then Roever tells of another veteran who’s been coming for sessions since 2008. “We can’t reach him,” Roever says sadly. He keeps a photo of the vet in his office. The vet tells Roever he goes to sleep with ghosts every night. Roever tells him that’s his choice. Sometimes he’ll call Roever at 2 a.m. and ask him for a reason not to pull the trigger. “I won’t rest until I reach him,” Roever says. “I still have hope. As long as he’s got a breath and I’ve got a breath, I won’t give up. I’ll keep telling him the truth. The day I soften the message is the day he gives up.”

Some night soon, maybe tonight, that phone will ring again. Dave Roever, scars and all, will be there to answer it.

Mark Wangrin is an Austin writer.

Roever Foundation

To learn more about the Roever Foundation and the Eagles Summit Ranches, visit roeverfoundation.org.

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CONSERVATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION



Watch for Signs of Heat Illnesses

Summer in Texas provides lots of opportunities for fun, whether you're lying by the pool or running on a baseball field. Texas summers also present dangers. Keep heat stress at bay—no matter your sun-soaked activity of choice—by knowing how to prevent heat-related illnesses and recognizing the symptoms in yourself and others.

Heat Stroke

The most serious of heat illnesses, heat stroke can be deadly and swift. Your body temperature could rise to 106 degrees or more in as little as 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke happens when your body temperature rises rapidly but your body cannot sweat quickly enough to cool itself. Symptoms include hot, dry skin or the opposite—profuse sweating and chills—as well as a throbbing headache, dizziness, hallucinations and slurred speech.

If you see someone with the symptoms of heat stroke, immediately call 911 and move the person to a shady area. Try misting the person with cold water, soaking his or her clothes or fanning the body.

Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion is the result of heavy sweating—extreme loss of salt and water. People prone to heat exhaustion include the elderly, those with high blood pressure, or people who work in hot conditions. Besides excessive sweating, symptoms include extreme weakness or fatigue, dizziness and confusion, nausea, clammy skin, muscle cramps and shallow, rapid breathing.

If a person suffers from heat exhaustion, move him or her to a shaded or air-conditioned area. The victim should drink cool, nonalcoholic beverages and take a cool shower or bath.

Heat Syncope

Sunbathers may be prone to heat syncope, which is dizziness or fainting after lying (or standing) for long periods of time.

Dehydration can contribute to an episode of heat syncope, so keep that water bottle handy when you head to the beach.

If you feel dizzy when you sit up after lying down for a long time, sit or lie back down in a cool place and sip on a cool beverage—water, sports drinks or clear juice.

Heat Cramps

Folks who work or play sports outside in the heat may suffer from heat cramps, which result from low salt levels after heavy sweating. Stay alert if you feel cramping because it could be a symptom of heat exhaustion. Heat cramps usually are felt in the arms, legs or abdomen.

If you feel them, stop what you're doing, sit in a cool place and drink clear juice or a sports beverage. Take it easy for a few hours after you no longer feel the cramps—if you return too quickly to your activity, the condition could transition into heat exhaustion or heat stroke. If you have heart problems, are on a low-sodium diet, or if the cramps do not go away in an hour, call a doctor.

Heat Rash

Heavy sweating can cause a heat rash during hot, humid weather. It looks like a red cluster of pimples or small blisters that usually pop up on the neck or chest, groin, and in the crook of your elbow.

Keep the area dry and use baby powder to alleviate discomfort.

Insulate for Comfort and Savings

BY JAMES DULLEY

Checking your home's insulating system is one of the fastest and most cost-efficient ways of using a whole-house approach to reduce energy waste and maximize your energy dollars. A good insulating system includes a combination of products and construction techniques that provide a home with thermal performance, protect it against air infiltration and control moisture. You can increase the comfort of your home while reducing your heating and cooling needs by up to 30 percent by investing just a few hundred dollars in proper insulation and weatherization products.

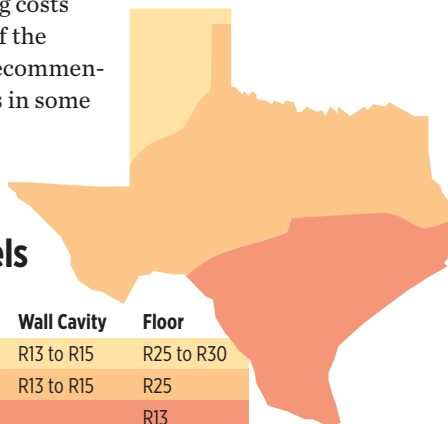
Adequately insulating a home saves money for homeowners every month. It also helps conserve vital energy resources—energy-efficient houses help lower air pollution emissions from the combustion of fuels for heating, air conditioning and ventilation.

Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors and crawlspaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area. Insulation is measured in R-values—the higher the R-value, the better your walls and roofs will resist the transfer of heat. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends ranges of R-values based on local heating and cooling costs and climate conditions in different areas of the nation. The map at right shows the DOE recommendations for your area. State and local codes in some parts of the country may require lower R-values than the DOE recommendations, which are based on cost-effectiveness.

Recommended Insulation Levels

New, Wood-Framed Homes

Heating System	Attic	Cathedral Ceiling	Wall Cavity	Floor
All	R38 to R60	R30 to R38	R13 to R15	R25 to R30
All	R30 to R60	R22 to R38	R13 to R15	R25
Gas, Oil, Heat Pump Electric Furnace	R30 to R60	R22 to R38	R13 to R15	R13 R19 to R25



Where to Insulate

Adding insulation in the attic and to walls, floors, basements and crawlspaces may be the best way to improve your home's energy efficiency.

Insulation Types

Insulation can be made from a variety of materials, but it usually comes in one of four forms—batts, rolls, loose-fill and rigid foam boards. Each type is made to fit in a different part of your house.

