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Before co-ops brought electricity, rural homes were lit by kerosene lamps.

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NEXT MONTH

Songwriting With Soldiers How singer Darden Smith learned to put his creative energy to work for veterans.



HISTORIC IMAGE: NRECA. GUITAR: BERTYS30 | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

ON THE COVER Pedernales EC linemen and NRECA International bring electricity to Côteaux, Haiti. Photo courtesy NRECA

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2015 TEXAS SILVER ROUND

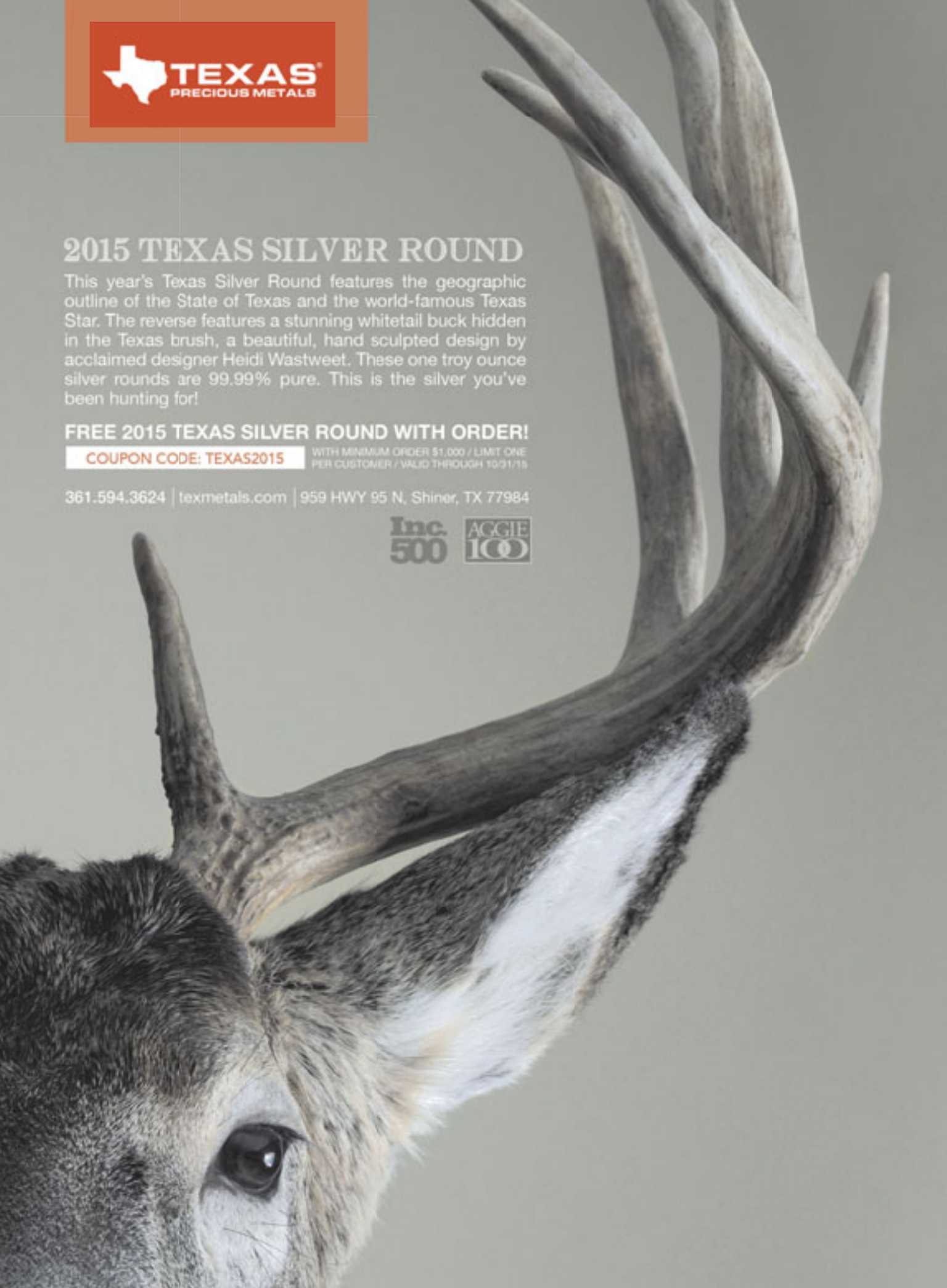
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Windmill History

I found your article on the past and present use of windmills in Texas very interesting ["Drawing Power From Thin Air," June 2015]. I previously had only a very vague understanding as to the key purpose they played in the history of the state. The part of the article that addresses the recent resurgence of windmills for power generation also sparked my interest.

SAM MAGUIRE | AUSTIN

Who's Your Granddaddy?

Your article, "Granddaddy of Them All" [July 2015], reminded me of how that oil discovery changed lives and communities. We cannot forget what it meant to our nation in wartime.

The "Big Inch" pipeline was created by the federal government to supply fuel for our armed services. My father worked on the pipeline at its very inception in Kilgore. The 24-inch pipeline ran more than 1,500 miles to Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, and on to New Jersey.

After the war, the Big Inch was sold to the highest bidder. Texas investors bought the pipeline to transport natural gas to the East. They called it "Texas Eastern," and it is still in use today. And it all began in Kilgore.

TOM TERRY

CHEROKEE COUNTY EC

Shaping Notes

"In Harmony and in Shape" [August 2015] described a cappella singing, in harmony, using shape notes. This is widely known as "sol-fa" and was the method used by Julie Andrews' character to teach the Von Trapp children to sing in the 1960s film *The Sound of Music*.

My husband and I, and millions of other singers, learned to sing and read music in this fashion as children

Yes, We Did Can

I remember my mother telling how the government sent people into Houston County during the Depression to teach others how to can with cans ["Yes, You Can!" July 2015]. Mother was still canning when she was in her 80s and 90s, but her choice for canning was glass jars.

She was canning pear preserves the morning of her heart attack at age 85. She lived to be 104. Mother was Verna Harrison Duren and was one of the first co-op members when it came through this area.

VIRGINIA DUREN SHERER | BELOTT | HOUSTON COUNTY EC

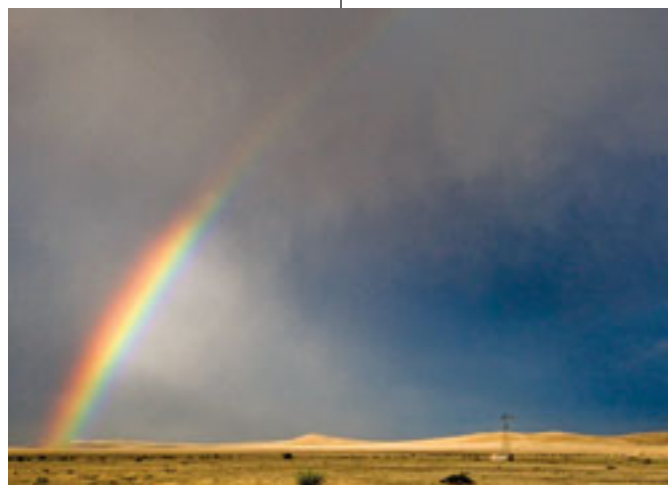


in church. At every service of the Church of Christ, the 12th-largest religious organization in the country, one can hear and participate in a cappella four-part harmony using a variety of hymn books, all written in shape notes and many published in the 21st century.

SUNNY STEPHENS | POTEET
KARNES EC

Big Texas Skies

Loved the photo and story, "Texas Skies" [August 2015]. It reminded me of when my West Texas-raised daughter moved back home after a time in New Jersey and was joyful



to be home. Her comment was, "Oh, I am addicted to the West Texas sky!"

KAY SMITH | SAN ANGELO AND PAINT ROCK
CONCHO VALLEY EC

Right With the World?

The photograph on the cover of your August 2015 issue is a sad reminder of how adults teach children in Texas that using guns to kill nature's creatures at will is trophy sport.

The story implies that as long as these people who kill are content with themselves, they care not about the creatures they kill.

MARTY JONES | ALLEN
COSERV ELECTRIC

Thank you for publishing an excellent article, "Right With the World" [August 2015]. Generations have provided food, trained children and just enjoyed God's blessings at camp.

I grinned from ear to ear when Mike Leggett wrote about Little Debbie breakfast pies, holding little ones' hands in the dark and "things that go bump in the night."

Unfortunately, we don't hear enough about traditions like these anymore, and it's really too bad.

DAVID HULSLANDER | LUCAS
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

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Please include your town and electric co-op.
Letters may be edited for clarity and length.



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HAPPENINGS

Boonville Days Nods to Brazos County History

Boonville was the first county seat of Brazos County, probably named in honor of Mordecai Boon Sr., nephew of Daniel Boone, according to the Texas State Historical Association. After the Civil War, the town slowly disappeared once the county seat was moved to nearby Bryan. Lost for decades, Boonville's exact location was rediscovered in 1976.

For 10 years, the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in Bryan has been commemorating local history with Boonville Days, October 10 this year. The heritage fair features a chuck wagon cook-off and demonstrations of 19th-century skills, crafts, art, and music and dance. The day kicks off with the Buffalo Stampede, a half marathon and 5-kilometer run.

INFO: brazosvalleymuseum.org, (979) 776-2195



Find more happenings all across the state at TexasCoopPower.com

Official State Artists



Did you know Texas has a state poet laureate—San Antonio's Carmen Tafolla?

In conjunction with the Texas Commission on the Arts, the Legislature biennially appoints a state poet laureate, musician, two-dimensional artist and 3-D artist for the current year and a person in each category for the following year.

In addition to Tafolla, the honorees for 2015 are: Jimmie Vaughan, musician; Vincent Valdez, two-dimensional artist; and Margo Sawyer, 3-D artist.

The 2016 honorees are: Laurie Ann Guerrero, poet laureate; Joe Ely, musician; Dornith Doherty, two-dimensional artist; and Dario Robleto, 3-D artist.

Texas state artists are recognized for their contributions to the state and the advancement of their respective art forms. The governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the House of Representatives appoint a committee that selects the artists.

Cooperative Month and That "Small Extra Touch"

October is Cooperative Month, an excellent opportunity to shine the light on electric co-ops, which are member-owned and committed to demonstrating concern for the community.

Co-ops across Texas celebrate Cooperative Month. Big Country

Electric Cooperative in Roby holds a member appreciation day and open house—October 15 this year. Members who stopped by last year received an energy-efficiency kit that included a power strip, a night-light, several LED bulbs, a water-saving showerhead, a fridge/freezer thermometer, silicone caulk and a refrigerator coil brush.

"Last year, we had the opportunity to visit one-on-one with around 240 of our members, which we wouldn't have had the opportunity to do otherwise," says Sarah McLen, key accounts executive at Big Country EC. "It's just a small extra touch that sets us apart from many other businesses our members may be associated with."

