CO-OPS COUNT: BY THE NUMBERS 1918 PANDEMIC HIT OIL FIELDS FINDING PORTRAITS

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

If the Shoe Fits

Farriers help build horse health from the ground up

-01



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Texas Coop Power

October 2020



08 By the Numbers

The countless ways electric co-ops make a difference across Texas.

Story by Tom Widlowski Illustration by Shaw Nielsen

ON THE COVER Farrier Jim Crawford at McManus Ranch in Irion County. ABOVE Crawford shapes a horseshoe. Photos by Kristin Tyler

Why Horses Wear Shoes

Texas farriers truly know the way to a horse's heart.

Story by Brenda Kissko Photos by Kristin Tyler



TCP Kitchen Buckles, Betties, Cobblers and Crisps By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road Matagorda Island Lighthouse By Chet Garner



Focus on Texas Photo Contest: Selfies



Observations Memorable Moment *By Julia Robinson*



Howdy, Pandowdy

OUR RECIPES THEME this month (Page 30) is Cobblers, Crisps, Buckles and Betties. Seems like a lot of names for a dish that is essentially fruit baked with batter, biscuits, dough or crumble.

Turns out those dishes, which have been around since colonists arrived in this country with their recipes from England, go by many other names, including crumbles, grunts, slumps, bird's nest pudding, sonkers and pandowdies.



Lights Out

General Electric, co-founded by Thomas Edison, inventor of the modern lightbulb, recently sold its 129-yearold lighting business.

The New York Times compared this move to Kellogg abandoning cornflakes or Ford getting out of the auto industry.

Worms in Space?

Absolutely.

NASA's red, sleek and wavy typographical logo from the 1980s returned to the heavens May 30, adorning the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket that launched two American astronauts aboard the Crew Dragon.

When the logo debuted in 1975, it became known as the worm, and the original NASA logo, which debuted in 1959 with the agency, was coined the meatball. The worm was NASA's official logo 1975– 1992, then the agency went back to the meatball.

The minimalist worm was popular in the marketing industry but scorned by NASA insiders, who favored the round blue meatball with its white type, planets, stars and orbital path enhanced with a red chevron.



\$30

That's the average weekly allowance, which about two-thirds of parents fork over to kids.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT

CHRISTMAS GIFT TEVER GOT WAS ...

Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Here are some of the responses to our August prompt: When I think of Texas, I think of ...

Mermaids in San Marcos, Big Tex in Dallas and Prada in Marfa. WHITNEY OLDFATHER PEDERNALES EC SAN MARCOS

Blue skies, bluebonnets and Willie. PJAE STANLEY COSERV LITTLE ELM

Home. PAM SHORT ALFRED HOUSTON COUNTY E

PAM SHORT ALFRED HOUSTON COUNTY EC KENNARD

Big sky and endless horizon. AUTUMN VOGEL TRINITY VALLEY EC ELMO

Beaches, forests, mountains, two time zones, and taking two days to go north to south or east to west.

DEBBIE MOBLEY HEART OF TEXAS EC VALLEY MILLS

Windmills, sunsets, dirt roads, and cornbread and beans. DONNA GENTRY WEEDEN VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents online.



Now This Is a Selfie

WE KNOW YOU LOVE your selfies, our Focus on Texas theme this month (Page 37).

The selfie above might be the coolest of all—because it was the first.

Robert Cornelius, an amateur chemist and photography enthusiast in Philadelphia, made a daguerreotype of himself in 1839. He removed the camera's lens cap; ran into the frame, where he sat for several minutes; then covered the lens again.



Contests and More

ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST Saddles

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST Tacos

FROM OUR ARCHIVE

More Than Electricity, October 2018, tells how co-ops are "the fabric of the community."



My TX Moment

My personal My TX [August 2020] moment was 30 years ago and half a world away. I was deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm in Saudi Arabia. Near our camp was a group of Mujahedeen fighters, and they always left a grizzled old man to guard their camp.

One day he flagged us down. He started talking and pointing up and to the rear of my vehicle. I asked my interpreter what he wanted, and he said, "Texas." The man recognized the small Texas flag on my radio aerial.

Alfred W. Evans Hamilton County EC Gatesville

My TX "My family told about bad luck superstitions. One was putting a hat on a bed, as was wearing more than one hat at a time."

JANICE MARTIN CENTRAL TEXAS EC KINGSLAND

The canyon is so beautiful [Palo Duro Love Letters, July 2020]. Very cool to have this famous artist's work and letters reflecting that beauty.

G

CINDI RAK MULCAHEY VIA FACEBOOK

Their TX

Congratulations, Pam LeBlanc, for declaring yourself a Texan [No Longer a Yankee, July 2020].

Without saying it, you seemed to echo Jay B Sauceda's comment that Texas mystique is not built on small stuff or mediocrity or even above-average stuff but on the overwhelming.

J.K. Goode Fayette EC Weimar

Fixin' To Learn

I didn't realize the word fixin' was Texan—as I've used it all my life having been born in Shreveport and raised in south Louisiana [Finish This Sentence, August 2020]. My husband has always asked me where I got it. Now I know how to answer him.

Paula Bonin Trinity Valley EC Gun Barrel City



I am fortunate enough to own an SRV flat-top hat from Texas Hatters. I was a regional VP for Epic Records and helped launch Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble. I bought several of these hats from the Texas Hatters shop when the album Texas Flood was released in 1983.