Batts are made to fit between the studs in your walls or between the joists of your ceilings or floors. Batts are usually made of fiberglass or rock wool.

Rolls or blankets are also usually made of fiberglass and can be laid over the floor in the attic.

Loose-fill insulation, usually made of fiberglass, rock wool or cellulose, is blown into the attic or walls. Cellulose is made from recycled materials treated with fire-retardant chemicals.

Rigid foam boards are lightweight and provide structural support, and they generally have an R-value of 4 to 7 per inch. Rigid board insulation is made for use in confined spaces such as exterior walls, basements, foundation and stem walls, concrete slabs and cathedral ceilings.



A slow cooker is a great way to cook without adding excess heat to your home.

Cook Less, Cook Quicker When It's Hot

Cooking and baking during this summer can heat up your house, compete with air conditioning and make everyone uncomfortable. So cooking less can save you energy and keep you cooler.

► Prepare your main course outside on the barbecue grill. Even if it's hot outdoors, you won't add heat to the inside of your home.

► When a cooler day or evening rolls in, take the opportunity to cook. Prepare two or three meals at once and freeze them, so all you'll have to do is thaw and reheat them in the microwave the next time it's too hot to cook.

► Enjoy cold meals and snacks that don't need cooking, like vegetable salads; fruit, cheese and bread; hummus or guacamole with chips or celery; sandwiches; cold soups and smoothies.

► If you must cook, use the microwave oven or a covered pan on the stovetop. Either one pushes less heat into the kitchen than a hot oven.

► Choose foods that cook quickly, like fish and vegetables. Chopping veggies into small, evenly sized pieces speeds cooking time.

► Don't use the microwave or oven to defrost frozen food. Instead, place the frozen item in the refrigerator and let it thaw out overnight before cooking it the next day.

► Preparing food in an electric skillet, wok or slow cooker adds less heat to the air than cooking on the stove.

United Skies Over Terrell



Many lessons awaited RAF
cadets stationed at No. 1 British
Flying Training School

BY JAN ADAMSON

A PIECE OF FAMILY MYTHOLOGY WAS A story my mother told about meeting several British pilots while they were staying at her cousin's house in Dallas. I doubted her until I discovered a small museum in Terrell and realized she actually had encountered cadets from the No. 1 British Flying Training School.

The school was established in 1941 in Terrell, carved out of countryside farmland. About 2,200 Royal Air Force cadets trained to become World War II pilots because training in their own country had become impossible. The danger of enemy attack, England's weather and the island nation's size were all impediments to preparing pilots for war.

Six civilian airfields across the country were chosen for the training, but the Terrell school was the only one to operate throughout the war. The school was located at the site of Terrell's current municipal airport.

Eric Gill, an 18-year-old from Kent, was among those sent to Terrell to train. Gill, now a retired petroleum engineer living in Dallas, remembers being among a group of cadets who left England for Canada, where they expected the training to occur. But upon arriving in Moncton, New Brunswick, they faced a three-day, three-night rail trip to Texas, stopping at various locations along the way. "Women brought bananas to us at the train," Gill says. "We hadn't seen bananas in years. Most of us didn't know about the American training, and most didn't know where Dallas was."

But the cadets were greeted by a warm reception upon arriving in Terrell.

"The local townsfolk were out in force

when the train arrived," Gill says. "It was going to be a big thing for Terrell, and I think they all realized that."

Although Jean Ann Ables-Flatt was 12 at the time, she remembers being impressed. "I thought they were awfully cute, even though I was too young for them," she says. "But Terrell opened their homes, their hearts and their arms to the cadets."

The social officer for the cadets offered some advice: "He said the Americans would be very friendly and that we would eat things we weren't used to," Gill says. "He told us that we should be on our best behavior because we were representing the United Kingdom."

The food made the biggest impression on most of the cadets. "We were on pretty hard starvation-level food at that time. We had a pretty small ration. We had a lot of people in England to feed, and half of our food came from overseas," Gill says. He notes that a lot of the country's imported provisions wound up at the bottom of the sea because of attacks from enemy forces patrolling the ocean.

In Texas, the cadets sat down to fare such as corn on the cob—used only for animal feed in England—and grits. "They were so excited to get good meals compared to what they'd been getting in England," Ables-Flatt says. "It was Southern hospitality we offered. That's why the Englishmen kept coming back to Terrell [after the war was over]—because of the Southern hospitality. It was always a very positive experience for them."

That hospitality, and the cadets' attempts to express gratitude, caused some confused

moments. Sometimes cadets would call a gracious hostess “homely,” which would have been a compliment in England.

The more than seven months of training consumed the cadets’ time. “We had Wednesday evenings free and could be out until 10 p.m.,” Gill remembers. “We would walk into town to the drugstore and buy things we needed. People were really nice to us. They would come to the gates at about 7 p.m. and take us to town, to their homes or to a movie.”

He says that after the young men completed their duties on Saturday, they were free until 10 p.m. on Sunday. With a bit more free time, they’d sometimes hitch a ride into Dallas, staying at the homes of locals or at the YMCA, where they could get a cot for the night and coffee and a doughnut the next morning for 25 cents. “To this day, I’ve always been thankful to

the YMCA,” Gill says.

Ables-Flatt remembers the cadets marching into Terrell on Sunday mornings to go to church and recalls them congregating at Bass Drugstore. “They had a fountain there, and the soldiers could meet their girlfriends,” she said. She recalled a young woman who became so crazy over the cadets that when one class boarded the train to leave, she jumped on board and rode all the way to Chicago with them.

One of the ways the cadets repaid Terrell’s generosity was with a revue performed at the high school. “It was very clever, and everyone came to see it,” Ables-Flatt says, singing a snippet of one of the songs in the show.

The motto of the No. 1 British Flying Training School was, “The seas divide, but the skies unite,” and for the five years the school was in operation, the United States

and Britain were united in the risky task of getting pilots ready for war.