Legislature Honors Texas Youth Tour

Texas Electric Cooperatives' celebration of 50 years of participation in the Government-in-Action Youth Tour included the adoption of House Resolution 2553, which congratulated member cooperatives and the program for sending thousands of high school students to Washington, D.C.

State Rep. Brooks Landgraf of Odessa, below, sponsored the resolution. He was joined at the lectern by 10 representatives who have electric co-ops in their districts and who supported Landgraf in presenting the resolution on the House floor May 20. (Watch it at tinyurl.com/ytresolution.)

Landgraf attended Youth Tour as an Odessa Permian High School student in 1998, one of 3,844 Texans who have made the trip since 1965. "I'm proud to say I'm one of them," he said. "In fact, that was one of my first experiences with public service."

"Rep. Landgraf and the others who joined him showed their support not only for the Youth Tour but for electric co-ops generally," said Eric Craven, TEC's senior vice president of government relations and legal affairs.

Youth Tour 2015 was in June, when 125 Texas teens spent a week in Washington, visiting many historic sites and meeting with their congressional representatives.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

- Tinyurl.com/ytresolution: Watch Landgraf present the House resolution.
- TexasYouthTour.com
- [Facebook.com/texasyouthtouralumni](https://www.facebook.com/texasyouthtouralumni)



ENERGY UPDATE

Texas Blows Other States Away

Texas has 14,200 megawatts of wind-generating capacity, more than twice the installed capacity of any other state, according to a report released at the end of April by the American Wind Energy Association. One MW is enough to power about 200 homes during periods of peak demand, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the grid operator for most of the state.

More than 8,500 wind turbines operate in Texas, generating 10.6 percent of the state's electricity generation mix in 2014. Most utility-grade wind turbines have an expected operating lifespan of more than 20 years.

More wind turbine facts: The towers for wind turbines are typically 260–320 feet tall. Blades, made of composites of wood, fiberglass, resin and carbon, can be up to 260 feet long and weight 6–10 tons each. Tip speeds can reach 200 mph.



FOLLOWING UP

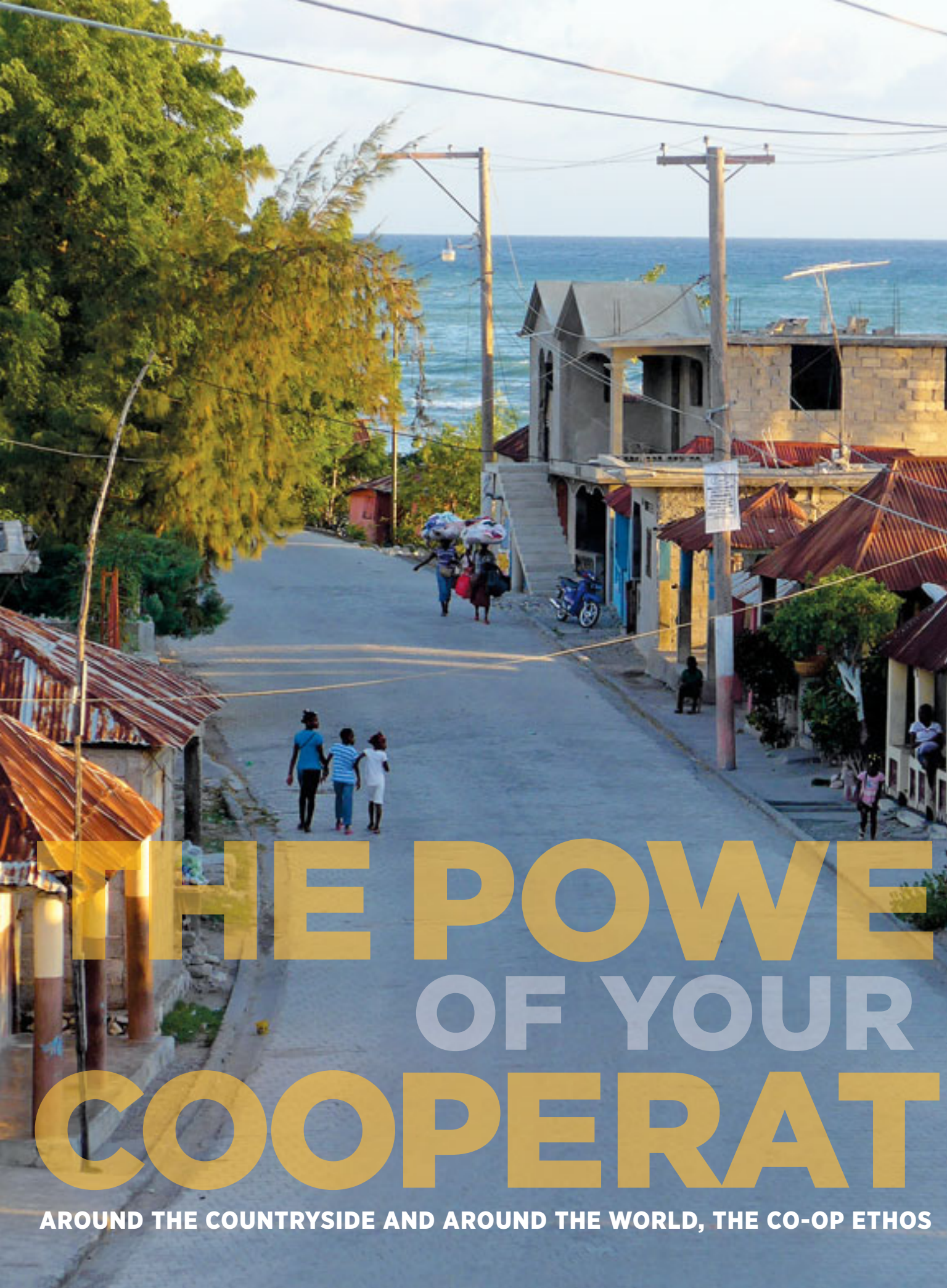
Crumley on the Family Tree



Nell Clover has been a genealogist for about 50 years, connecting branches on her family tree. Her latest discovery jumped off our magazine pages.

"The Old Indian Doctor," the March 2015 Texas History feature, included a photograph of Dr. Benjamin Thomas Crumley—Doc Crumley—from probably the late 1800s. Clover, a member of Cherokee County Electric Cooperative, has a family photo hanging in her house, and she now knows the man standing second from the left is Doc Crumley. Clover's husband was Clarence Harvey Clover. His great-grandparents were John and Cassie Alexander. Cassie's sister Lulu was married to Doc Crumley.

"There's no question it's the same man," Clover says. Until she saw the story, Crumley was just another name in one of her many notebooks.



THE POWER OF YOUR COOPERAT

AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE AND AROUND THE WORLD, THE CO-OP ETHOS

IN APRIL 1939,

Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson described the co-op model: “These cooperatives are owned by the folks who will get their electric power from them,” explained the future president. “Before, it has been impossible for rural residents to have the same advantages city folks enjoy because the cost of getting electricity to them has been prohibitive. Forming a cooperative, they are able to borrow money from the REA at low interest rates and buy power at cost.”

In Texas and all across America, the lights came on in the countryside. “I’ll live longer, now that I can enjoy some of the comforts that electricity brings,” 103-year-old Charlotte Francis Knight of Shelby County told the press in 1939. Born just weeks after Texas became an independent nation, Knight marveled at the wonders delivered by Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative of San Augustine: “One of the main reasons I wish I were younger is that I could then enjoy electricity longer.”

In 2015, some 42 million Americans receive their kilowatt magic from rural electric co-ops; 99 percent of U.S. farms are connected to the cooperative grid. In the mid-1930s, however, 90 percent of rural homes still lacked electricity. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration by executive order in 1935, and, a year later, Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act. Most of today’s 900 rural electric co-ops were started with loans from the REA.

In 2015, the cooperative model turns on the lights in several countries around the world, thanks to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s international programs. “Today’s co-op community doesn’t always remember what it was like when the lights came on in rural America more than 75 years ago,” explains NRECA International Foundation Executive Director Marc Breslaw, “but that’s what we’re doing with our international programs.” NRECA International reaches more than 110 million people through more than 200 co-ops. The electric co-op in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, is the largest in the world.

These programs are not the first instance of cooperative values crossing international boundaries. The cooperative model is generally traced back to 1844, when the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in Rochdale, England, established guidelines that have evolved into the Seven Cooperative Principles: Open and Voluntary Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members’ Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

These principles inspired the United Nations to declare 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives, highlighting cooperatives’ role in reducing poverty, creating jobs and socially integrating the world population. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated at

the time, “Cooperatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social

The Haitian village of Côteaux has co-op electricity thanks to NRECA International.

NRECA



R
IVE
STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES



responsibility.” At that time, it was estimated that nearly 1 billion people were member-owners of co-ops. The contemporary co-op model is not just for rural distribution of electricity. Well-known companies that employ the cooperative model include Blue Diamond Almonds, Welch’s, Ace Hardware, Land O’Lakes, Sunkist and REI.

In Texas, the co-op spirit was in the air as early as 1843 when Henri Castro, the founder of Castroville, wrote about a plan to establish an agricultural cooperative in his colony west of San Antonio. That co-op appears to have faltered before it took root, but according to the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, Texas today is home to more than 200 agricultural, finance, electric, farm credit and telephone cooperatives.

Plains Cotton Cooperative Association in Lubbock, with 15,000 members in four states, helps growers get their product to market at the best price. John Johnson, the association’s public relations manager, has seen a lot of changes in his 31 years. “We’re always looking for ways to improve,” he says. “Now we’ve developed software accounting programs for gins and modular tracking systems that help ginners know where the cotton is at any given time.”

“COOPERATIVES ARE A REMINDER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO PURSUE BOTH ECONOMIC VIABILITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.”

But time-tested cooperative traditions, Johnson adds, don’t change: “All of our net margins are paid back to members in the form of dividends or stock allocations.”

The Tip-Of-Texas Agriculture Producers Farmers’ Cooperative Society of Cameron County, with 16 members, demonstrates the benefits of the cooperative model for a smaller group. “We share information about bugs and other issues,” says Adrian de los Santos, former secretary of the co-op. “And we have more marketing and supply-buying power by forming a co-op.”

The small group is also open to new ideas. When a novice farmer named Bill Crawford called de los Santos two years ago looking for organic sugarcane, the only area grower (other than the large operations growing cane for sugar mills) was Nam Nguyen, who sold his cane to Vietnamese restaurants in Houston. “Bill got a group of farmers interested in bottling the juice,” de los Santos says. “It’s a growing niche market. People from India and Pakistan are used to drinking sugarcane juice, but everyone who tries it likes it.”