Jack Chase CoServ Carrollton

TCP WRITE TO US letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor Austin, TX 78701

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

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Bad to the Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle — now ONLY \$79!

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the \$79 Huntsman Blade is the trophy you're looking for.

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The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers— a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it

around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars and a genuine leather sheath FREE when you purchase the Huntsman Blade.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 Huntsman Blades for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

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— J., La Crescent, MN

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BONUS! Call today and

you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

By the Numbers

The countless ways electric co-ops make a difference across Texas

IN SOME WAYS, the less you think about your electric cooperative, the better. That means your power has stayed on almost without fail, outages are quickly remedied, and your monthly bills are fair and reasonable.

But a lot of thought goes into electric co-ops because they are so much more than power providers. They are united by a business model that values community over profits. They are locally owned and democratically controlled by their customers, called members. They work together to achieve goals and solve problems. Your cooperative is one of more than 900 electric co-ops in the U.S.

The co-op business model is used by a wide variety of organizations—not just electric utilities. Ace Hardware; REI, which specializes in outdoor clothing and gear; Ocean Spray; Sunkist; and Land O'Lakes operate as co-ops. In fact, there are more than 40,000 co-op businesses in the U.S., with 350 million members, according to a University of Wisconsin study.

October is National Cooperative Month, a good opportunity to show the reach, scope and numbers behind Texas' electric co-ops that, when added up, reveal the significant impact they have on rural and suburban communities.

30–35 pounds of gear

weighs down lineworkers when climbing a pole hooks, a belt, tools and more.

9,300 people work at the 69 electric co-ops in the state.

85

years

of co-ops in Texas. Bartlett EC, formed in 1935 as the first co-op in the country to receive a Rural Electrification Administration loan, turned on its first light March 7, 1936, at a farmhouse outside Bartlett.



3.7 million readers

of Texas Co-op Power, which has been landing in mailboxes since 1944. That's like everybody in Houston and Dallas having the same favorite magazine as you.



service, mostly in rural and suburban areas. **241** of Texas' 254 counties are served by electric co-ops.

325,000

miles of co-op power lines in Texas, enough to encircle Earth more than 13 times.

1,338,828 hours worked

without a lost-time incident at Bandera EC, which was honored in March for that long stretch of safety—remarkable considering the high voltage within arm's length of its lineworkers every day.

47 million lightning bolts

struck Texas in 2019—the most of any state by far. Not all of them knocked out power, but you can bet many of them put workers on edge. \$1.6 million

in scholarships awarded annually to college students by co-ops. A stack of 1.6 million \$1 bills would reach 573 feet high—or nearly twice the height of the Texas Capitol.

5.5 million poles hold up power lines in Co-op Country in Texas.



Texas farriers Why Horses truly know the way to a horse's heart Weat Shoes truly know

t's another sunny December day in West Texas, and Jim Crawford crosses the fifth and final cattle guard on his two-hour drive to the McManus Ranch from his home near Ballinger. Crawford is there to shoe horses, as he has been doing on this ranch since the early 1970s. He pulls his trailer to a convenient spot near the barn.

He wears denim, lace-up boots, suspenders and his signature red-and-white polka-dot welding cap. Last he ties on the leather farrier apron he stitched himself. Crawford is wearing the same outfit I remember him always wearing when he visited as I grew up on this ranch. My dad, Beaver McManus, a member of Concho Valley Electric Cooperative,

says it's the same uniform young Crawford wore the day he met him as a junior high boy when he came out to the ranch with his great-uncle Houston Crawford.

When you live this far out, you look forward to visitors. The days that Crawford comes to the ranch to shoe horses are days filled with storytelling. More often than not, farriers become lifelong friends with horse owners. "I couldn't have gotten along without him the last 30 years," Dad says. "He's more than someone who just came out to shoe our horses. He's part of our extended family."

Farrier, derived from the Latin word ferrarius, meaning blacksmith, is the professional name given to horseshoers. Many prefer to be called farriers, but others, like Crawford, prefer the simpler term "horseshoer." No matter what they're

called, they're necessary to the state's equine industry. Crawford recalls first getting the horseshoeing gig at the

ranch. Houston asked him to meet at the mailbox before dawn, and the young shoer beat him there. "I think that impressed him, that he didn't have to wait on me," says Crawford, a member of Coleman County Electric Coopera-

tive. Houston welcomed him to the house and made his signature extra-strong coffee. "It was boiling in the cup," Crawford laughs. "I thought, jeez, how does his system handle that? Must be cast iron." Nearly 50 years later, he still remembers the gray horse he shod that day.

Crawford loves his work, but he originally dreamed of becoming a calf roper.

"I had a lot of try, but I didn't have the talent," he jokes. "I could win fifth if they were paying four." The first horse Crawford shod was his own calf roping horse, Wimp, named after the horse's grandfather, Wimpy P-1, born on the King Ranch and the first horse registered with the American



OPPOSITE Farrier Jim Crawford has been fitting shoes onto horses for decades. ABOVE Crawford rasps one of Peanut's hooves for a final fit at McManus Ranch in Irion County.



Originally, nearly 100% of his clients were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Quarter Horse Association. Crawford hoped a regular horseshoeing clientele would enable him to stay at the roping gig longer.