British poet Rupert Brooke likely had never heard of Terrell when he wrote, “If I should die, think only this of me: That there’s some corner of a foreign field that is forever England.” In Oakland Memorial Park, the RAF Cemetery remains forever England. It is the burial place for 20 cadets who died in Terrell—19 in training accidents.

Jan Adamson is a writer in Canton.

Info: No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum, 119 Silent Wings Blvd., Terrell; (972) 524-1714; bftsmuseum.org.

“The Royal Air Force in Texas” (University of North Texas Press, 2003) by Tom Killebrew chronicles the British pilots’ experience in Terrell.

Flights of Our Fathers fly-in celebrates the training school September 20-21.



TRAINING IN TERRELL: Thousands of British pilots learned to fly at the six civilian training schools in the United States during World War II. The first and largest of these schools was in Terrell, east of Dallas. Americans joined the British flying students after the U.S. entered the war when Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Paying the ‘Light’ Bill

Electrification invited many improvements into my parents’ home, but they forever revered the humble incandescent bulb

BY RICHARD L. FLUKER

THE SUN HAD SET MORE THAN 30 MINUTES earlier, and the room is all but dark. Barely enough light filters through the screens to silhouette the four people congregating in the middle.

“OK, Ellie, grab this chain and pull on it—not too hard.”

With an audible “click” from the ceiling, she can now see clearly the face behind the voice, which came from her husband. Standing beside her are a much older man and woman. Each has a turn yanking the chain so they all can see what it’s like to make the dark suddenly give way to light.

“By Ned, what’ll they think of next?” says the older man.

That scene took place in the late 1930s, and I, of course, can only guess at the astonishment expressed over a bare light-bulb. But, safe to say, it must have seemed like a miracle.

Brighter futures for my parents and their neighbors east of Roane became possible with the first meeting of Navarro County Electric Cooperative on November 26, 1937. Within a year or so, they would benefit from the co-op’s initial request to the Rural Electrification Administration for \$100,000 to string 92 miles of line. A plus for my mom was the opportunity to attend the co-op’s annual meeting. She enjoyed the socializing and the thrill of winning a door prize.

Mom and Dad married just days ahead of the Great Depression and settled in with her parents on a tenant farm way out in the cotton patches of North Central Texas. For the next eight or nine years, no one in the house paid any utility bills. There were

no utilities! Water for the cistern ran off the roof, wood was free if they cut it themselves, and kerosene came in a can from the general store. Even after they clicked on that first light, my parents never paid an “electric” bill. They always called it the “light” bill.

Makes good sense. When the REA high line tied into their house, a few lights were all they had to turn on. For a while, that was enough to marvel over. And this convenience came with a bonus—light from a wire instead of a fire. After the switch, they no longer had to worry about knocking over a kerosene lamp and burning down the house. They’d lived through that horror several years earlier.

Yes, Depression-era people always seemed to carry a special reverence for one of the simplest electrical devices—the incandescent bulb. But they gladly welcomed other conveniences that followed. For my parents, the first was a refrigerator to replace the icebox, much to the dismay of the ice deliveryman. Dad rolled a wringer washer onto the back porch in 1945, making it easier for Mom to wash the diapers she kept pinning on a new baby boy.

I was old enough before we moved to Dad’s home place, in 1951, to take note of two other plug-ins at the rental house. One was a boxy AM radio stationed on a table in a corner of the living room. With programs like “The Lone Ranger” or “Fibber McGee and Molly” on the air, the radio was a magnet. It seems that to listen to the radio back then, folks also had to be able to see it. The new addition replaced a battery-powered console receiver, which

very likely joined the laundry washboard as a castaway.

The same fate awaited the paper funeral-home fans that had been my family's only defense against the sweltering summers. Instead of burning calories to keep the fan fluttering back and forth, they plugged in an Emerson oscillating fan and let it stir the hot air around. It worked pretty well if they were close enough for the moving air to evaporate their sweat.

Refrigerator, washer, radio, fan—all making life better and the meter run a little faster. Still, my parents paid the light bill and continued to do so even while plugging in more and more conveniences in the newly remodeled home place. The first appliance to go on a new kitchen counter was a Sunbeam Mixmaster, which I still have!

It has plenty of company. In my current home, I've counted no fewer than 62 devices that require an outlet. And every time I thought I was finished, something in the back of a cabinet (heating pad) or outside in a closet (soldering iron) came to mind.

Many items in my inventory are electrified versions of things that have been around for a good many decades: iron, sewing machine, saw, coffee pot, guitar, even a pencil sharpener. My parents, from a pre-REA perspective, would see many of today's plug-ins as a newfangled replacement for something they had sweated over.

Mom and Dad did live long enough to at least hear of a personal computer, but it had no place in their universe. "All I need is this journal and a sharp pencil," Dad might say. And if they could walk into my house now, one of them would surely ask about that black thing with all the blue and green lights over on that table. Well, Mom, it's a router. What's it for? Well ...

So what's next? It's a safe bet that right now some visionary is pecking on a computer or tinkering in a shop as he or she perfects the next big thing to plug in. Or it might even be a little thing. Whatever the scale or size, years from now the fruits of that genius will make some task easier or faster or safer. Maybe we'll be around to buy one. In spite of our imagination, it could be as foreign to us as a router would have been to my parents. But it will happen, and that new wonder, like all the others, will help make our lives better in some way.

As long as we keep paying the light bill.

Richard L. Fluker *lives in Marshall.*



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other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.

My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?