The tremendous changes brought to rural Texas by New Deal electrification in the 1930s and 1940s supported the Texas agricultural economy. Though some associations in Texas cities referred to themselves as “electric cooperatives” before 1937, the 45th Texas Legislature that year prohibited such designation by entities other than those allowed by House Bill 599, “An Act pro-

viding for the organization of cooperative, non-profit, membership corporations for the purpose of engaging in rural electrification.”

Bartlett Electric Cooperative became the first REA-funded rural co-op in the nation to turn on the lights—in 1936. Texas Electric Cooperatives was formed in 1941 as a coalition of rural electric co-ops. Today, TEC has 75 member co-ops serving 3 million Texans.

“Our duty is to Main Street, not Wall Street,” proclaims the website of the Nueces Electric Cooperative in Robstown, a sentiment shared by co-ops from the Piney Woods to the High Plains. The statement reflects cooperatives’ deep sense of community, manifested in volunteer programs such as Operation Round Up, which rounds electric bills up to the nearest dollar, with the additional money used to support community needs. Many TEC member co-ops, including Medina Electric Cooperative, offer free presentations on safety and energy efficiency.

Scholarships, blood drives, food drives and other programs illustrate the fulfillment of the Seventh Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community. One program, the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, gives selected co-op high school students an experience they remember for the rest of their lives. The stu-

dents spend an educational week in Washington, D.C., meeting with their congressional representatives and visiting sites such as the Smithsonian Institution, Capitol Hill, the Library of Congress, Arlington National Cemetery and many other landmarks.

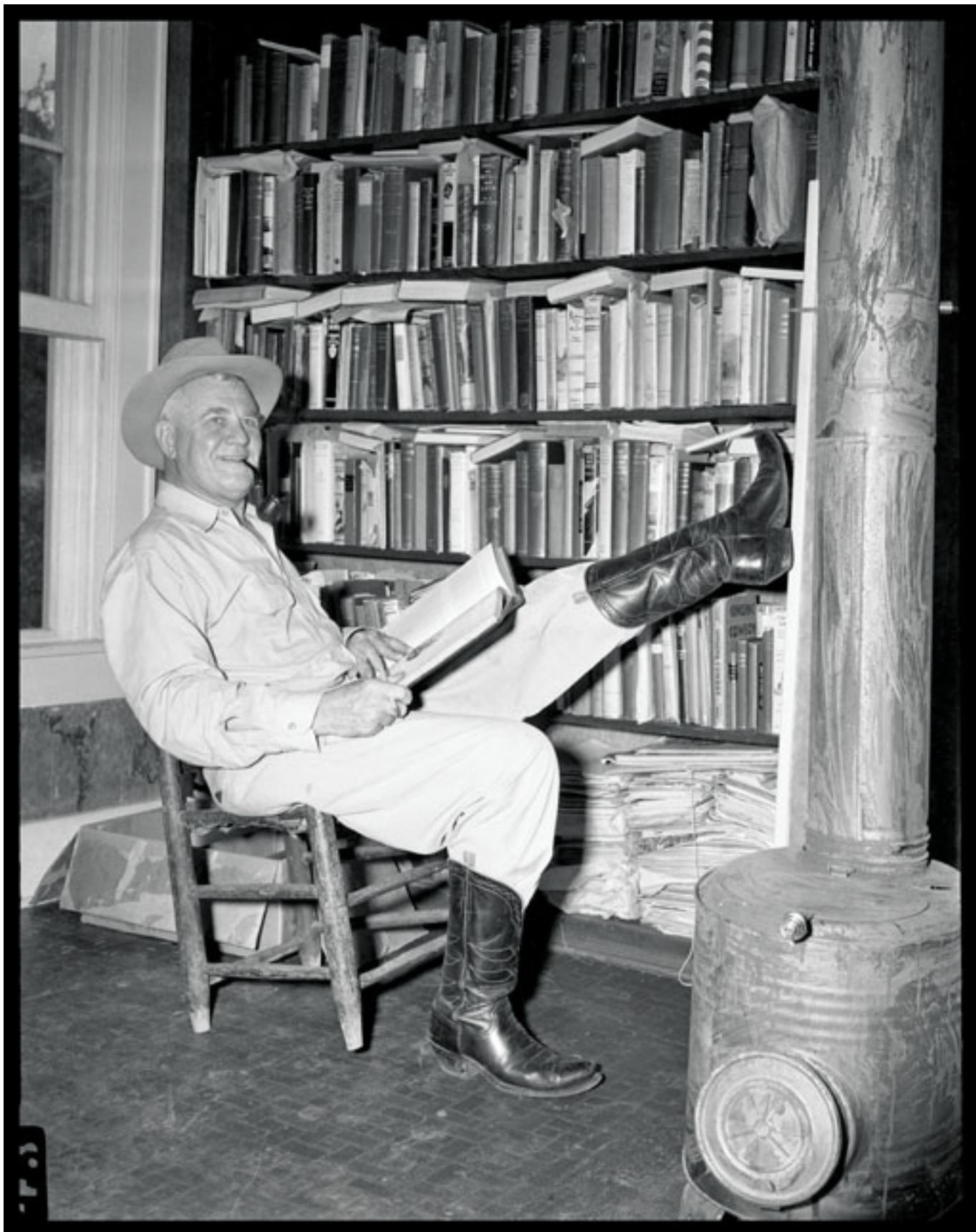
Daniel Sanders of Navasota went on the Youth Tour in 2008, which led to an invitation to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s annual meeting in 2009. There, he was inspired by learning about the NRECA’s international outreach to bring electric power to underdeveloped parts of the world. Back in Navasota, Sanders worked as a lineman for Mid-South Synergy while he finished college, and when an NRECA International position opened up in summer 2013, it wasn’t long before he was on a plane.

“I get to be part of the first Haitian co-op being formed,” Sanders says. “I want to increase the quality of life for other people. The Jacqueziel community received electricity for the first time when we turned on the lights in September 2013. There were people clapping and dancing, and crying—I knew then that this is the best job ever.”

Gene Fowler is an Austin writer who specializes in history.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com Learn about co-op special projects and watch videos showing how NRECA International electrification projects change lives.

Clockwise, from top left: Rural electrification created jobs at co-ops. NRECA International helps train electrical workers in Haiti. Co-ops brought electricity to rural American after Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act in 1936. It was an exciting day when classrooms got lightbulbs for the first time. A Victoria Electric Cooperative crew stands by a delivery of new poles. Mid-South Synergy’s Daniel Sanders uses a coloring book to teach a Haitian boy in Caracol about electricity and safety. A Pedernales Electric Cooperative lineman works in Haiti.



J. Frank Dobie emerged as Texas' spokesman because his writings reflected his ability to get ranchers and cowboys to tell their stories. A celebration of Dobie's writing—called Dobie Dichos—takes place in Oakville. The event, November 6 this year, is part of George West Storyfest.

J. FRANK DOBIE RIDES AGAIN

The folklorist writing of “Mr. Texas” characterizes the state as it assumed a Western identity

BY LONN TAYLOR

IT is hard for me to write dispassionately about J. Frank Dobie’s books because the first adult book I ever read was his *Legends of Texas*, first published in 1924. My grandmother gave it to me when I was 7 years old, and I devoured it. It was the first book I had ever read that referred to people I knew about.

Dobie’s uncle, Jim Dobie, who figures in several of the legends, once courted my grandmother’s little sister. Judge W.P. McLean, who hunted for Moro’s gold, was a family friend in Fort Worth. That book made the connection between life and literature for me. I moved on to other Dobie books, and my first adolescent writing efforts were bad imitations of Dobie’s tale-telling.

Although I occasionally saw Dobie on the Drag near the University of Texas in Austin, I never had the courage to walk up to him and introduce myself. By many accounts, he was a nice man, although Américo Paredes cruelly parodied him as the patronizing blowhard K. Hank Harvey in his *George Washington Gómez*, a novel written in the 1930s but not published until 1990, long after Dobie’s death. Stephen Harrigan paints an unflattering picture of him as Vance Martindale, a callow and ambitious English professor, in his novel *Remembering Ben Clayton*. In his 2009 biography, *J. Frank Dobie: A Liberated Mind*, Steven L. Davis traces Dobie’s intellectual development but says little about his personal life except that in 1919, when his wife, Bertha, was struck with the Spanish influenza, Dobie chose to remain with the peacetime Army in France, where he was enrolled in the Sorbonne, rather than apply for a transfer home to be with her. Davis quotes a letter that she wrote Dobie but never mailed, saying that he “cares

a thousand times more for experience than for me.”

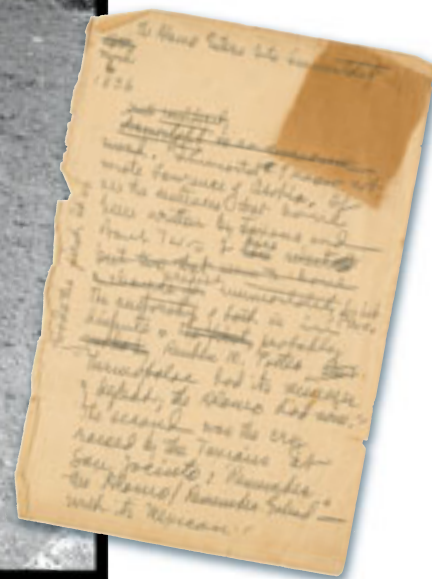
If I had to classify Dobie as a writer, I would have to put him with the regionalists, a group of American writers who flourished in the 1920s, ’30s and ’40s and extolled the virtue of regional differences over mass culture and rural life over industrialism. They included Willa Cather, William Faulkner, Lewis Mumford, Robert Penn Warren, John Crowe Ransom, Mary Austin, John G. Neihardt, Bernard DeVoto, Zora Neale Hurston, Oliver La Farge and Mari Sandoz.

Many of these writers forged links to the emerging academic study of folklore and drew on material gathered by folklorists such as B.A. Botkin and Dobie’s friend John A. Lomax; some considered themselves folklorists. A few were utopians, attempting to formulate a culture based on American roots as an alternative to what they perceived as an alien European culture being disseminated from New York. All were antimodernists, wistfully clinging to an image of an older and apparently simpler America, the “sunny slopes of long ago” that Lomax and Dobie used to toast, the “old rock” that Dobie’s cattlemen heroes were cut from.

But Dobie was different from most of his fellow regionalists. They expressed themselves in fiction, poetry or, in the case of Mumford and DeVoto, essays and historical narratives, often based on folk sources. Dobie, as far as I know, never attempted a novel or published a poem. What Dobie excelled at was turning oral narratives into short written pieces. He had an ability to get people to talk, a sharp ear for cadence and language, and an uncanny ability to create a stage for his narrator. Most of his 20 books are, in fact, strings of finely crafted anecdotes derived from



Dobie visits with an elderly man. A manuscript of Dobie's *The Alamo Enters into Immortality*, circa 1936, is among the collection of his papers at the Briscoe Center for American History.



