

Texas Cooperative Electric Power

News of Interest to Rural Electric Cooperatives in Texas

Published by Texas Power Reserve Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Vol. 1 Austin, Texas, July 1, 1944 No. 1

THE BABY IS BORN

By CHARLES M. CURRMAN, Manager, Farmers Electric Cooperative, Greenville, Texas

The first issue of "Texas Cooperative Electric Power" marks a distinct milestone in the progress to completely electrify rural Texas. With the advent of this healthy and husky baby among Texas newspapers there will no longer exist that vacant, uncultivated space within the garden of printed and published facts.

No longer will the lay members of the R.E.A. Cooperatives be forced to stand by with a feeling of distress when some writer or individual gives lip service to the poisonous propaganda of the Power Trust, wondering just what is the answer to the unwarranted attack on the Rural Electrification Cooperatives. The answer should be found in the columns of this new publication.

There are no facts which the R.E.A. Cooperatives want hidden. "There are no bugs under the cooperative chip." The Co-ops want the full white spotlight of public knowledge turned upon them. They want the public fully informed of what they have done, what they are doing and what they plan to do.

WANT PUBLIC INFORMED

The more the public knows about the R.E.A. Cooperatives, how they function, why they function and what they are accomplishing and the service they are rendering directly to rural people and rural institutions and indirectly to urban people and urban institutions, the more friends and supporters they will have.

There is a great potentially productive assignment awaiting this newcomer to the newspaper fam-

ily. Great, indeed, is its opportunity for carrying forward a much-needed educational program in the field of Cooperative Rural Electrification. There is much yet to do that the members of R.E.A. Cooperatives should learn of the many uses to which electric power is adaptable, of the money and time that it will save them, of the conveniences of doing things the electric way. This publication, with its widespread circulation, should furnish the vehicle with which to carry information to the 100,000 cooperative members and their families.

ELECTRICITY MAKES FARM BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

There is a butcher, a baker, a banker and a groceryman in your town who has been wondering why, during the past few years, the farm has so suddenly become such a desirable place to you on which to live. Of course, Rural Electric Power is the answer. You should see to it that a copy of your publication gets into their hands that they may learn of this electric farm economy. With all city conveniences now available, plus the soul-cleansing atmosphere of the country, with elbow room, with a cow and chickens and a garden of their own, they may decide to move to a small farm while continuing their businesses in town.

SOME MISINFORMED REGARDING REA CO-OPS

There are many people in the cities and even some in the country who have been getting their information through the Power Trust propaganda mill, who think R.E.A. Cooperatives a bad thing, with the result that, from time to time

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State Meeting of REA Co-ops To Be Held in Austin July 10-11

Texas Power Reserve Sets Up State Office

The Texas Power Reserve, state-wide association of rural electric cooperatives, set up state offices in Austin May 15. Headquarters are in the Scarborough building. G. W. Haggard, formerly executive secretary of the Texas Farm Bureau Federation, has been named executive secretary and editor of the state-wide paper which the association is sponsoring.

Organized in December, 1940, to bring about a reduction in rates of wholesale power to cooperatives, the Power Reserve has a record of outstanding achievement to its credit. At the time of its organization, co-ops were paying 12 to 16 mills per KWH to the private utility companies for wholesale power.

RATES REDUCED

Today, as a result of concerted efforts by this organization and the wholesome influence of the Texas river project and other public power agencies, rates have been substantially reduced over most of the state, now ranging down to 6 mills in some areas. In general, reductions have averaged around 33 per cent. Further rate reductions can and will be brought about by the united effort of all the cooperatives.

The Power Reserve serves as a coordinating, service, and educational agency.

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Chesser Is Named Region 10 Head of Applications, Loans

B. W. Chesser, for the past four years field representative for the Applications and Loans Division of REA in Region 10, has been named regional head of this division, with headquarters in St. Louis, Mo. He assumed his new duties there the latter part of June.

A native of Martin county, West Texas, Mr. Chesser graduated from Texas Technological College at Lubbock in 1921. After teaching school several years he served as AAA administrator in Crosby county and later as county agent of Haskell county for three years. He was with the Soil Conservation for two and one-half years before coming with REA in 1939. For the past two years he has been field chief in Region 10.

Mr. Chesser has many friends in the south-west, having traveled extensively over this region in the last four years, working with local managers and boards of directors in making electricity available to rural homes.

"My work in the field has been most pleasant, and it is with sincere regret that I leave the state," he said. "However, I feel that this new assignment offers larger opportunities for service to the rural electrification program and to the people of Region 10."

"I expect to be back in the state as often as possible and I will continue to need the same counsel and cooperation from my friends in the cooperatives that I have always enjoyed in the past. I order to render maximum service."

Electricity's Place in Food Production And Post-War Will Be Discussed

Cooperative electricity's contributions to wartime food production will be reviewed and its place in post-war agriculture discussed at a statewide meeting of rural electric cooperatives in Austin July 10-11, 1944.