In the spring of 1972, Crawford used his GI Bill benefits to go to horseshoeing school. An outbreak of screwworms in the summer of '72 forced ranchers to ride their land daily to monitor their livestock. This created high demand for farriers. Crawford was getting calls to book his services before he'd completed the 10-week course. When he finished, he had a satisfying work schedule and a long list of clients. He became so busy shoeing horses he never returned to roping.

Crawford's customers come to him through word-ofmouth recommendations. A stack of spiral notebooks tell the stories and names of most horses he's shod through the decades.

"Showing up and having the shoe stay on made my career," Crawford says. "When I first started, guys used their horses hard." Originally, nearly 100% of his clients







were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Texas ranks No. 1 in the nation for its inventory of horses, ponies, mules, burros and donkeys. Though there's been a transition in the horse's function from work to pleasure, horses are still big business in Texas and create a constant demand for farriers.

hy do horses need shoes? There's an old saying, "no foot, no horse," which speaks to the importance of a horse's feet to its overall health. Each horse's foot includes a mechanism that pumps blood back up to the heart, so each foot is like an auxiliary heart for the



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT Crawford shapes a horseshoe at his anvil. The tools and nails he uses. Crawford explains how he gives horses a proper fit. A homemade tool used to nail shoes to hooves. Crawford shows up for jobs with racks of horseshoes in the bed of his pickup.

edgeable in the treatment of many hoof diseases, such as laminitis, navicular disease and thrush.

It's believed that the horse was domesticated around 3000 B.C., and Egyptians and Persians are credited with creating the first horseshoes from woven reeds and grass. The horseshoe has evolved through the ages, though the steel shoe has not changed much since the mid-1800s, when Henry Burden patented a machine that could mass-produce horseshoes. Although many synthetic shoes have come on the market in recent years, the majority of farriers still put on a steel shoe that's either hand-forged or readymade and shaped either cold or hot and fitted to the animal.

animal. A horse's hoof is a living, growing part of that anatomy. Most components of a horse's hoof are elastic, so they also act as shock absorbers.

When the growth of the hoof is balanced by equal wear and no disease or abnormalities are present, horseshoes are not necessary. Horseshoes are used for protection, traction and correction. Whether it is racing, ranching or rodeoing, a horse's work is rough on its feet. That's when shoes are necessary. Shoes also correct some problems with gait and lameness.

Horseshoeing is both art and science, and skilled farriers pride themselves on helping to keep horses sound. Farriers study the anatomy of a horse's entire leg and are knowlBefore a shoe is placed, the farrier will clean and trim the hoof to ensure a level and balanced foot. Even hooves that go without shoes likely need to be trimmed on a regular basis. The farrier will then customize the shoe to mimic the shape of that horse's hoof wall. The shoe is nailed outside of the wall from the bottom, so the nails penetrate the portion of the hoof that has no feeling.

The Texas Professional Farriers Association comprises about 200 members that meet regularly for continuing education. Texas does not require farriers to have a license to practice, but the TPFA helps members achieve certification through the American Farrier's Association. Certification exams include a written and a practical Crawford, who once dreamed of becoming a calf roper, found his calling in 1972.

WEB EXTRA Learn more about alternative shoes and how to find or become a farrier, and read a proverb that puts a fine point on the value of horseshoes.

component. The TPFA also hosts clinics and competitions throughout the year.

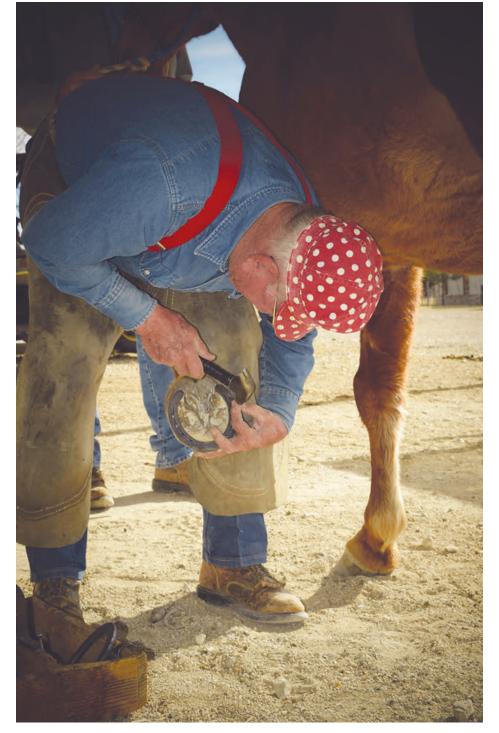
"A shoe should be a complement to the horse, not an interruption," says Danny Anderson, TPFA president. Anderson owns Indian Creek Forge in Whitesboro and is a member of PenTex Energy. He says the organization is growing, and there is an up-and-coming generation of farriers.

eterans in the industry are passing along their knowledge of the trade to new members, and they don't all look like Crawford. Women have gotten involved.

According to the 2019 Farrier Business Practices Report produced by *American Farriers Journal*, 18% of farriers are women, up from 8% reported three years prior. In 2018 Cornell University admitted its first allfemale class to its farrier program.

Nichole Smith co-owns SS Horseshoeing in Wichita Falls with her husband, Stephen, and is leading the way in the growing sector of female farriers. She was the first woman in the world to achieve multiple farrier certifications and has mentored other women.