Dobie's focus on oral tradition stemmed from his conviction that the narratives of old-timers had a value in themselves and did not need to be adapted into fiction or poetry to have communicative power.

interviews with stove-up cowboys, prospectors and desert rats.

Dobie's focus on oral tradition stemmed from his conviction that the narratives of old-timers had a value in themselves and did not need to be adapted into fiction or poetry to have communicative power. Literary historian Robert L. Dorman writes that Dobie saw their unadorned and unmediated words as artistic creations that contained truths about "the mind, the metaphor, and the mores of the common people" that escaped academic historians. Dorman says Dobie disdained the "Ph.D.s who could write historical learned monographs on 'Utah Carl' and 'Little Joe Wrangler'" that would be full of "ethnological palaver" and would obscure the experience of hearing the singer or narrator "vivid and alive."

Dobie's *A Vaquero of the Brush Country* (1929) so closely paralleled the handwritten narrative of its subject, a retired cowboy named John D. Young, that many years after it was published, it became the object of litigation among Young's heirs, the Dobie estate and the University of Texas, and it was reissued in 1998 with both Young's and Dobie's names on the title page as co-authors.

Much of Dobie's popularity stemmed from being in the right place at the right time. The oil-rich state of Texas was attracting national attention in the early 1930s, preparing for the 1936 centennial celebration by shedding its southern former Confederate

identity and assuming a new and dynamic one as part of the West, and Dobie wrote about ranchers and cowboys. When the centennial celebration came, Dobie was smack in the middle of it. He served on the Advisory Board of Texas Historians that reported to the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations, got into a public dispute with the sculptor Pompeo Coppini about the Alamo Cenotaph, published *The Flavor of Texas*, and emerged as "Mr. Texas," the state's best-known spokesman. When the national spotlight shined on Texas, it illuminated J. Frank Dobie.

Dobie's reputation declined after his death, reaching its nadir in Larry McMurtry's ill-tempered 1981 denunciation of his books as "a congealed mass of virtually undifferentiated anecdote: endlessly repetitious, thematically empty, structureless, and carelessly written."

I don't think he was as bad as all that. It's true that he never wrote anything to equal Cather's *O Pioneers!* or Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*, but his books did make Texans, with their inherited cultural inferiority complex, realize that their native soil was fertile with literary inspiration, and they gave ordinary people a place in history long before "people's history" became fashionable. Most of all, he knew how to tell a good story.

Lonn Taylor, widely published author and former historian at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, lives in Fort Davis.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com UT Press gives Dobie books new life.

IT'S AGGIE® TIME!

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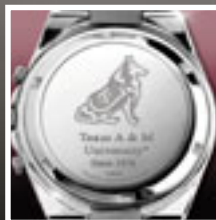
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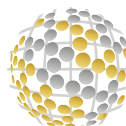
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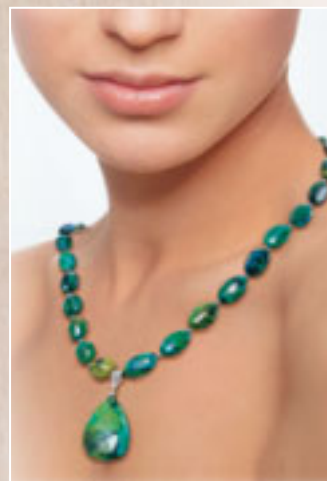
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Ditch the Fridge in the Garage

IT'S CONVENIENT TO HAVE AN EXTRA REFRIGERATOR in the house for overflow food storage during holidays and parties—but the garage isn't necessarily the best place to put it.

Unless your garage is air conditioned or insulated, it gets awfully hot in there during the summer, and that can force the refrigerator to work overtime to keep the food cold. You'll see the cost of that hard work on your electric bill.

However, if you must keep a refrigerator in the garage, keep a few things in mind:

► It's not just the heat that stresses out a refrigerator in the garage: Manufacturers also advise against placing one in any space where the temperature dips below

55 degrees in the winter. In an unheated garage, the fridge can actually warm up frozen food if the room temperature dips below freezing.

► Have an electrician upgrade the electrical circuits in your garage before you plug in a refrigerator. If the appliance overtaxes the circuit and flips a breaker, you could wind up with a lot of smelly, spoiled food.

► Plug your refrigerator only into a grounded wall outlet.

► Avoid plugging the appliance into an outlet that's controlled by a switch. Someone could accidentally turn the switch off and cut power to the fridge.

► Clean a garage-based refrigerator more often than the one in the kitchen. The garage gets a lot dirtier than the house does, and older fridges often have looser seals.

► Don't stack items

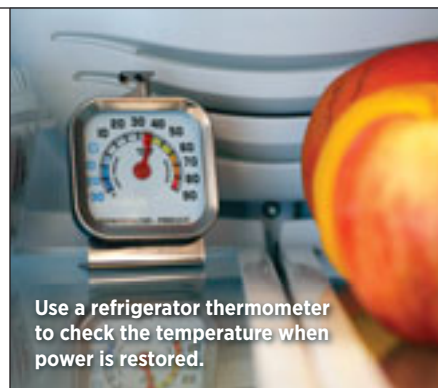
around the refrigerator or lean anything against it. Like any appliance, it needs room to "breathe," or it won't operate efficiently.

► If your garage refrigerator used to be your kitchen refrigerator, it's probably pretty old and very inefficient. You're better off buying a small, new refrigerator and recycling the old one so you won't waste energy and unnecessarily run up your electric bill. Keeping that old fridge running in your garage for just a few cold drinks could cost you \$150 per year, or more, depending on its energy efficiency.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY



Extreme temperature changes, substandard circuits and extra dirt can make the garage a less-than-ideal place to put that old refrigerator.



Use a refrigerator thermometer to check the temperature when power is restored.

SERENETHOS | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

Storm Headed Your Way?

Think about electricity

STORMS SEEM TO BE INCREASING in frequency and severity, and that can lead to more power outages.

To avoid disaster, plan your response to a sudden storm. Here are a few tips:

► If the power goes out, unplug all major electrical appliances and your expensive electronics. This could prevent an electrical surge from damaging them when the power is restored.

► Unplug basement appliances if you expect flooding.

► If water gets into the house, turn off the electricity to those areas before stepping into a wet room. Stepping in water—even just a puddle—that is touching plugged-in appliances can electrocute you.

► Before turning wet appliances back on, have an electrician inspect them.

► Keep the refrigerator door closed during a power outage. Food will stay good for four to six hours in an unopened refrigerator.

► Keep a refrigerator thermometer on hand to check the temperature when power is restored. If the temperature is still below 40 degrees, the food is safe to eat.

► Know where you can get dry ice if the power is off for more than four hours. Keep ready-to-eat, nonperishable food—and a manual can opener—on hand.

► If someone in the house is on a life-support system or relies on an electric medical device, make a plan for where to take the person if the power goes out.

Using Batteries Safely

BATTERIES ARE THE POWER SOURCE for many electronics, and they power everything from remote controls and toys to radios and flashlights. The Safe Electricity program wants to remind consumers to keep safety considerations in mind when storing, using and disposing of batteries.

Begin by always reading and following manufacturer's instructions. Use the correct size and type of battery needed for each device, and be sure to insert batteries with the positive and negative terminals properly aligned.

Store batteries in a dry, secure location that is kept at normal room temperature. Batteries could leak if exposed to extreme heat.

Batteries that are easy to access can be hazardous when they are within the reach of small children. Be sure to store them in a safe location. It is also important to check the covers of devices' battery compartments to ensure that they are closed and functioning properly to prevent children's accessing them.

Some batteries, such as button batteries, are quite small and could be mistaken for pills or candy. Hearing-aid batteries are particularly small. Do not place them anywhere near where medicine or food is stored.

The consumption of batteries by children is a serious safety concern. A swallowed battery could possibly get stuck or cause tissue burns or other damage to the esophagus. If someone is suspected to have swallowed a battery of any kind, immediately call the 24-hour National Battery Ingestion Hotline at (202) 625-3333.

Also, remember to promptly remove and safely dispose of dead batteries. Some dead batteries can leak, so it is best to safely dispose of them right away.

Do not mix old and new batteries because doing so could cause battery leakage or rupture. It is best to replace all the batteries within a device at the same time.

Rechargeable, lithium, lithium ion and zinc air batteries should be recycled. It is a good idea to get into a habit of putting old batteries in a plastic bag that can be sealed and delivered to a battery-recycling center. To find a facility near you, visit call2recycle.org.

Proper use, storage and disposal of batteries can keep you and your loved ones safer.



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Bathroom Luxury With Less

THE RAIN-CAN SHOWERHEAD is still among the most popular bathroom upgrades a decade after it became what some thought would be a passing fad.

During that decade, the bathroom has become a place to escape from the stress of the rest of the world—so homeowners are sparing no expense to make it luxurious.

At the same time, they're adding fixtures that use less water and lights that use less energy. If you're ready to revamp the most-used room in your house, consider these possibilities:

- ▶ Replace outdated toilets, faucets and showerheads with low-flow versions. The latest models are designed to make it feel like you're using plenty of water while they still conserve.

- ▶ Add more light. A strip of lights over the vanity mirror is no longer enough. Consider adding sconces on either side of the mirror, plus an overhead light, and even a light on the ceiling inside the shower. The extra light will help prevent accidents and illuminate your face better. If you use LEDs or CFLs, the budget impact is minimal.

- ▶ Install grab bars next to the toilet and inside the shower. Don't mistake this important safety device as an accommodation for older residents. You're never too young to slip in the shower.

Alvin's Deluge: It Reigns

Gulf Coast town holds U.S. record for greatest rainfall in 24 hours

BY E.R. BILLS

FOR MANY OF US, THE CITY OF ALVIN IS connected to two reigns, both involving its most famous son, Nolan Ryan. During his 27-year pitching career in major-league baseball, Ryan was a flame-throwing right-hander who was still hurling the ball more than 100 mph into his 40s. Ryan holds the records for career strikeouts (5,714) and no-hitters (7), and his feats still invariably eclipse Alvin's third reign—a record-breaking rain.

In late July 1979, Tropical Storm Claudette made landfall in Texas and dumped a U.S.-record 43 inches of rain on Alvin in a 24-hour period, according to the National Weather Service. More than 6,000 residents of the Brazoria County town were forced to leave their homes, and half of them had to be rescued.

It rained most of the day July 25, but around 9 p.m., the downpour became a bona fide deluge, the force of the precipitation like water streaming out of a water hose nozzle set on “jet.” As the rainfall intensified, Alvin resident Richard Klapper remembers, he and his family noticed a few leaks. They put down containers and brought in their dogs. The Klappers considered the rain heavy, but they had experienced heavy rain before.