Dear
Darryl

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

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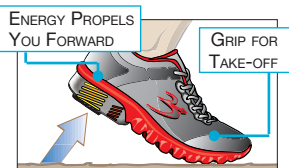
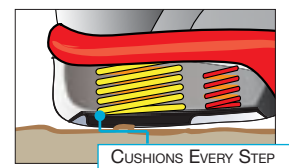
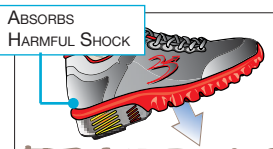
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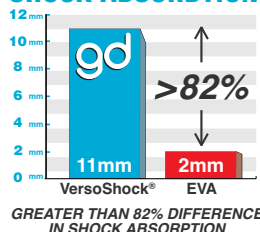


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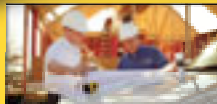
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A Most Rugged Route

Travel by stagecoach in the 1850s was dangerous and unpleasant, yet it was the fastest and safest option available at the time in West Texas

BY GEORGE MULLINS

AFTER LEAVING SAN ANTONIO, THERE WAS not a single house or settlement between Fort Clark (present-day Del Rio) and San Elizario (near El Paso) until 1856. At least two weeks were required to cross this 550-mile expanse, and meeting an occasional California-bound wagon train provided the only contact with civilization.

A typical mail train consisted of one or two heavy wagons and a coach for passengers, with six or more men armed with rifles and repeating pistols as escorts.

A California newspaper recommended these supplies for the trip: “one Sharps rifle and a hundred cartridges; a Colt’s Navy revolver and two pounds of balls; a knife and sheath; a pair of thick boots and woolen pants; a half-dozen pair of thick woolen socks; six undershirts; three woolen over-shirts; a wide-awake hat; a cheap sack coat; a soldier’s overcoat; one pair of blankets summer and two in winter; a piece of India rubber cloth for blankets; a pair of gauntlets; a small bag of needle and pins, a sponge, hair brush, comb, soap, etc., in an oil-silk bag; two pairs of thick drawers, and three or four towels.” These supplies counted toward the 40 pounds of baggage included in the ticket price; however, because passengers were expected to help fend off the hostile American Indians who often harassed the trains, the weight limit exempted firearms.

Conditions were not much improved in 1859 when George F. Pierce, a minister traveling to San Diego from Georgia, described on May 20 the ritual of meal-times away from a station or other shelter (“Life and Times of George F. Pierce,” Hancock Publishing Company, 1888):

“On stopping, all the employees of the stage-line spread themselves in quest of fuel. A few dry sticks were soon gathered, the fire kindled, the kettle put on, and water heated; an old bag is brought from its resting place in the stage boot. Its open mouth laid upon the ground, the other end is seized and suddenly lifted, and out comes tin-cups



and plates, iron-spoons, knives and forks, helter-skelter; another bag rolls slowly out, containing the bread; presently another cloth is unrolled, and a piece of beef appears. Now a box is brought forth, the lid is raised, and we behold coffee, tea, sugar, salt, pepper, and pickles—a goodly supply.”

Then “the ground coffee is put in, water poured on, and all well shaken—the coals are ready and the pot boils. By this time the frying-pan is hot, the lard melted, the meat sliced, and soon our senses are regaled by the hissing urn and the simmering flesh. ... the table-cloth of many colors, all inclined to dark, as innocent of water as the loom that made it, is spread upon the ground. Plates, tin-cups, knives and forks are arranged in order, and Ramon announces: ‘Supper ready, gentlemen.’ All hands gather about ‘the cloth,’ oblivious of dirt, careless of dainties, and the necessities of life disappear very rapidly. The fragments are left for the prairie wolf and the birds of the air; the cloth is shaken ...

the unwashed instruments are boxed and bagged, and we are ready to travel.”

About half past 10 in the evening they camped on a hill, providing the “watch” with a view for miles around. The stage “was soon converted into a bed-chamber for Mrs. Pierce and (daughter) Ann. By a judicious arrangement of trunks and cushions a bed was made—the curtains were buttoned down—the wife and child laid down; I wrapped my travelling blanket around me and slept soundly. The gentlemen all spread their cloaks, shawls, and blankets on the ground, aye, even the dirty road—for fear of ‘the snakes in the grass’—and, as they reported in the morning, rested well.”

This routine was repeated every day for at least two weeks on the route from San Antonio to El Paso.

One can’t help but wonder how we 21st-century Americans would have fared on such a lengthy and trying journey.

George Mullins is an Austin writer.

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Just Chill

Frozen desserts and sweet memories go hand in hand, so this month we asked cookbook author and food writer Lisa Fain, a seventh-generation Texan living in New York, to share a few “frosty” Texas memories. Fain, who pens the Homesick Texan blog, recalls Fourth of July parties centered around ice cream: “Dad would make a large batch of homemade vanilla ice cream, and Mom would make her hot fudge sauce. The two together were my favorite treat, and I looked forward to those summertime sundaes all year long.”

Another sweet memory from Fain is the chocolate pie made by her grandmother, Jean Jernigan, a longtime member of Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative. “She’s been known to freeze it, which makes it taste like a chocolate popsicle,” says Fain. Her reflections and recipes can be found at homesicktexas.com or in one of her cookbooks, “The Homesick Texan Cookbook” (Hyperion, 2011), and her most recent, “The Homesick Texan’s Family Table: Lone Star Cooking from My Kitchen to Yours” (Ten Speed Press, 2014).

In keeping with our cool and refreshing theme, here is her recipe for The Homesick Texan’s Peach Ice Cream.