"I'm really excited that so many young ladies are getting involved and doing so well," Smith says. "Some ladies are small-statured, and they need to be prepared to use their brain to overcome some of the challenges. I've always been welcomed in this industry, like family, and I appreci-



ate that." Smith forges all the steel and aluminum shoes she sets.

Although technology like 3D printing is quickly advancing this industry, there's no replacement for the friendly smile and personal care for horses a farrier brings.

Crawford smiles as he looks back at his career: "Having people know that I did a good job and knowing that I was appreciated—that's the reward."

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To Call It a Diamond Would Be an Insult Possessing fire, brilliance, and luster that far surpasses that of a diamond, this Nobel Prize winner's discovery sparkles unlike any gemstone on earth.

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Remodel With 2020 Electrical Code in Mind

THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE is revised every three years and outlines the minimum requirements for safe electrical installation. Many older homes may not have an adequate electrical system to meet the demands of today. If you're renovating your home, Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends having the following safety devices installed to maintain a safe home.

Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters

Available as circuit breakers and receptacles, AFCIs protect against electrical fires from malfunctions. The Consumer Product Safety Commission says that about half of all home electrical fires can be prevented by proper AFCI protection.

Surge Protective Devices

These devices protect against surges that can damage or reduce the life span of your electrical system and devices.

Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters

Also available as circuit breakers and receptacles, GFCIs protect against electric shock and are required in areas where water may come into contact with electricity, such as bathrooms.

Tamper-Resistant Receptacles

These receptacles function like normal receptacles but include an internal shutter system to prevent foreign objects from being inserted into the outlets. The 2020 National Electrical Code outlines the following protections in specific areas of the home.

Bathrooms: GFCI protection

Basements and crawlspaces: AFCI protection (finished basements) and GFCI protection (crawlspaces at or below grade) **Bedrooms:** AFCI protection

Common rooms (family, dining, parlor, libraries, dens, recreation and similar rooms): AFCI protection

Garages: GFCI protection

Hallways and closets: AFCI protection

Kitchens: AFCI and GFCI protection (in areas where the receptacles are installed to serve countertop surfaces or are installed within 6 feet of a sink)

Laundry areas: AFCI and GFCI protection Outdoors: GFCI protection

The 2020 National Electrical Code also requires:

- All receptacles in homes, garages, accessory buildings and common areas of multifamily homes must be protected by tamper-resistant receptacles.
- New and replaced service equipment is now required to be protected by type 1 or type 2 surge protective devices.
- ➤ Outdoor emergency disconnects are required for new construction and homes having their service replaced.

Keep Hot Water Hot

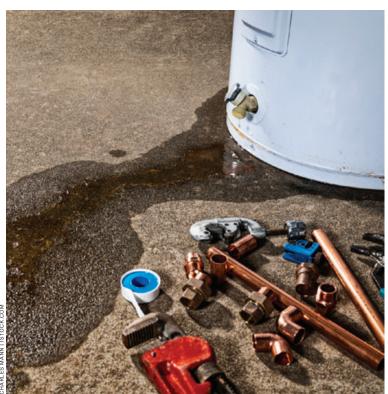
IS YOUR ELECTRIC WATER heater warm to the touch? If it is, then you need to insulate it.

Insulating a water heater can cut standby heat loss by about 25% and save up to 16% on your water heating bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Pre-cut blankets or jackets for water heaters are available for about \$20, and installation can be done in about an hour. Before installing insulation on your water heater, be sure that your system is not leaking. Leaky tanks need to be replaced.

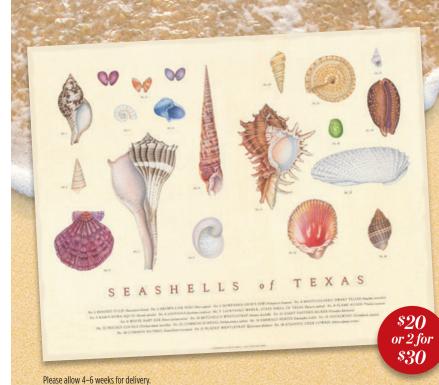
To install insulation on an electric water heater, follow these steps outlined on energy.gov:

- ▶ Turn off the water heater. For electric water heaters, turn off the breaker on the electrical panel. Measure the height of the water heater and cut the blanket to length. Leave the top of the water heater exposed, especially on a gas unit for which it is important to leave the vent uncovered.
- Wrap the insulation around the water heater and secure temporarily with tape. Position the blanket or jacket to where the ends do not come together over the access panels on the sides of the water tank.
- Use a marker to mark where the controls are so you can cut them out. Electric units usually have two panels on the side of the tank. Also mark the area where the pipe sticks out of the side of the water heater.
- Install the blanket. Line up the cut-out areas carefully, then secure the insulation with tape.
- Turn the water heater back on. Turn the breaker back on, and be sure to set the thermostat to an energy-efficient 120 degrees. A hotter setting could cause electrical wiring to overheat.
- ▶ Remember, heat loss can also occur from hot water pipes, so insulating those can result in energy savings, too. ●



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Oil Field Mysticism

The quest to find buried treasure produced scammers and their gadgets

BY CLAY COPPEDGE • ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID PLUNKERT

A TRAVIS COUNTY farmer named Charles Rolff devised an apparatus in the 1930s he called a doodlebug machine, which he believed would locate large underground deposits of oil. "It was described as a secret tube, sealed at both ends," United Press International wrote. "At one end, there was an opening to insert a 15-inch fork with two handles. In operation, a man takes the fork in both hands with the tube up and holds it over the land or leases, and by some way he can tell whether the land has oil-bearing possibilities or whether it's dry."