They had no sense of what was to come, but their dogs must have. When the Klappers turned in for the evening, the dogs hid under their bed. At around 2 a.m., one of the dogs jumped up on the bed and woke Richard. He nudged it back down to the floor, but it didn't land with the patter of paws; it landed with a splash. Richard turned on his bedside lamp and realized

their entire bedroom was flooded.

Richard assumed a pipe had burst in the house but quickly realized his mistake. The water on his floor was about 10 inches deep and approaching the height of his electrical outlets, so he made his way to his electrical panel and shut off the main breaker. As the water level in the house rose, the Klapper family climbed out a window. “It came down in buckets,” Richard Klapper says, “and we had no idea how high it would rise.”

The Klappers took their pets and made their way down the street to the two-story residence of neighbors. The neighbors sheltered the Klappers and another family on the second floor of their home. They watched recovery efforts from the house's balcony.

The flood conditions lasted for several days. Many residents with one-story homes fled to their attics or took shelter in schools and businesses on higher ground. The National Guard was called in and worked around the clock with other emergency personnel, some logging as many as 57 hours straight.

The floodwaters were so high in some places that roadways were hidden and workers had to stand in moving currents to demarcate streets for emergency vehicles. In one instance, a 2½-ton truck washed away, scattering the human pylons and truck crew. The workers survived, but the truck disappeared in the torrent and wasn't recovered for days.

Jim Siptak was away on his honeymoon when Alvin flooded, and he heard the news from his mother-in-law. “When



we got back, there was still a foot and a half of water in our house,” Siptak says, “but our neighbors had removed the furniture and rugs and everything. We had all the Sheetrock removed from our house from one end to the other because the water got into the insulation. It was a trying time, especially after a honeymoon.”

Tropical Storm Claudette caused one death in Texas, according to the Houston Chronicle. Residents of Alvin, including the Klappers and Siptaks, slowly dried out, unaware that the flooding rain would begin

a long reign. The U.S. record for the largest rainfall amount in a 24-hour period—43 inches in Alvin, July 25–26, 1979—has stood for 36 years. The world record for the largest rainfall amount in a 24-hour period is 72 inches on La Reunion Island (east of Madagascar), January 7–8, 1966.

In one day, the folks in Alvin received more rainfall than Austin, Dallas or San Antonio receives on average for an entire year and more than El Paso or Presidio usually collects in four years. The national record that Alvin broke belonged to

another Texas town, according to Texas A&M University’s John W. Nielsen-Gammon, the state climatologist. “Texas holds the record for the second-place rainfall event, as well,” Nielsen-Gammon says. “In September of 1921, the town of Thrall recorded 38.2 inches of rain in a 24-hour period.”

E.R. Bills is a writer from Aledo.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

The state climatologist explains how individual locations in Texas can be prone to heavy rainfall.

My Way

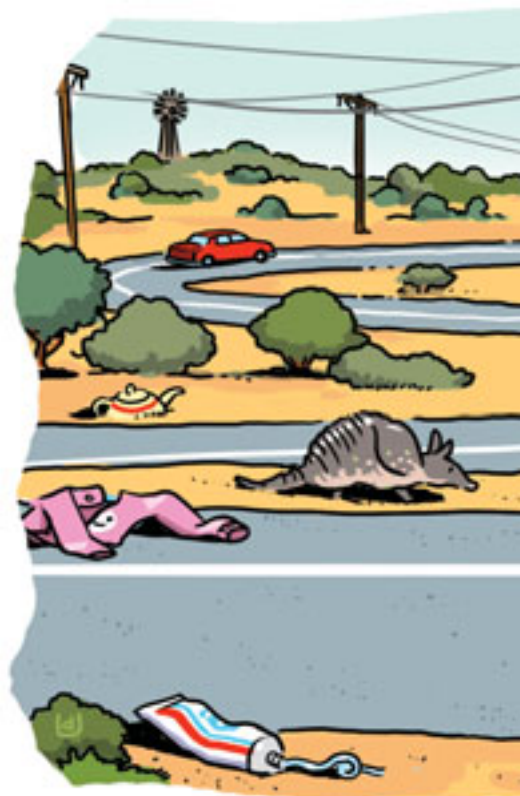
A two-wheeled perspective on a personal stretch of a Texas back road

BY JOHN TALIAFERRO

FOR MOST TRAVELERS, MOST OF THE TIME, the world is the width of a windshield. They tend to look only where they are going: ahead. But for me, the highway is a horizon, the same each day but always different. It's not going anywhere, nor am I, not much. If a driver is a sailor, lately I've become a beachcomber.

My shoreline is Texas Ranch Road 674, a 56-mile scribble of asphalt snaking from the cedar-sucked plateau of Rocksprings, southward along the flash-flooded canyons, breaks and washes of the West Nueces headwaters, to the thorny flats of Brackettville. It is unexpectedly stunning terrain—mind you, no country even for old goats, not since the mohair subsidy went away and the last prayer of topsoil (what little there was before overgrazing) abdicated to limestone. It's still livable, however, for armadillos, ringtails, red-tails, turkeys, turkey vultures, anything with antlers, and, as uploaded onto YouTube from the webcams of the hunters who give the local economy its last shot, the occasional mountain lion and bear.

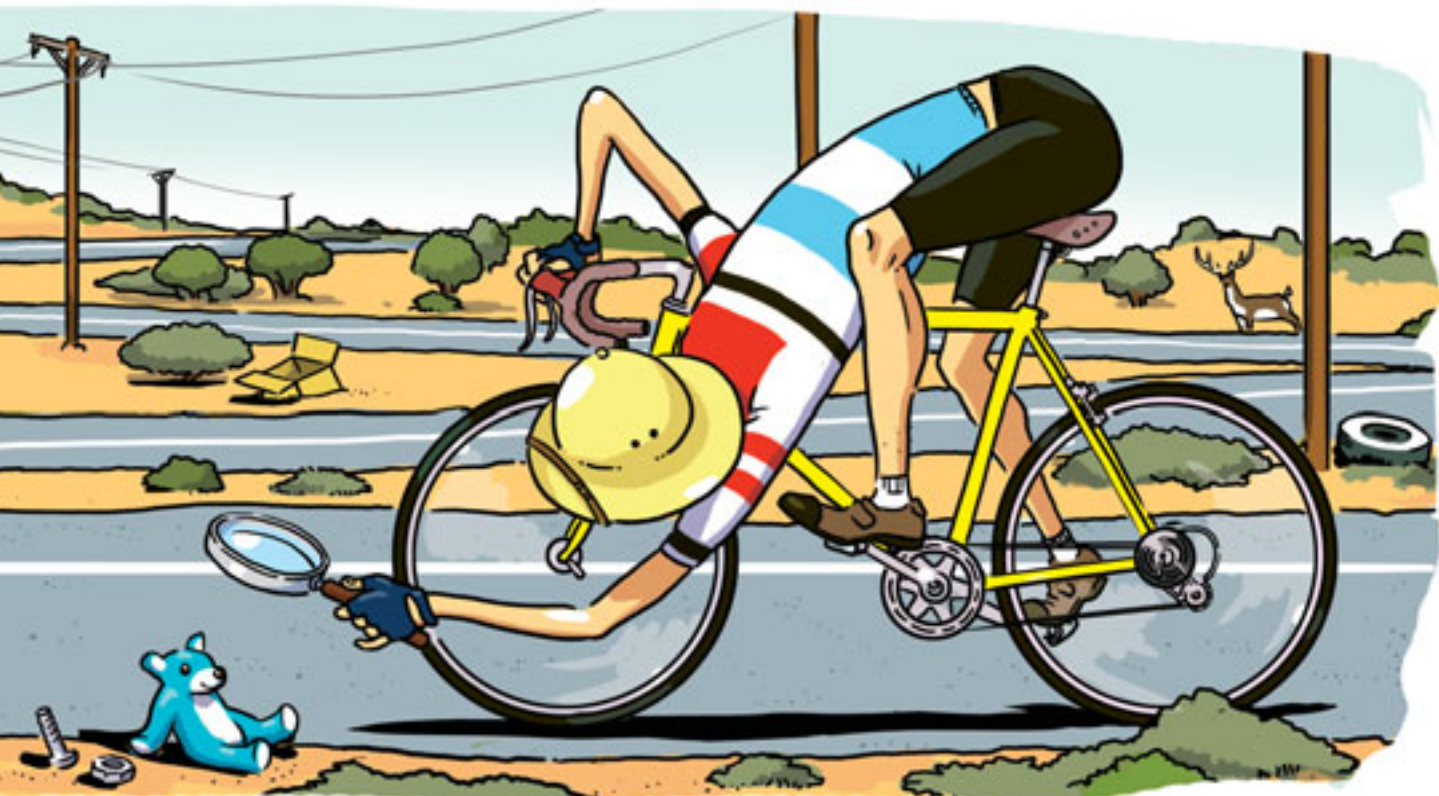
By my informal count, RR 674 is disturbed by barely 100 cars a day. I don't drive it much myself. Mostly I prefer to cruise my coast on foot or by bicycle. I know some of this road better than the shoulder surgeons of the Texas Department of Transportation; better than the school bus driver who faithfully rumbles 25 miles each way, each school day, to pick up and drop off one solitary kid; better than the FedEx guy who moans that he loses money driving it and pleads to leave packages at the feed store in town; better



than the Border Patrol agents who hardly bat an eye when they spot me inspecting the guard-rails, collecting castoff nuts and bolts in a blue Ikea bag.

Some insist that life is about the journey, not the destination. Perhaps so, but, for the sake of discussion, let's say it's neither. A highway need not be a funnel, as it is for so many, with its rhinestone reflectors beckoning toward the pinhole of oblivion. My highway is a belt laid longwise, cinching me to terra firmly. From my porch, with an easy turn of the head, I can survey a good mile of it. When a week-ending airman from the base in Del Rio rockets his motorcycle through the roller coaster of low-water crossings, cattle guards and "falling rock" warnings, I hear his engine keening, far then fierce then faint again, like a wasp across a window screen. What I'm saying is: There is On the Road, and there is on the road. Right now I'm all about lowercase. The wide angle is what grounds me.

I am reminded of *The Gods Must Be Crazy*, the movie about the African who treks to the end of his known world to throw a Coke bottle off it. Perhaps that would explain the preponderance of Coke bottles and cans—not to mention the Huggies, Big Gulps and at least one Neiman-Marcus Last Call shopping bag—that now



decorate my viewshed. Evidently, for some people, where I live is the end of the world. A comforting thought, actually. And even if the jetsam I happen upon during my daily jaunts is unsightly and of negative worth, it's junk that gives measure to an otherwise anarchic landscape. As with the jar dropped so famously by the poet Wallace Stevens, "The wilderness rose up to it." In the interest of further clarity, I report that on RR 674, the preferred beer of litterers is Coors Light.