ANNA GINSBERG, FOOD EDITOR

The Homesick Texan’s Peach Ice Cream

- 2 cups sliced, peeled peaches
- 1 cup granulated sugar, divided
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 cups half-and-half
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

- Toss the peaches with ¾ cup of the granulated sugar, lemon juice and cinnamon. Cover, refrigerate and let macerate for 2 to 8 hours or until softened.
- Divide the peach mixture in half. Pour half the mixture, peaches and liquid, into a blender or food processor and puree until smooth. Gently mash the other half and then refrigerate.
- To make the ice cream base, pour the peach puree into a saucepan and add the cream, half-and-half, remaining ¼ cup granulated sugar and brown sugar. Cook over medium low heat until warm but not boiling, 3 to 5 minutes.
- Meanwhile, combine the egg yolks with the vanilla and beat. Take the cream mixture off the heat, mix ½ cup of the cream mixture into the beaten egg yolks, then add the egg yolk mixture back into the pot with the rest of the cream mixture.
- While stirring, continue to cook until the mixture is slightly thickened and coats the back of a spoon, about 2 minutes.
- Refrigerate the ice cream base until cool, 2 to 4 hours.
- Freeze mixture in an ice cream machine according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Halfway through the freezing process, pour in the reserved mashed peaches and their syrup. Serve immediately if you want a softer



ice cream, or chill in the freezer for 2 hours for a firmer ice cream. Makes 1 quart.

Servings: 8. Serving size: 4 ounces. Per serving: 349 calories, 4.13 g protein, 19.27 g fat, 39.61 g carbohydrates, .68 g dietary fiber, 42 mg sodium, 35.19 g sugars, 155 mg cholesterol



Anna’s Tips: Thawed frozen peaches may be used instead of fresh. To help the cooked ice cream base cool faster, pour it into a 9-by-13-inch glass dish instead of a bowl.

AMBER GUTSCHLAG | GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

Frozen Treats Contest Winner: Buttery pecans, toasted coconut and a drizzle of caramel make this pie irresistible. And as a bonus, the recipe makes two pies! Keep one for yourself and give the other to a friend.



Friendship Pie

- ¼ cup butter or margarine
- 7 ounces flaked coconut
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 16 ounces frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 9-inch pastry shells, baked
- 1 jar (12 ounces) caramel ice cream topping
- Pecan halves for garnish

- Melt butter or margarine in a large skillet. Add coconut and pecans and cook until golden, stirring frequently. Set mixture aside and let cool slightly.
- Combine cream cheese and condensed milk, beating at medium speed with an electric mixer until smooth. Fold in whipped topping.
- Layer ¼ of cream cheese mixture in each pastry shell. Drizzle ¼ of caramel topping over each pie. Sprinkle ¼ coconut mixture evenly over each pie. Repeat layers with remaining cream cheese mixture, caramel topping and coconut mixture.
- Garnish with pecan halves if desired.
- Cover and freeze pies at least 8 hours. Let frozen pies stand at room temperature 5 minutes before slicing.

Servings: 16. Serving size: 1 slice. Per serving: 592 calories, 6.39 g protein, 38.66 g fat, 53.73 g carbohydrates, 3.73 g dietary fiber, 279 mg sodium, 21.9 g sugars, 31 mg cholesterol

\$100 Recipe Contest

January's recipe contest topic is **Your Favorite Casseroles**. Share the creative ways you combine any ingredients on hand into quick and delicious new dishes. The deadline is **August 10**.

There are three ways to enter: **ONLINE** at TexasCoopPower.com/contests; **MAIL** to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; **FAX** to (512) 763-3401. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op and the name of the contest you are entering.

Chocolate Almond Frozen Cream Sandwiches

LISA WILLIAMS | CENTRAL TEXAS EC

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons dark cocoa powder
- 3 tablespoons powdered sugar, divided
- 1 cup marshmallow creme
- ¾ cup heavy whipping cream

- 28 chocolate wafers
- ⅔ cup finely chopped smoked almonds
- 1 tablespoon sifted powdered sugar

- Place cream cheese in medium bowl and mix in the cocoa and 2 tablespoons powdered sugar until smooth. Beat in marshmallow creme until blended.
- In another medium bowl, beat whipping cream until medium peaks form. Fold into chocolate mixture. Place in freezer 1 hour.
- Using a standard ice cream scoop, scoop out filling and place each scoop on one of 14 wafers, placing remaining 14 wafers on top, pressing gently to flatten filling just to edges.
- Gently roll edges of sandwiches in almonds, covering filling completely, and place on serving tray.
- Cover tray loosely with foil and place in freezer for 2 hours or until firm. Dust with remaining powdered sugar just before serving.
- Keep unused portions in freezer.

Servings: 14. Serving size: 1 sandwich. Per serving: 251 calories, 3.67 g protein, 14.19 g fat, 26.23 g carbohydrates, 1.37 g dietary fiber, 152 mg sodium, 13.79 g sugars, 35 mg cholesterol



Cook's Tip: My three boys always loved eating creamy sandwiches like these that my mom used to make. I put a little twist on them by using cream cheese and chocolate. They are perfect for an easy dessert at a party.

Nana's Frozen Dessert

NICOLE WASTE | COSERV ELECTRIC

- 1 pint whipping cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ⅔ cup granulated sugar
- 18 almond macaroon cookies
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 quart lemon-lime sherbet
- 1 quart raspberry ice cream

- Whip cream until stiff, then add vanilla and sugar.
- Crumble macaroons and mix crumbs with pecans. Add to whipped cream mixture.
- Divide half of mixture, pat into bottom of 9-by-13-inch pan and freeze. Refrigerate remaining half of whipped cream/crumb mixture.
- Smooth lemon-lime sherbet over whipped cream/crumb layer and freeze.
- Smooth raspberry ice cream over sherbet layer and freeze.
- Top with remaining half of whipped cream/crumb mixture and freeze.

Servings: 16. Serving size: 1 slice. Per serving: 360 calories, 3.33 g protein, 21.9 g fat, 37.81 g carbohydrates, 3.09 g dietary fiber, 78 mg sodium, 29.15 g sugars, 20 mg cholesterol



Cook's Tip: Sherbet or sorbet is a reasonable substitute for the raspberry ice cream.