The doodlebug worked on generally the same principles as a divining rod that dowsers used to find water. Only certain people were believed to have the gift of sensing water or other deposits through the devices.

Rolff and a group of investors sued the Pearl Oil Company for proceeds and royalties in 1935, claiming the company used his doodlebug to find oil in Rusk County. A Williamson County jury decided that the presence of a doodlebug was irrelevant. The jury didn't say the doodlebug didn't work, just that it didn't matter.

An appeals court ruled against Rolff. In his written opinion, James McClendon, chief justice of the Court of Civil Appeals, said, "We take judicial knowledge of the scientific fact that there is no virtue whatever in the 'doodle bug' in locating oil or other substances underneath the earth."

In the early days of oil exploration, a doodlebug or divining rod made as much sense to some people as geology or seismology. In establishing the rule of capture as the water law of the land, the Texas Supreme Court in 1904 had deemed that underground water is too "secret, occult and concealed" to regulate. If the capricious behavior of underground water smacked of mysticism, so did underground oil.

Around the same time Rolff was promoting his doodlebug, two men, Ralph Malone and Vivian Buie, were hawking a gadget that operated on the same mysterious principles. In 1935 Malone and Buie found themselves in court, charged with swindling Houston investors out of \$20,000. Buie was sentenced to five years for mail fraud. Malone got three years.

Lawyers Arthur Heemann and C. Ray Smith not only lost the case for Malone and Buie but also

ended up as defendants on mail fraud charges. They hired their own lawyers who argued the two men were not swindlers, even though Heemann had been charged five years earlier for promoting a bogus outfit called the Oil Investors Company. Heemann and Smith were acquitted.

By the late 1940s, the Securities and Exchange Commission was investigating Malone for hawking a device he called a magnetic logger. The SEC concluded: "The claims made for its efficacy in discovering oil were the usual ones and were false." A 1951 injunction put an end, once and for all, to Malone's shenanigans.

But oil field fraudsters changed with the times. When America became fascinated with UFOs, Silas Newton and Leo GeBauer claimed to have a machine that "operated on the same magnetic principles as the flying saucers."

They said they came across a device after an alleged spaceship crashed in Aztec, New Mexico, in 1948. Newton and GeBauer convinced author Frank Scully they were telling the truth, so he published a book called *Behind the Flying Saucers* in 1950 that sold 60,000 copies. *True* magazine checked out the book's claims in 1952 and deduced that Newton and GeBauer were "oil con artists who had hoaxed a gullible Scully."

A jury agreed. A headline in the *The Denver Post* announced the verdict: " 'Saucer Scientist' in \$50,000 Fraud." Their UFO-inspired oil-finding machine turned out to be a box of radio parts with a bunch of cool-looking dials and switches.

In 1936 the Society of Exploration Geophysicists warned young geophysicists about employing "black magic" or "doodle-bug" methods based on unproven properties of oil, minerals or geological formations.

However, in the 1982 book *Geophysics in the Affairs* of *Man*, the authors noted that the term doodlebugger had taken on a new meaning by the 1950s.

"Twenty years later, it was a badge of honor to be known as a doodlebugger, i.e., the field personnel of geophysical crews," they wrote. "Still later, the term was applied to everyone who worked in exploration geophysics."



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ne of the most popular ways to buy silver is the Silver Eagle legal-tender U.S. Silver Dollars struck in one ounce of 99.9% pure silver. When the COVID-19 pandemic began sweeping the world, demand skyrocketed. But there was a problem...

U.S. Mint Halts Production

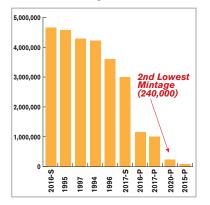
West Point, the U.S. Mint branch that normally strikes Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) Silver Eagles, went into lockdown. Prices quickly shot up, and freshly struck Silver Eagles became much harder to find at an affordable price. To meet the rising demand, the U.S. Mint knew it had to act—and act fast.

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For just 13 days, the U.S. Mint struck an "Emergency Production" run of U.S. Silver Dollars at the Philadelphia Mint. This was great for silver buyers, and *really* great for collectors. Here's why:

The Mystery of Silver Bullion

A coin's value is often tied to its rarity. One way to determine a coin's rarity is by its mint mark—a small letter indicating where a coin was struck. Since Silver Eagles are almost always produced solely in West Point, the coins don't feature one of these mint marks. But this year's Silver Eagles were also produced in Philly—so few (a scant 240,000) that they are now the second smallest mintage of Silver Eagles ever struck! So how do we tell a 2020(W) Silver Eagle from a 2020(P)?



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Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) is one of the world's leading third-party coin grading services. Thanks to some skilled detective work, they have certified these coins as being struck at the Philadelphia Mint during this special Emergency Production run. What's more, a number of these coins have been graded as near-flawless Mint State-69 (MS69) condition—just one point away from absolute perfection!

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Boomtown Pandemic

The deadly flu outbreak of 1918 hit oil fields hard

BY GENE FOWLER

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has drawn comparisons to the influenza outbreak of 1918, what became known as the Spanish flu, which was the 20th century's deadliest pandemic. The Spanish flu infected about 500 million people, or one-third of the world's population, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates. Tens of millions died worldwide, including approximately 675,000 Americans.