One Christmas morning, my wife and I set out on a bike ride to Kickapoo Cavern State Park, 11 miles south of our gate. There is much to appreciate along the way: two state historical markers to the early settlers of the Nueces' west "prong," whose patriarch is commemorated for his diverse but perhaps complementary talents of doctoring and coffin-making; a homemade cross marking a pullout where, several years ago, an unhappy woman took pills and then her life by driving over the bluff, not to be discovered for days; and a massive rock face over which the highway climbs between Newberry and Four Mile draws, affording a magnificent panorama of battered hills and dry river bed that might make lunar travel redundant.

It is here on the big climb where I have done my most fruitful guardrail scaveng-

ing. One afternoon, concentrating on a 1-mile span, I picked up 160 heavy bolts and 67 nuts discarded by the crew that replaced the rail. Initially, I had paused only to pry up a nasty roofing nail that for months had been sticking up from the southbound lane and was threatening one day to puncture my bike tire. That's when I spotted all the hardware strewn along the roadside—so many galvanized ingots to amuse future archaeologists. When I asked a TxDOT man in Rocksprings if I could keep them, he said, "Be my guest."

There's always more to catch the eye. Why would somebody toss a full tube of toothpaste out the window? Why, on such a remote stretch, would there be three tubes of toothpaste on the side of the road? I once had to swerve to keep from hitting a turkey gobbler who wouldn't budge. Aoudad sheep and axis deer, oceans away from their homelands, are par for the course around here. One brisk morning, three whitetail deer galloped for miles in front of my bike, unable to escape the gauntlet created by the game-proof fences that hem both sides of the right-of-way. This was stampede enough, but when I looked up again, a quarter mile ahead, a bull elk stood on the centerline, its rack glowing like a chandelier in the early sunlight. And lots of roadkill, of course:

rabbits—jack and cottontail—deer, snakes, feral hogs and one black cow.

At last at Kickapoo, the cavern boasts a spectacular eight-story, drip-formed, sequoia-esque trunk of limestone—speleothem—the largest in this state and, I'm confident, a bunch of other states as well. Tours of this colossus and other underground wonders are offered one day a week; Christmas, we well knew, would not be one of them. Meanwhile, the rest of the park is like the rest of this land—ruggedly handsome and unto itself. We rode for miles over roads and trails and never encountered another living soul. No country for magi, either.

The Christmas spirit came upon us, nonetheless. Between the park and home I saw a bright shape lying in the wayside stubble. Perhaps on any other day I would have thought nothing of it. But there it was: an infant's woolen sweater, pink, with a smiling snowman wearing a scarf and skis. I find I am reluctant to throw this soiled relic away. It belongs, or belonged, to someone who passed my way in a hopeful season—and kept going. And it suggests that I have not so much adopted a highway, as I've become its foster child.

Author **John Taliaferro's** most recent book is *All the Great Prizes: The Life of John Hay from Lincoln to Roosevelt*.

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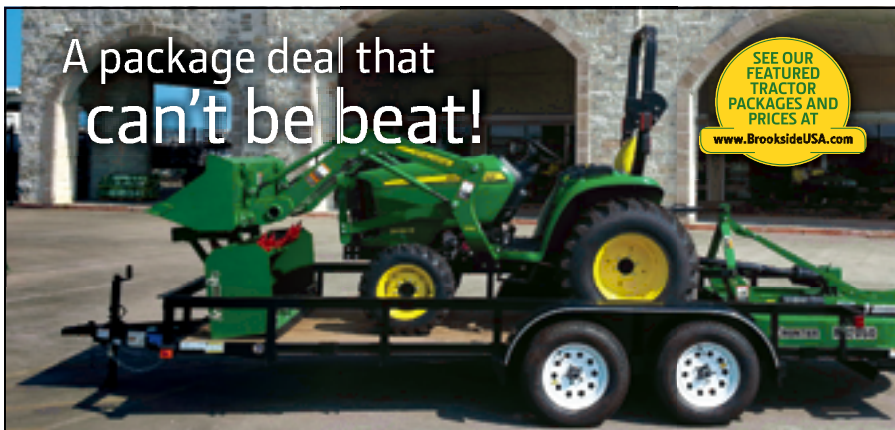
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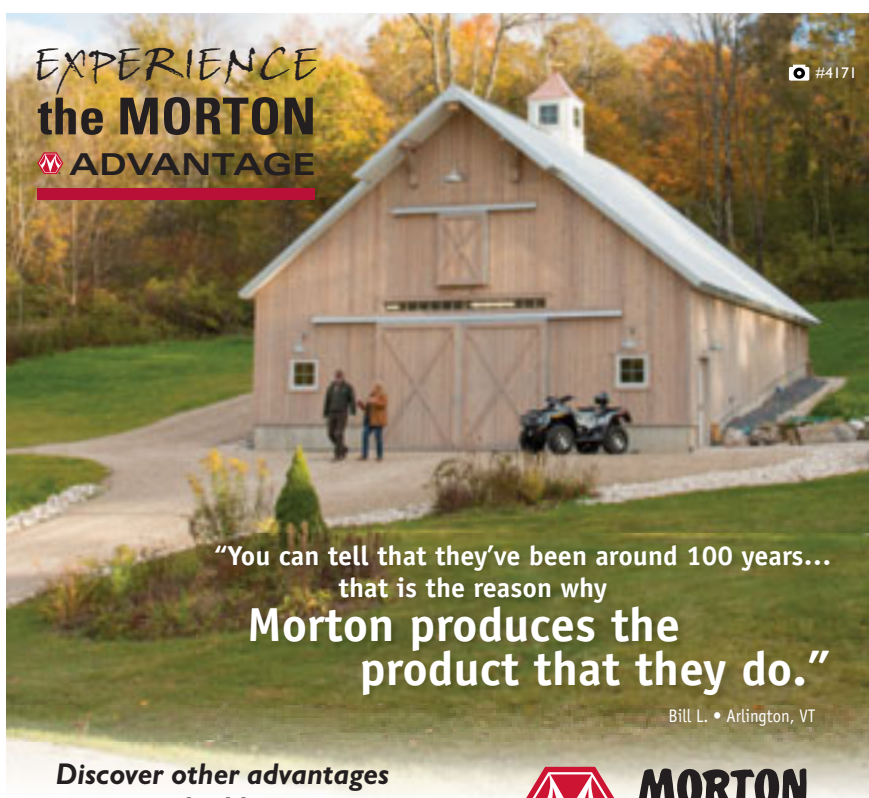
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Prohibited by City Ordinance

Austin innkeeper Angelina Eberly's cannon blast sounds alarm that saves state archives

BY MARTHA DEERING

MODERN-DAY AUSTINITES OWE A DEBT OF gratitude to Angelina Eberly, a worthy woman who operated an inn when Austin was a dirt-street village beside the Colorado River. The BOOM! of the 6-pound cannon she fired in outrage alerted the Republic of Texas' founding fathers that Sam Houston was planning to pull a fast one.

The capital of the Republic of Texas hopped around like a jackrabbit after the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed March 2, 1836, at Washington-on-the-Brazos. In 1839, the Capital Commission selected Waterloo as the capital, and it was renamed Austin. President Mirabeau B. Lamar wanted a city specifically designed and built to be the capital of Texas, and new buildings had been erected to house government documents.

Eberly, her husband, Jacob, and their five children arrived that same year, ready to set up an inn and go into business. Eberly was no stranger to the main players of the new republic's government. She had often hosted them at the inn and tavern she had operated in San Felipe.

The Eberly House opened in October 1839 on the corner of Colorado and Pecan (now Sixth) streets, one block west of Congress Avenue. When Lamar and his cabinet arrived that same month, they stretched the tiny town's population to nearly 400. Before the end of the month, Lamar and his cabinet had dined at Eberly House.

In 1841, Sam Houston's arrival in Austin and the inauguration for his second term as president brought a flurry of business to Eberly House. After the swearing-in, the new officers of the republic retired to Eberly House for dinner, and Houston engaged a room at the inn instead of staying at Lamar's presidential mansion.

Houston objected to everything about Austin and considered it a dangerous place



The Angelina Eberly statue in Austin was sculpted by noted editorial cartoonist Pat Oliphant.

to live, according to Marshall De Bruhl in *Sword of San Jacinto*. At the forefront of his objections was first lady Margaret Houston's wish to avoid moving to the "wild frontier." Eberly and other Austinites were concerned: Moving the capital from Austin would strike a severe blow to their businesses.

When Houston ordered the government moved to Houston in 1842, the people of Austin prepared for battle. Residents formed a "vigilance committee" and placed a guard at the Land Office Building, where the archives were kept.

On December 10, Houston ordered Texas Rangers Thomas Smith and Eli Chandler to remove the public archives to Washington-on-the-Brazos. The rangers drove three freight wagons to the alley behind the building late at night, found it unguarded, and began loading crates of documents. They didn't reckon with Angelina Eberly.

Roused from her bed by the disturbance, Eberly rushed to the 6-pound cannon on Congress Avenue kept loaded with grape-shot to protect the city. She turned the cannon toward the disturbance and applied

the torch. The roar awakened the entire town and launched an incident known ever after as the Archives War. Smith and Chandler, uninjured, made a hasty retreat with the booty they had collected.

Mounted men from Austin pursued, gathering recruits along the way. When Chandler and Smith stopped for the night near Brushy Creek, they were overtaken and surrounded. Badly outnumbered, they handed over the 11 boxes of documents without a fight.

Without Eberly's bold cannon blast, the Legislature might gather every two years in Houston to enact state business. Sam Houston did not attempt to move the capital again.

In 2004, a bronze statue of Eberly lighting the fuse of the cannon was erected on Congress Avenue near the spot where she fired the shot that helped keep the state archives in Austin.

Martha Deering, a member of Heart of Texas EC, lives near McGregor.

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Capital Area Statues, creators of the Eberly monument, has erected other works around Austin.

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ANNA GINSBERG, FOOD EDITOR

Smartie Pants Bars

- 1 cup unsalted butter (2 sticks)
- 3 cups bittersweet chocolate chips
- 6 large eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup Smarties or M&M's, or 2 cups walnut halves

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking pan and line with parchment paper, overlapping at two opposite edges to form "handles."
2. In a double boiler or in a heatproof bowl set over a saucepan of simmering water, melt the butter and chocolate chips, whisking to combine.
3. Transfer mixture to a large bowl and whisk together with eggs, sugar and vanilla. Add the flour and salt, and whisk to combine.
4. Pour mixture into the pan and sprinkle evenly with Smarties, M&M's or walnuts.
5. Bake 25–30 minutes or until the brownie has puffed up and cracked. This is a very fudgy brownie; it will ultimately fall after being removed from the oven, creating a dense bar.
6. Remove from oven and allow the slab to cool completely. Run a small knife along the two edges of the pan without the parchment handles. Grasping the handles, carefully remove the slab from the pan, transfer to cutting board, and cut into approximately 2-by-2-inch bars.