Lemon Fruit Freeze

DIANNE BUTLER | TRINITY VALLEY EC

- ½ cup butter, melted
- ⅓ cup sugar
- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- ½ cup lemon juice
- 1 can (21 ounces) lemon pie filling
- 1 can (17 ounces) fruit cocktail, well drained
- 2 cups whipped topping

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Mix melted butter with sugar, then graham cracker crumbs, reserving ¼ cup of mixture for garnish.
- Press onto bottom of 9-by-13-inch dish and bake 8 minutes. Remove from oven and cool.
- In a large bowl, mix condensed milk and lemon juice. Mix in pie filling and fruit cocktail.
- Pour mixture over crust. Top with whipped topping and reserved crumb mixture.
- Freeze 4 hours. Remove from freezer about 20 minutes before serving.

Servings: 16. Serving size: 6 ounces. Per serving: 280 calories, 3.07 g protein, 10.66 g fat, 43.79 g carbohydrates, 1.2 g dietary fiber, 103 mg sodium, 33.57 g sugars, 23 mg cholesterol

Frozen Fruit Salad

ANNA DUNCUM | BARTLETT EC

- ⅔ cup sugar
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 10 ounces frozen strawberries
- 1 can (22 ounces) crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1-3 sliced bananas
- 8 ounces whipped topping

- Mix first four items in a mixing bowl.
- Stir in pecans and bananas.
- Fold in whipped topping.
- Freeze in a large dish.

Servings: 14. Serving size: 6 ounces.
Per serving: 295 calories, 3.13 g protein, 20.32 g fat, 25.46 g carbohydrates, 2.78 g dietary fiber, 57 mg sodium, 20.61 g sugars, 17 mg cholesterol



Web Extras on TexasCoopPower.com

Check out more winners from our Frozen Treats Contest, plus hundreds more recipes in our archives.

10TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECIPE CONTEST



2012 Holiday Recipe Contest \$2,000 Grand Prizewinner
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Go to TexasCoopPower.com for details and official rules.

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Refreshing

Summers are no joke in Texas, so it wasn't surprising that when we asked for your "refreshing" photos, we got many pictures of ways to beat the heat—including celebrations of the indelible mark that rain can leave on a Texas soul after so many bitterly dry months. Top off your iced tea, and cool off with us!

ASHLEY CLARY-CARPENTER

Web Extras on TexasCoopPower.com

Check out more photos. We won't even ask you to freshen up first.



▲ **Morgan**, 4, daughter of **Kristin Coleman**, Medina EC, welcomes long-awaited rain.



▲ **Erick Nelson**, Pedernales EC, shows the cool respite that Hamilton Pool Preserve offers so many Central Texans.

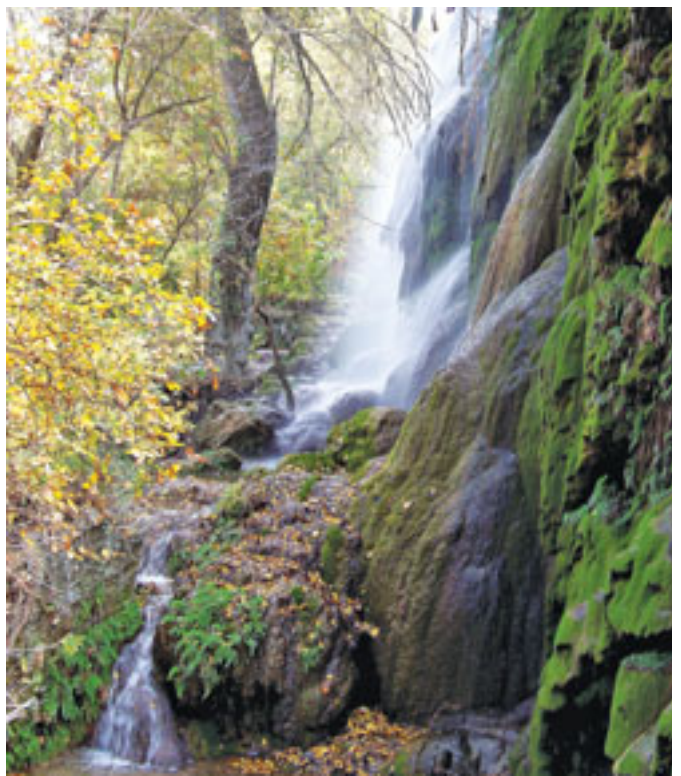


▲ Five-year-old **Bryce Rinn** cools off on a June day. Dad **Russell**, Bartlett EC, shared the moment.



◀ Bluebonnet EC's **Tiffany Williams** says that boys will be boys after capturing her husband, **Dave**, and son, **Tate**, enjoying some much-needed rain in Cedar Creek.

Heart of Texas EC's **Susan Green** took a 45-minute trek off the beaten path in Colorado Bend State Park to show us Gorman Falls. ▶



Upcoming Contests

October Issue: Family *Deadline: August 10*

November: Trains, Planes & Automobiles **December: Bad Santa Shots**

All entries must include name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo. **ONLINE:** Submit highest-resolution digital images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. **MAIL:** Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. 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 do not accept entries via email. We regret that Texas Co-op Power cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.