Of the 5,000 Texans killed in World War I, a third are believed to have died from influenza. While the battlefield, with soldiers crowded in makeshift ramparts, provided a natural incubator for the virus, social conditions during Texas' early 20th-century oil boom also allowed the disease to spread unchecked. The lack of suitable housing and access to fresh water, and poor sanitation in towns besieged by thousands of boomers —as Ranger, Burkburnett and Desdemona were in 1918—created an environment in which infection flourished.

Researcher Ben Wright found evidence of the boomtown epidemic in the Oral History of the Texas Oil Industry, an archive of recordings held by the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. "Part of my job is to work out ways the center's collections inform current issues," said Wright. "The past is never lacking in its

FOOTNOTES IN TEXAS HISTORY

Main Street in Desdemona at the height of the oil boom in 1918, which was also when the flu pandemic struck.

warnings, lessons and reassurances."

The interviews and other materials in the archive were gathered in the 1950s and include direct testimony about the 1918 flu pandemic.

Interviewee Walter Cline, who later became mayor of Burkburnett, served as field director for the Red Cross at Call Field near Wichita Falls when the flu hit. Cline headed into the Burkburnett oil field with doctors and nurses as well as food, clothing, medicine and other donated resources. His team found people "suffering from flu and exposed in covered wagons and under these tarpaulins," he said. "In one place, you'd find a mother dead, with a little 6- or 8-months-old baby crawling around over her breast, trying to open her dress. ... I think on our first trip west of Burkburnett, we gathered up some six or eight dead men, women and children, and they continued to die until we found temporary shelter for them."

Fred Jennings, a rig manager at Goose Creek Oil Field near Baytown, recalled, "The people died, and they just died so fast here till they didn't have no undertakers. You'd just have to put them in pickup trucks and haul them to Houston. Just put them in a pine box and bury them any way you could. ... I saw one man working and walk home and was dead in 30 minutes."

Don Carleton, Briscoe Center executive director, says we don't know the full impact of the 1918 pandemic, but the disease reached Texas' highest office. Researching his forthcoming biography of Gov. William P. Hobby, Carleton learned that Hobby fought the deadly contagion just as desperately as the roughnecks of the oil fields.

"I was quite surprised to learn that even our state's governor was afflicted with the disease," Carleton said. ■

TCP KITCHEN

Buckles, Betties, Cobblers and Crisps

Lots of names for turning fruit and a crunchy topping into irresistible treats

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Buckles and betties and cobblers and crisps—whatever you call them—are the essence of comforting, down-home cooking. Everyone has their favorite recipe in their back pocket, no matter the season. Our family is partial to crisps. That buttery, crunchy topping is tempting enough to eat on its own, and pairing it with juicy fruits (and a scoop of ice cream) makes it difficult to resist. Another bonus: These dishes are easy to make, so dessert can happen any night of the week.

Mixed Berry Pistachio Crisp

- 5 tablespoons cold butter, plus more for greasing the dish
 4 cups frozen mixed berries
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 ¼ cup sugar
- 4 tablespoons flour, divided use
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/4 cup chopped pistachios
- ¹∕₃ cup brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

COOK'S TIP To make this recipe gluten free, use oat flour, almond flour or your favorite gluten-free blend.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-inch pie dish or oven-safe skillet with butter.

2. In a large bowl, add berries, then sprinkle lemon juice over the top. Combine sugar and 2 tablespoons flour and sprinkle over berries; mix well. Pour into the prepared pan.

3. In a small bowl, combine oats, pistachios, brown sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter using a pastry blender or two forks until large clumps are formed and no dry bits remain. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit mixture.

4. Bake 45–50 minutes, until browned and bubbly.

SERVES 6

WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Blackberry Basil Crumble.



Cherry Blueberry Buckle beckey brown navasota valley ec

BUCKLE

½ cup (1 stick) salted butter, softened, plus more for greasing the dish
½ cup sour cream
½ cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Zest and juice of 1 orange
¼ teaspoon salt
¾ cup heavy whipping cream
2 cups pancake and waffle mix
1¼ cups frozen pitted cherries
¾ cup frozen blueberries
2 tablespoons brown sugar

TOPPING

1¼ cups heavy whipping cream ¼ cup powdered sugar Zest and juice of 1 orange Mint leaves, for garnish

1. BUCKLE Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter or cooking spray and set aside.

2. Using a stand mixer, cream butter, sour cream and sugar. Add egg, vanilla, orange zest and juice, salt, and whipping cream, mixing on low to combine.

3. Slowly add pancake and waffle mix, scraping down sides as needed while mixing.

4. Spread batter into prepared pan and top with cherries and blueberries. Sprinkle top with brown sugar.

5. Bake 30–35 minutes, until toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean and buckle is puffed and brown. Let cool slightly before serving.

6. TOPPING While the buckle bakes, whip the cream, powdered sugar, zest and juice



\$500 WINNER

PB&J Peach Cobbler chuck burgess heart of texas ec



The unexpected addition of peanut butter makes this cobbler a dish reminiscent of your favorite childhood lunch. To make the mixing easier, warm the peanut butter and preserves in the microwave for 10–15 seconds.