Servings: 24. Serving size: 1 brownie. Per serving: 341 calories, 4.43 g protein, 19.33 g fat, 33.95 g carbohydrates, 3.27 g dietary fiber, 121 mg sodium, 23.62 g sugars, 67 mg cholesterol

Butter Baked Goods by Rosie Daykin (Knopf, 2015), excerpted with permission

Recipes

Desserts Made With Candy



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

SANDRA JENNINGS | NUECES EC

After the Halloween tricks have come and gone, sometimes you're left with more treats than you expected.

This month, our readers showed us several smart, economical and tasty ways to turn sweets into desserts.

Mocha Toffee Dessert

- 24 ladyfingers, split
- 8 SKOR or Heath toffee candy bars (1.4 ounces each), frozen and crushed, divided use
- ½ gallon coffee ice cream, softened
- ¾ cup heavy whipping cream
- 3 tablespoons white crème de cacao

1. Line the bottom and sides of a 10-inch springform pan with ladyfingers. Set aside ¼ cup crushed candy bars for garnish.

2. Combine softened ice cream and the remaining crushed candy bars. Spoon into the lined pan, leaving ¼ to ½ inch of the ladyfingers showing above the ice cream. Cover and freeze until firm, preferably overnight.

3. Before serving, combine the whipping cream and crème de cacao in a deep, chilled bowl. Whip into stiff peaks. Frost only the top of the cake with whipped cream mixture and sprinkle with the reserved crushed candy bars.

4. Remove sides of the springform pan and serve.

Servings: 16. Serving size: 7 ounces. Per serving: 459 calories, 5.85 g protein, 27.56 g fat, 47.40 g carbohydrates, 1.20 g dietary fiber, 213 mg sodium, 38.40 g sugars, 110 mg cholesterol

Chocolate Trifle

KATHY MYERS | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

- 1 box fudge brownie mix (19.8 ounces)
- ½ cup coffee-flavored liqueur
- 3 packages instant chocolate pudding mix (3.9 ounces each)
- 1 carton frozen whipped topping (12 ounces), thawed
- 8 SKOR or Heath toffee candy bars (1.4 ounces each), crushed

1. Prepare and bake brownie mix as package directs for a 9-by-13-inch pan. With a fork, prick the top of the warm brownies at 1-inch intervals. Drizzle with coffee liqueur. Let cool, and then crumble brownies.

2. Prepare pudding mix according to package directions, omitting the step of chilling.

3. Place ⅓ crumbled brownies in bottom of a 3-quart trifle dish. Top with ⅓ prepared pudding, ⅓ whipped topping and ⅓ crushed candy bars. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients, ending with crushed candy bars.

4. Chill 8 hours before serving.

COOK'S TIP 1 teaspoon sugar dissolved in 4 tablespoons brewed coffee may be substituted for coffee liqueur.

Servings: 18. Serving size: 6 ounces. Per serving: 334 calories, 4.49 g protein, 16.62 g fat, 52.33 g carbohydrates, 0.66 g dietary fiber, 389 mg sodium, 39.87 g sugars, 8 mg cholesterol

Caramel Candy Pie

ANN BAKER | BOWIE-CASS EC

- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin (¼ ounce)
- ¼ cup cold water
- 1 package vanilla caramels (14 ounces), unwrapped
- ¾ cup whole milk
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream

- 1 frozen 9-inch deep-dish pie crust, baked as directed on package and cooled
- 2 SKOR or Heath toffee candy bars (1.4 ounces each), crushed

1. In a small bowl, sprinkle gelatin over water; let stand to soften.

2. In a medium saucepan, combine caramels and milk. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring often until caramels are melted and mixture is smooth. Stir in softened gelatin. Refrigerate 45–60 minutes until slightly thickened, stirring occasionally.

3. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, beat heavy cream with an electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Fold thickened caramel mixture into whipped cream. Pour into cooled, baked pie shell.

4. Refrigerate at least 4 hours. Just before serving, garnish pie with crushed candy bars. Keep chilled until serving time.

Servings: 8. Serving size: 1 slice. Per serving: 362 calories, 4.36 g protein, 21.74 g fat, 36.07 g carbohydrates, 0.26 g dietary fiber, 169 mg sodium, 22.47 g sugars, 58 mg cholesterol

Surprise-Filled Chocolate Cookies

VICKIE WILSON | HILCO EC

- 2¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar, divided use
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 cup salted butter (2 sticks), softened
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup chopped pecans, divided use
- 48 Rolo candies (or other caramel/chocolate soft candies), unwrapped
- Gel-type icing in a tube, optional

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper or coat with cooking spray.

2. In a small bowl, mix together flour, cocoa powder and baking soda.

3. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, cream together 1 cup sugar, brown sugar and butter. Beat in vanilla and eggs. By hand or using lowest speed of mixer, gradually mix in flour mixture.

\$100 Recipe Contest

March's recipe contest is **Eggs, Plain and Fancy**. From an easy scramble to perfectly poached with hollandaise, folks know *egg-zactly* how they like them done. Send us your favorite recipes for eggs. The deadline is **October 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.



Stir in 1/2 cup pecans.

4. Combine remaining 1/2 cup pecans with remaining 1 tablespoon sugar in small bowl. With floured hands, shape 1 tablespoon dough around each unwrapped candy and flatten into cookie shape. Press each cookie into pecan mixture, then place on prepared baking sheet.

5. Bake 7–10 minutes or until cookies appear set. Let cool completely, then decorate with icing, if desired.

COOK'S TIP If using unsalted butter, add 3/4 teaspoon salt to the recipe. Also, you can try almost any caramel-filled candy as the center.

Servings: 24. Serving size: 2 cookies. Per serving: 298 calories, 3.69 g protein, 16.62 g fat, 32.86 g carbohydrates, 1.92 g dietary fiber, 150 mg sodium, 21.47 g sugars, 37 mg cholesterol

Peanut Brittle Cookies

BELINDA ANDERSEN | PEDERNALES EC

- 1** box yellow cake mix (16.25 ounces)
- 2** large eggs
- 1/3** cup vegetable oil

- 1** teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1** cup crushed peanut brittle

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a baking sheet, or cover with parchment paper.

2. Using an electric mixer, beat cake mix, eggs, oil and vanilla at medium speed to form a stiff dough. Add crushed peanut brittle and mix on low speed.

3. Form dough into cookies of any size—small, medium or large. Bake on baking sheet 8 minutes (or longer for large cookies), until edges are golden brown. Transfer to a cooling rack and let cool completely.

COOK'S TIP I make homemade peanut brittle for this cookie, but you can buy it at a grocery store. To crush it, put peanut brittle in a sealed bag and crush with something metal. I use the back of an ice cream scoop.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 2 cookies. Per serving: 323 calories, 4.22 g protein, 13.67 g fat, 43.69 g carbohydrates, 0.82 g dietary fiber, 351 mg sodium, 30.83 g sugars, 33 mg cholesterol

GOODBYE AND GREETINGS

It's not always easy handing over the reins, but it sure feels better handing them to a real cowgirl. As I ride off into the sunset (or, in this case, Chicago), I'm delighted to introduce the new Texas Co-op Power food editor, Paula Disbrowe.

Paula has worked as a chef, editor and food writer and is the author of *Cowgirl Cuisine: Rustic Recipes and Cowgirl Adventures from a Texas Ranch* (HarperCollins Publishers, 2007). She's looking forward to getting to know you through your recipes, as I have done for the past two years. As always, thank you for sharing, and I will continue looking for your hometown recipes on the Texas Co-op Power website. —AG

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

Find more tricks to turning Halloween leftovers into after-dinner treats.



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TINGLING FOOT PAIN?

Do you suffer from burning, tingling, or numbing pain in your legs or feet? You should know help is available. 20 million Americans suffer from these symptoms and put up with the pain, because they are not aware of this proven treatment.

MagniLife® Pain Relieving Foot Cream contains eucalyptus oil and yellow jasmine, known to relieve tingling, numbness, and discomfort while also restoring cracked, damaged, and itchy skin. *"It's the ONLY product that helps relieve the burning, and tingling feeling in my feet!."* - Mable NY.

MagniLife® Pain Relieving Foot Cream is available at Walgreens, CVS/pharmacy, Rite Aid Pharmacy and Walmart, in the footcare and diabetes sections. Order risk free for \$19.99 (\$5.95 S&H) for a 4 oz jar. Get a **FREE** jar when you order two for \$39.98 (\$9.95 S&H). Send payment to: MagniLife PC-CP, PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071 or call **1-800-594-2185**. Complete satisfaction guaranteed for 90 days, or receive a full refund. Order now at www.PRFootCream.com

AGE SPOTS?

Are unsightly brown spots on your face and body making you uncomfortable? Liver spots, also known as age spots, affect the cosmetic surface of the skin and can add years to your appearance. Millions of people live with the dark spots and try to cover them with makeup, or bleach them with harsh chemicals because they are not aware of this new topical treatment that gently and effectively lightens the shade of the skin.

MagniLife® Age Spot Cream uses botanicals, such as licorice root extract to naturally fade age spots, freckles, and other age-associated discolorations. Ingredients are proven to help protect skin from harmful external factors, and emollients soften and smooth skin. *"It is fading my liver spots. This product actually works!!!"* - Patricia C., NJ.

MagniLife® Age Spot Cream can be ordered risk free for \$19.99 (\$5.95 S&H) for a 2 oz jar. Get a **FREE** jar when you order two for \$39.98 (\$9.95 S&H). Send payment to: MagniLife AC-CP, PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071 or call **1-800-594-2185**. Complete satisfaction guaranteed for 90 days, or receive a full refund. Order now at www.AgeSpotSolution.com

TROUBLE BREATHING?

If you experience difficulty breathing due to cough, congestion, mucus buildup, or the common cold, you should know that help is available. Many people are putting up with wheezing, coughing, and difficulty breathing because they are not aware of this new, effective treatment.

MagniLife® Breathe Easy Chest Cream contains active ingredients to control cough and phlegm buildup, thin mucus, and open airways to restore normal breathing, with no unpleasant menthol scent. Simply rub onto chest and breathe easier in minutes. *"This is the best, fast-acting [cream] I've ever used."* - Iva A., FL.

MagniLife® Breathe Easy Chest Cream is available for \$19.99 (\$5.95 S&H) for a 4 oz jar. Get a **FREE** jar when you order two for \$39.98 (\$9.95 S&H). Send payment to: MagniLife, BC-CP, PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071, or call **1-800-594-2185**. Complete satisfaction guaranteed for 90 days, or receive a full refund. Order now at www.BreatheCream.com

RESTLESS LEGS SYNDROME?