Pick of the Month Swift Fest

Jonestown [August 23] (512) 339-9432, swiftfest.org

This is a music festival wrapped around a bird-ing celebration. Witness the 'swift drop,' when hundreds of chimney swifts make their nightly tornado-like descent into the Jones and Carter cistern. And enjoy live music, nature-themed vendors and good eats.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: EVAN REID. DRAG BOATS: JOE DUTRA

August

08

Marble Falls [08-10] LakeFest Drag Boat Race, (830) 693-2815, marblefallslakefest.com

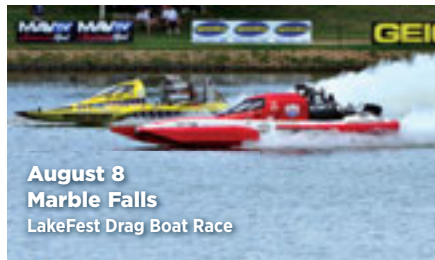
09

Athens Bird and Nature Walk, (903) 676-2277, athenstx.org

Brenham Chappell Hill Lavender & Wine Fest, (979) 251-8114, chappellhilllavender.com

Eden Green Apple Market Days, (325) 869-2211, edentexas.com

Lufkin Family Day & Smokey Bear Birthday Celebration, (936) 632-9535, treetexas.com



August 8
Marble Falls
LakeFest Drag Boat Race

14

Huntsville Diva Night, (936) 295-8113, chamber.huntsville.tx.us

Levelland Movie on the Square, (806) 894-3157, levellandtexas.org

15

New Braunfels [15-17] Lone Star Gourd Festival, (337) 376-9690, meetnb.com

Denton [15-23] North Texas Fair and Rodeo, (940) 387-2632, ntfair.com

16

Palestine United Way Learning Festival & Launch Party, (903) 727-8798, eastcentraltexasunitedway.org

West National Wild Turkey Federation Hunter Appreciation Banquet, (254) 855-6080

23

Early Skeet Shoot, 1-877-643-7243, earlychamber.com

Jasper [23-24] Gem & Mineral Show, (409) 384-3974, pinecountry-gms.org

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August 28
La Grange
Fayette County Fair

28

La Grange [28-31] Fayette County Fair, (979) 968-3911, fayettecountyfair.org

29

Bandera [29-31] Celebrate Bandera, (830) 796-4447, celebratebandera.com

Bedford [29-31] Blues & BBQ Labor Day Weekend Festival, (817) 952-2323, bedfordbluesfest.com

30

Brownsville Freddie Gomez Conjunto Concert, (956) 545-8446, conjunto.org

Garrison Lions Club/Special Projects Homecoming, (936) 347-2693

September

06

Bonham Autumn in Bonham Bike Ride, (903) 583-4811, bonhamchamber.com



September 6
Bonham
Autumn in Bonham
Bike Ride

Winnsboro [6-7] Greater Northeast Texas Fall Gun Show, (903) 342-3666, winnsboro.com

07

McKinney Ropes Course Adventure Day, (972) 562-5566, ext. 234, heardmuseum.org

Submit Your Event!

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your event for October by August 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar!

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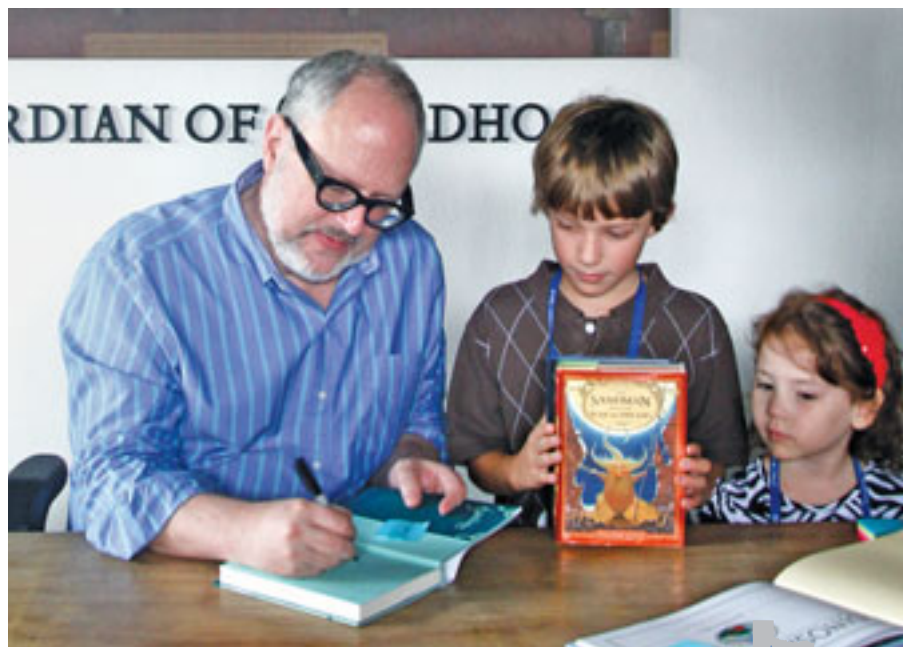
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How a kids' book character helps draw noted author and illustrator William Joyce and the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature to West Texas

BY SUZANNE HABERMAN



ART OF WORDS: William Joyce signs books for Ryan and Emma Rieder of Abilene at the NCCIL.

WHEN THE ABILENE MAYOR CRACKED open “Santa Calls” by William Joyce for a children’s book reading in 1993, he had no idea the story put his city in the spotlight.

Yet there on Page 1, Joyce presents the young protagonist, Art Atchinson Aimesworth. He wears a cowboy hat and is from Abilene, Texas.

“Naturally, I was pleased that Abilene was selected as the site for this particular book,” says Gary McCaleb, who served as mayor from 1990 to 1999.

After that fateful story time, McCaleb’s staff contacted the author and illustrator, who lives in Louisiana. “I just wanted to know why and how he had chosen Abilene,” McCaleb said. “He could have made up a name or he could have picked another name.”

Joyce explained that he had never been to Abilene and didn’t know anyone there, McCaleb recalls. He “just wanted it to be a real place where a kid could grow up on an ‘Animal Phantasmagoria,’ whatever that is.”

Joyce soon visited Abilene and befriended the mayor. Together, they devised a plan based on this notion articulated by Joyce: “Children’s literature is

the first literature and the first art that children are exposed to. It should be good. And when it is, it should be given respect.”