SERVES 12

for greasing the dish 3⁄4 cup crunchy peanut butter 3⁄4 cup milk 1 cup sugar 1 cup flour 1 tablespoon baking powder 1⁄2 teaspoon salt 1 can (29 ounces) sliced peaches

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, plus more

- in juice, drained
- 3/4 cup peach preserves
- $\ensuremath{^{1\!\!/_2}}\xspace$ cup brown sugar

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 13-by-9-inch glass baking dish with butter.

2. Melt remaining butter in a medium bowl. Whisk in peanut butter then milk until blended.

3. In another bowl, mix the sugar, flour, baking powder and salt. Add the butter mixture and stir until blended. Pour into baking dish and spread evenly.

4. In a medium bowl, mix peaches, preserves and brown sugar. Then spoon evenly over batter. Bake 40–50 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and juices are bubbly.

健 \$500 Recipe Contest

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Whether you love them soft, crunchy or puffy, tell us what makes your tacos the best. Enter at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests by October 10.

RECIPE PHOTOS: MEGAN MYERS. WINNER: COURTESY CHUCK BURGESS

RECIPES CONTINUED

together until soft peaks are formed. Chill until ready to serve. Serve buckle with a dollop of whipped cream and a mint leaf.

SERVES 12



Spiced Apple Cobbler

C. PAIGE YOUNG-CANNON PEDERNALES EC

You don't need to peel the apples, making the prep easy enough for kids like Sylvia Cannon, who submitted this recipe with the help of her mom.

FILLING

1 tablespoon butter, melted, plus more to grease baking dish

5 small sweet apples, cut into chunks 1/4 cup sugar

- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract Pinch of salt

TOPPING

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened 3/4 cup plus 1/3 cup sugar, divided use 11/2 cups self-rising flour 5 teaspoons cinnamon 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger 3/4 cup milk

COOK'S TIP If you don't have self-rising flour, you can make your own. For each cup of allpurpose flour, add in 11/2 teaspoons baking powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-9-inch ceramic baking dish with butter and set aside.

2. FILLING In a large bowl, pour melted butter over cut apples. Add sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, vanilla and salt. Stir and set aside.

3. TOPPING In a separate bowl, cream butter and ¾ cup sugar until pale and fluffy. Add flour and toss to coat the butter, then cut coated butter into the flour using a pastry blender or two forks. The mixture should resemble sandy crumbs.

4. Add remaining sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and milk. Mix until smooth; it will be very thick.

5. Pour filling into prepared dish, making sure to include any accumulated juices. Dollop the topping evenly over the apples.

6. Bake until topping is golden and puffed, and filling is bubbling, about 45 minutes.

SERVES 8



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HIT THE ROAD



Matagorda Island Lighthouse

Ancient tower once guided ships to Indianola

BY CHET GARNER

IF THE HEAT DIDN'T TAKE ME, the mosquitoes would, so I pedaled as fast as I could through the grass and sand, hoping I was rolling in the right direction. I was committed to seeing the Matagorda Island lighthouse, and the price of admission is a 2.5-mile trek across this desolate island.

The barrier island is 38 miles long and uninhabited, save for a small outpost used by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. TPWD ran a daily ferry to the island until 2003, when a fire destroyed the state's boat, and the ferry service was lost in the flames. If you want to visit Matagorda Island now, you either float your own boat across Espiritu Santo Bay or enlist a fishing guide in Port O'Connor. I reached the island with the help of guide Mike Bohac, who delivered me to Matagorda, pointed toward the lighthouse and said, "Head that way."

After an hour of pedaling, I could see the lighthouse. It was built in 1852 to guide ships through Pass Cavallo on their way to Indianola. Numerous renovations and a relocation raised the structure to where it now sits, 91 feet above sea level. The Confederate States army tried to blow up the lighthouse to keep it from falling into Union hands, but the cast-iron structure survived.

I peered into a small glass window at the bottom of the lighthouse and wondered what the view was like from the top. Volunteers open it up on special occasions, but my trip was not one of those. Near the lighthouse, I inspected the foundation for the lightkeeper's home and a small cemetery where deceased keepers lie in rest, still guarding the tower.

It was easy to imagine the isolation they must have felt here on the edge of Texas. \hline

ABOVE Chet takes a selfie with the 1852 Matagorda Island lighthouse.

WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from the Matagorda lighthouse and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

TOBER Alvarado [3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 31] Sunset Hill Tree Farm Pumpkin Patch, (817) 713-6114. sunsethilltreefarm.com Tyler [8–11] Fall Fun— Hunter/Jumper Horse Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com Ingram [9-10, 16-17, 23-24] Count Dracula, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com Jacksonville Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair. (903) 268-1598 Kerrville Kerr County Market **Days and Hill Country** Swap Meet, (830) 459-6198, kerrmarketdays.org Brenham [10, 16-17, 24] Hot Nights, Cool Tunes, (979) 337-7580, downtownbrenham.com **Dallas Prism Health North Texas Virtual LifeWalk** 2020. (214) 521-5191. lifewalk.org/event/lifewalk Austin [16–19] American Institute of Architects Austin Homes Tour, (512) 452-4332, aiaaustin.org/homes-tour/2020 Terlingua [16-17] Ride 4 Trails, (432) 371-3382, ride4trails.com Tyler [17–18] North Texas Hunter Jumper Club Fall Horse Show, (903) 882-8696,

texasrosehorsepark.com

Edinburg [20–24] Virtual Los Muertos Bailan, (956) 383-6246, edinburgarts.com/ losmuertosbailan