If unpleasant sensations in your legs, accompanied by an irresistible urge to move, are keeping you up at night, you may have Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS). More than 30 million Americans suffer from these creepy, crawly, tingling and pulling sensations that urge you to move your legs.

MagniLife® Restless Legs Cream is a soothing, cooling, grease-less lotion that absorbs fast and goes to work on contact. Halt the itching, twitching, creeping sensations. No more throbbing, pulling and cramping. *"You can imagine my surprise and delight when my legs kept still that very first night, and now every night since!"* - Dawn, VT.

MagniLife® Restless Legs Cream is available at Walgreens, CVS/pharmacy and Rite Aid. Order risk free for \$19.99 (\$5.95 S&H) for a 4 oz jar. Get a **FREE** jar when you order two for \$39.98 (\$9.95 S&H). Send payment to: MagniLife RC-CP, PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071 or call **1-800-594-2185**. Complete satisfaction guaranteed for 90 days, or receive a full refund. Order now at www.RLScream.com

PAINFUL, ITCHY RASH?

Do you suffer from painful rashes and experience tingling, burning, or a blistering skin rash that often results in long-term pain even after the rash is gone? Many people are putting up with the discomfort and itching because they are not aware of this new advancement in skin care.

MagniLife® Painful Rash Relief Cream contains 16 powerful ingredients such as arnica and tea tree oil that help restore the skin and relieve the pain and itch. *"Thank God. It works! It has been a life saver. It controls the pain and after."* - Shirley R., KY.

MagniLife® Painful Rash Relief Cream is available at CVS/pharmacy and Rite Aid Pharmacy, in the first aid aisle. Order risk free for \$19.99 (\$5.95 S&H) for a 1.8 oz jar. Get a **FREE** jar when you order two for \$39.98 (\$9.95 S&H). Send payment to: MagniLife SH-CP, PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071 or call **1-800-594-2185**. Complete satisfaction guaranteed for 90 days, or receive a full refund. Order now at www.PainfulRashRelief.com

ATHLETE'S FOOT?

Do you suffer from burning, itching, scaling or redness on your feet? Over 60 million people live with this painful and embarrassing condition, known as athlete's foot, because they are not aware of this proven treatment, which relieves itching, scaling, cracking, burning, and discomfort.

MagniLife® Antifungal Foot Cream with miconazole nitrate cures most athlete's foot and relieves itchy, scaly skin between toes. Natural moisturizers and essential oils help repair damaged skin and promote healing of painful cracks and fissures, where bacteria can grow and spread. *"This foot cream worked wonders for my feet. I'm no longer embarrassed to wear sandals!"* - Heidi, CA.

MagniLife® Antifungal Foot Cream is sold at Walgreens and Rite Aid Pharmacy, in the diabetes section. Order risk free for \$19.99 (\$5.95 S&H) for a 4 oz jar. Get a **FREE** jar when ordering two for \$39.98 (\$9.95 S&H). Send payment to: MagniLife FC-CP, PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071, or call **1-800-594-2185**. Satisfaction guaranteed, or receive a full refund. Order now at www.FungalFootCream.com



▲ **TONI BIGGS**, Rusk County EC: "My 7-year-old grandson, Jackson Biggs, doing his first zip line ride at New York, Texas Zipline Adventures."



▲ **CRYSTAL TAYLOR**, Farmers EC: This was the view upon stepping outside right after a thunderstorm.



▲ **JUDY TRUESDELL**, Farmers EC: Earlene and Bruce Collinworth were voted queen and king of the Wylie Senior Rec Center's "G.I. Jive Senior Prom." The Collinworths met in Sunday school on Easter and were married 69 years ago.

Stepping Out

DURING OCTOBER, TEXAS DAYS AND NIGHTS are perfect for getting together. We know Texans love to go out and whoop it up. If you like to mingle, kick up your heels, blow off steam, cut loose and paint the town, here's a look at some kindred spirits.

GRACE ARSIAGA

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com Take the next step and check out our online slideshow.



▲ **MICHAEL LANTY**, Concho Valley EC: The Promenade Squares perform at the Texas Independence Festival in San Angelo.

◀ **WENDY CHARLES**, CoServ Electric: These brightly colored shoes were at the House of Blues in Dallas.



UPCOMING CONTESTS

FEBRUARY BETTER TOGETHER	DUE OCTOBER 10
MARCH BOATS	DUE NOVEMBER 10
APRIL SWINGS	DUE DECEMBER 10

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 Blackland Prairie Artisan & Fibre Faire

Denison [October 17-18]

(214) 693-9975, bpaff.com

Masters of the "lost arts"—spinners, weavers, knitters and felters—as well as shepherds who raise sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas in North Texas gather to demonstrate and sell their crafts.



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October

9

Temple [9-10] Central Texas Nature Fest, (254) 760-4739, centexnaturefest.org

Cuero [9-11] Turkeyfest, (361) 275-2112, turkeyfest.org

10

Mountain Home VFD Steak Dinner, (830) 739-6194

Seguin Guadalupe County Fair Fiddlers Contest, (817) 295-3602, totfa.org

16

Boerne [16-18] Texas Hill Country Invitational Art Show, (830) 249-7277, visitboerne.org/calendar

Dripping Springs [16-18] Songwriters Festival, (512) 659-1576, dripping Springs songwritersfestival.com

Granbury [16-18] Balloons in Granbury, (682) 936-4550, balloondayz.com



October 24
Montgomery
Open Day and Festival
of the Wolves

17

Coldspring [17-31] Haunted Jail at the Old Jail, (936) 827-8310

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Sebastopol & Magnolia Hotel Tours,
Quilt Show, Pottery Show, Car Show

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Tour de Pecan Bike Ride: Oct 24

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18

Salado St. Stephen Fall Fest,
(254) 947-8037, saintstephenchurch.org

23

San Augustine [23-24] 25th Annual
Sassafras Festival, (936) 275-3610,
sanaugustinetx.com

San Angelo [23-25] Roping Fiesta,
(325) 653-7785, sanangelorodeo.com

24

Montgomery Open Day and Festival
of the Wolves, (936) 597-9653,
wolvesofsaintfrancis.org

Wheelock Community Center Country
Market, (979) 828-3790

29

Athens Halloween at the Hatchery,
(903) 676-2277, athenstx.org

Clute Harvest Fun Fest, (979) 265-8392,
ci.clute.tx.us

31

Garfield Haynie Chapel Church Fall Fest,
(512) 247-4454, hayniechapel.org

Weatherford Clark Gardens Red Pepper
Party, (940) 682-4856, clarkgardens.org

New Braunfels [31-November 1]
Fall Train Show, (830) 627-2447,
newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org

October 29
Athens
Halloween at
the Hatchery



November

1

Spicewood Putts 4 Pups Golf Tournament,
(830) 798-9047, highlandlakesspca.org

4

Harlingen [4-8] Rio Grande Valley Birding
Festival, (209) 227-4823, rgvbf.org

6

George West [6-7] Storyfest and
Dobie Dichos, 1-888-600-3121,
georgeweststoryfest.com

7

Comanche [7-8] Tribute to Our Veterans,
(325) 356-5115, comanchecountytxmuseum.com

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Midland's Manor of Oil and Culture

Museum of the Southwest welcomes visitors to estate of 1930s oil tycoon Fred Turner Jr.

BY E. DAN KLEPPER

THE TEXAS OIL BOOM OF THE 1950S transformed Midland into a bustling community. More than 250 oil companies established offices in the city, which grew from 10,000 in 1940 to more than 62,000 by 1960. That growth raised the skyline and made it visible for miles.

But it wasn't the first time Midland and its architecture benefited from an oil boom. Less than a mile from the city center, the Museum of the Southwest occupies the house and grounds of one of the most important landmarks in the region. The Fred and Juliette Turner House, now part of the museum's 5-acre compound that includes a fine art collection, a planetarium and a children's museum, was constructed in 1936, courtesy of riches made after the oil boom of the 1920s.

The house was built by Fred Turner Jr., a native of Coleman County who made his fortune acquiring unsurveyed lands that belonged to the state's public free school fund. The land was sitting on top of one of the richest oil reserves in the world. In a move that befit his newly acquired status as oil baron, Turner hired well-known Dallas architect Anton F. Korn Jr. to design and build his dream home on 12 contiguous lots. Korn's design, an eclectic residence of brick masonry, draws from his expertise in blending elements of the Colonial, Tudor and Mediterranean styles popular during the period.

Turner and his wife occupied the home until their deaths in the early 1960s. The family trust then sold the home to Midland County, which conveyed a lease to the Museum of the Southwest. Although modified over the years with additions to accommodate the museum's growing collection, the original architecture remains intact, and the home is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, you'll find much of the museum's grounds occupied by a collection of scul-



Jim Wightman and his mother, Catherine Potts, admire Isidore-Jules Bonheur's bronze bull.

tures. Rest in the shadow of Joe Barrington's 9-foot-tall welded steer (known as *Rusty*). Or try wrapping your arms around *Panzon* ("chubby" in Spanish), artist Dan Ostermiller's child-friendly interpretation of a fat, happy bear. Then give the kids a chance to ride *Galapagos Tortoise*, a bronze casting of the island creature.

Inside, the museum highlights its collection of more than 40,000 works of art and archeological items, with exhibits located in the first floor of the Turner House and in an addition designed by the firm Ford, Powell & Carson. In the home's original formal sunroom, you'll find the bronze bull sculpted by Isidore-Jules Bonheur mounted above the Moroccan green tile floor.

The collection includes art by John James Audubon and paintings by members of the Taos Society of Artists. In addition to the permanent collection, the museum hosts changing exhibitions of guest artists year-round. Next door, the Durham Children's Museum features interactive displays designed to create a learning experience.

The museum complex also includes the

Blakemore Planetarium where the Spitz SciDome uses video technology to project a changing array of eye-dazzling programs overhead, including *Dawn of the Space Age*. Adjacent to the dome theater, explore cosmic phenomena such as the plasma globe—or, as inventor Nikola Tesla called it, the "inert gas discharge tube." Star parties take place once a month and are sponsored by the West Texas Astronomers, who set up viewing telescopes on the planetarium grounds.

Plan on dinner at the Wall Street Bar & Grill, a downtown Midland classic that offers comfortable, turn-of-the-century décor, including a mahogany bar and the original pressed-tin ceiling throughout the 100-year-old building. Try a "Gold Brick," the grill's signature ice cream dessert. It's no substitute for a wildcatter lifestyle, but once you finish off the chocolate goodness, you'll feel like a million bucks.

E. Dan Klepper is a photographer, author and artist who lives in Marathon.

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