That was the happy beginning of the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature, established in 1997 to showcase original art from books that would inspire children to read and appreciate art. At that time, the NCCIL was the only center in the country to focus exclusively on children’s illustrated literature.

Now housed in a renovated building in the historic district, the center is hosting its 53rd exhibit. “William Joyce: A Guardian of Childhood” runs through September. This is the second time Joyce’s art has graced the NCCIL (pronounced nickel).

The artist’s works include the picture books “George Shrinks,” “Dinosaur Bob” and “The Guardians of Childhood” series, made into the DreamWorks Animation film “Rise of the Guardians” in 2012. His portfolio also boasts the creation of animated shorts, a video game and co-winning a 2012 Oscar for the short film, “The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore.”

“Joyce, I’ve heard him speak several

times,” says Debbie Lillick, NCCIL executive director. “And his imagination is like—woo-hoo!” She waves her arm up and out to indicate a place far, far away. His ability to dream combined with the depth and detail in his work, she says, makes him a real artist.

For the NCCIL exhibit, original images from Joyce’s stories adorn the walls. Works of art, such as the bold-colored acrylic paintings that pop from the pages of “Santa Calls” and the digital art of some “The Guardians of Childhood” books, hang a little lower in the gallery where even small children can see them.

An objective of the center is to unravel the creative process for young minds. Displays of artists’ early sketches complement the works on the walls, and lecterns with published books show the finished product. At exhibit openings, often the author visits the museum to share stories about development and inspiration. Then the exhibit travels to other museums nationwide. Also, the center hosts children’s events on Saturdays and gives docent-led school tours as part of its educational effort.

“The children come in, and they think the book is its own entity,” Lillick says. “It’s neat for the kids to see that it’s not magic.”

Yet the museum and its programming can have transformative powers, says Sujata Shahane, NCCIL education and programming director. “Everything about this place is magical,” Shahane says, describing the wide-eyed schoolchildren. “It inspires them to pick up a book and read a story.”

That simple act of reading a book, as the former Abilene mayor discovered 21 years ago, can set in motion a real-life fairy tale.

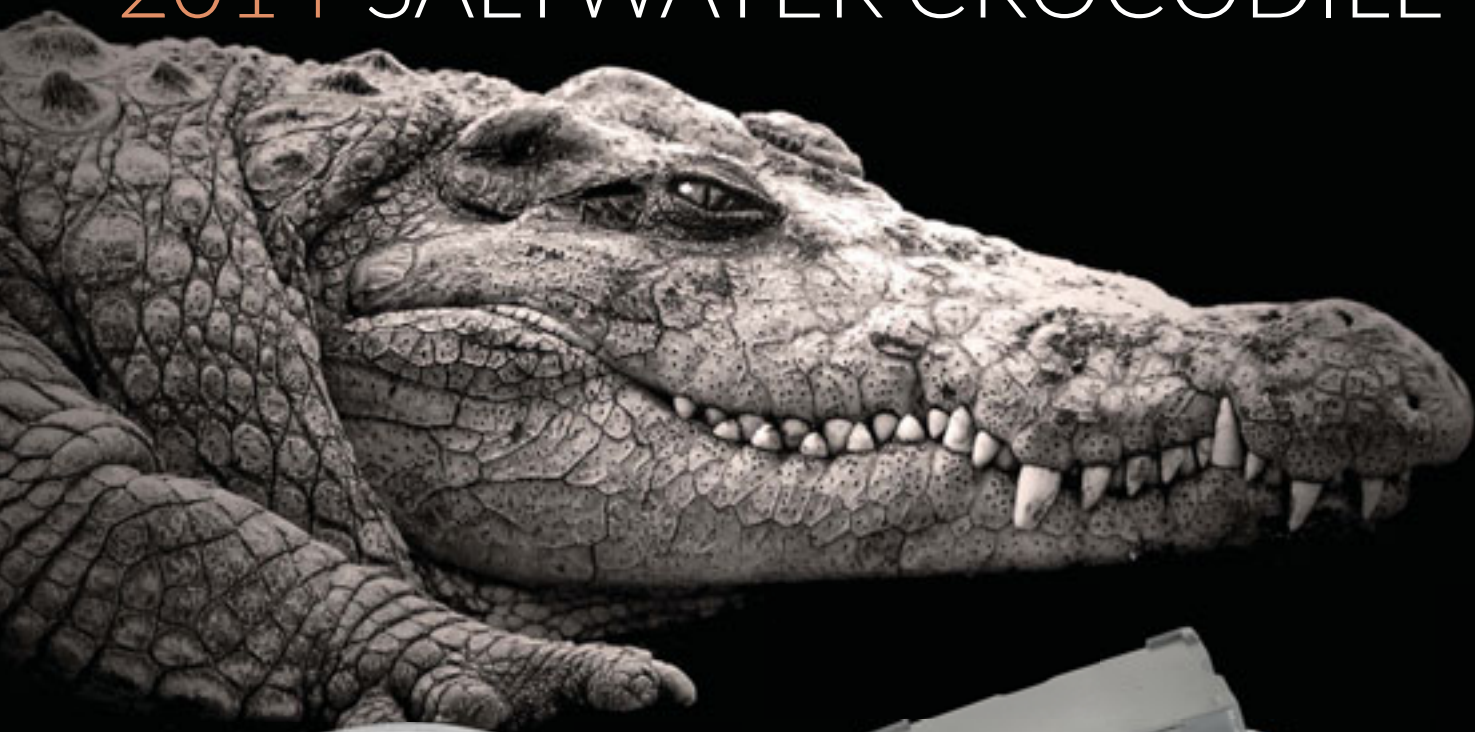
Suzanne Haberman, staff writer

Info: Visit nccil.org.

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- Read a sidebar: ‘Art and Chocolate.’
- See a slideshow of the NCCIL.
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