Canton [22–24] Classic Country & Honky Tonk Halloween Party, (903) 245-6300, visitcantontx.com

22

24

Grand Saline Goody Trail & Trunk or Treat on Main, (903) 962-5631, grandsalinemainstreet.com

New Braunfels Simpson Texas Car and Bike Show, (830) 625-1774, playinnewbraunfels.com

Kerrville [24–25] Haunted Ghoul Pool, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

Rusk [24–25] Pumpkin Patch Train Ride, (855) 632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

Buffalo Gap [24–Nov. 7] Scarecrow Festival, (325) 572-3365, taylorcountyhistorycenter.org/ scarecrow-festival

Jacksonville Trunk or Treat, (903) 586-2217, jacksonvilletexas.com

Rosanky Christmas in October Toy Drive, (512) 360-3968, rosankybaptistchurch.com

Tyler [30–Nov. 1] Texas Rose Autumn Breed Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

MORE EVENTS >

健 Submit Your Event

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

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Fredericksburg Getaway Contest

Enter online for a chance to win a two-night getaway in picturesque Fredericksburg, including a half-day wine tour, museum passes and gift certificates for great local restaurants.

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Pick of the Month Two Women Look West Cuero, Oct. 8–Nov. 1

(361) 277-2866, chisholmtrailmuseum.org

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum features photographs of the King Ranch by Helen C. Kleberg and Toni Frissell. Kleberg was a self-taught photographer and wife of the longtime CEO of the King Ranch. Frissell was a New York fashion photographer. They photographed the King Ranch from the 1930s to the 1950s.

OCTOBER EVENTS CONTINUED

31

Kerrville Family Fright Night, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

Kerrville Pumpkin Run/Walk and Harvest Festival, (830) 315-5762, kerrvillekroc.org

Austin [Oct. 31–Nov. 15] Virtual Texas Book Festival, (512) 477-4055, texasbookfestival.org

NOVEMBER

Houston Rockin' Resiliency Virtual Luncheon, (713) 623-6543, thewomensfund.org/events

Lubbock West Texas Latino Artist Día De Los Muertos Celebración, (806) 792-1212, Ioshermanosfamilia.org

George West A Day of Stories, (361) 436-1098, dobie-westtheatre.com

Selfies

The modern self-portrait, a selfie captures Texas life in a personal way. Now, thanks to technology, it's easier than ever to put ourselves in someone else's boots.

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

GAIL WISE TRI-COUNTY EC

This little fella "came over any time we worked the cows."

VIRGINIA GARCIA KARNES EC

Cinnamon, a new chick on the farm, loves taking selfies.

DOUGLAS RATCHFORD BLUEBONNET EC

"An early morning flight in a good friend's 1930 Waco biplane."

DOLLY HOLLINGSWORTH SAN PATRICIO EC

"I said smile for the camera, and she sure did."



Upcoming Contests

DUE OCT 10 Saddles DUE NOV 10 Diners DUE DEC 10 Storms

Enter online and review submission rules at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.

WEB EXTRA See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.







Memorable Moment

Look for striking portraits in your everyday life

STORY AND PHOTO BY JULIA ROBINSON WHEN I BECAME a photojournalist, portraits were a dreaded assignment. I wanted to document real people living real lives, not direct them like a studio photographer.

Initially I hid behind my documentarian role to avoid the hard work of corralling light. But as I learned more about portraiture, I wanted to get better—so I consumed the lavish sets of Annie Leibovitz; the sculpted light of Martin Schoeller; the whimsical, dark vision of Dan Winters; the dynamism of Robert Seale.

Making an emotional connection with a subject to tell a story with an image is a skill I find more valuable than slick lighting, perfect hair and teeth, or a celebrity face. The portraits made by Dorothea Lange, Diane Arbus, Robert Frank, Walker Evans and Sally Mann Francisco "Panchito" Flores of San Antonio is a third-generation *charro*— Spanish for cowboy learning the Mexican rodeo tradition of *charreada*.

have helped me tell the story of a person, a place or a moment in history.

I've gotten better at lighting and directing people who begin a photo session with, "I hate photos of myself." The most meaningful portraits I have made are not those for a newspaper or a business client. They've been grandparents at someone's wedding, my nieces as they grow, my family at ease. The portraits I value the most are the environmental and the informal.

Looking back through my family photos, it's the candid portraits that stand out. A moment of connection between family members, the peak action of a laugh, the details of a bedroom or a set of toys that add to the nostalgia. Portraits don't always need to be taken in a studio or in our best clothes. They can be "found" in our everyday lives.

The class photo on the mantel has an official purpose—to pause the march of time from grade to grade. The same is true for the annual family Christmas card and the child in bluebonnets. The images that stop me in my tracks, however, are the laughter, the quiet connection, the unaware expressions of self.

The only secret is practice. Try bringing your camera everywhere for a day. If you make picture-taking a seamless part of everyday life, the people you photograph won't think twice when you point the lens in their direction.

Hunt the good light in your house, your backyard or on the walk to the park. If you want to make a noncandid portrait, the window light from a northor south-facing window will be the most flattering, along with the golden hours just before dusk and just after dawn.

Observe the moments that spark your connection and joy. Think about what makes a person light up, and see if you can capture it. One fleeting and hard-won image like this is worth a thousand studio sessions.





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