"Food will win the war and bring peace" said Secretary of Agriculture Wickard in the early days of the present struggle, and no factor has played a more important part in increased production on the farm than the labor-saving service of electricity. Likewise nothing is expected to be of greater importance in the post-war period.



WILLIAM J. NEAL

OVER 200 EXPECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

As this issue went to press, word had been received from 41 co-ops that they will be represented at the annual statewide meeting in Austin July 10-11 with a total of 119 delegates.

Reports were coming in daily, and attendance at the annual meeting is expected to exceed 200. Co-ops which have not yet reported their estimated attendance to the state office are asked to send these in at the earliest possible date so that arrangements may be completed for the banquet and other sessions.

BRIDGES IN WEST TEXAS

Q. C. Bridges, formerly lineman with the Navarro County Electric Cooperative, has recently taken a position as supervisor of the safety and job training program in the West Texas area.

Texas statewide meeting comes at an opportune time. Still larger food production for our armies and our fighting allies in the crucial days ahead is the first consideration of every farm family in the land—a greater production that can be brought about by larger and more efficient use of electricity.

POST-WAR ASPECTS

Also, before another annual meeting rolls round, America may be in the first stages of its program of post-war reconversion. Rural electrification is expected to play a major role in this, not only because of its vital importance to agriculture, but also as a means of providing employment in the manufacture of electrical supplies and appliances.

These and other aspects of the rural electrification program will be given thorough consideration during the two-day meeting. Managers, employees, directors, and members of every electric cooperative in the state, as well as other leaders in the field of agriculture, are cordially invited to attend. Members of local boards of directors are especially asked to be present and participate in the meeting.

NEAL TO SPEAK

Among the speakers will be William J. Neal, deputy administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, St. Louis, Mo., who will speak to the group the afternoon of the first day. Congressman W. R. (Bob) Fongue will be the speaker at the banquet.

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Your Cooperative Newspaper

This is Volume I, Number 1, of TEXAS COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC POWER, a new statewide publication devoted to promoting the interests of rural electrification in Texas.

The editor and board of directors of the Texas Power Reserve, state association of rural electric cooperatives, which is sponsoring the new publication, believe there is a definite need for a statewide news organ of this sort—to help in coordinating the activities of the various co-ops, to keep members informed of developments, both state and national, that affect them as consumers of rural electric systems, to carry information and suggestions regarding new and more efficient uses of electricity and in various other ways serve as a general medium of information.

Naturally, we expect to enlarge and improve the publication as time goes on. For example, it is planned to add a women's page carrying features of special interest to homemakers; also a utilization page, perhaps a youth's page, and many other features. We especially invite contributions to a "Letters From Readers" column which we hope to start, along with other features, in the forthcoming issue.

This publication is a 100 per cent cooperative enterprise. It belongs to the rural electric cooperatives that make up the Texas Power Reserve. Therefore, it belongs to you, as a consumer-owner of one of these local co-ops.

Keeping pace with the general growth of cooperation in America, the cooperative press has made rapid strides in recent years. True to the spirit of the co-ops, these publications have made service to the readers their first consideration, because the readers own the business, just as they, as consumers, also own the businesses that serve them with electricity.

Rural electric cooperative members of Texas, this is your paper. It will be largely what you want and make it. We hope every cooperative in Texas will subscribe 100 per cent. Criticisms, suggestions, and comment will also be appreciated.

Together, let's work to give Texas the best cooperative newspaper in these United States.

FARMERS WIN MAJOR VICTORY IN PASSAGE OF PACE BILL

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24.—Rural electrification won two outstanding victories and suffered one unexpected reverse in recent legislative developments at the capital.

One of the greatest victories in years was the approval by both Houses of Congress of Title V of the Pace bill which extends the loan period and reduces interest rates to REA cooperatives.

This measure passed both House and Senate and went to the President shortly before Congress recessed.

Passed with the active support of the national association and the various state organizations of REA cooperatives, including the Texas Power Reserve, it is estimated the Pace bill will save the co-ops a total of \$2,500,000 annually in interest charges.

Briefly, Title V of the measure will:

Renew the authority of the REA to borrow from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. (Present authority expires June 30, 1944.)

Amend Section 4 and 5 of the REA act, providing for interest at the rate of 3 per cent on new and existing loans to co-ops. (Present rates have ranged from 2 1/2 to 3 per cent.)

Extend from 25 to 35 years the period of loans under Section 4 of the Act.

Amend Section 3(b) to authorize the appropriation of such sums as Congress may from time to time deem necessary for the purposes of the act.

The second victory for cooperatives was the approval by the Senate Commerce Committee of the Home amendment to the current

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A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

AS a result of the rural electrification program, initiated by executive order in 1935 and enacted as a 10-year program by Congress in 1936, the lights have been going on steadily throughout rural America during the past eight years.

No other achievement in history surpasses the record of what American farmers and their families have accomplished during these eight years through cooperative action. Texas farmers have been among the leaders in this development.

Eight years ago less than three per cent of Texas farms had central station electric service. The barns on most farms in Sweden were better lighted than the majority of rural homes in this state, and in fact, throughout rural America.

Today, 30 per cent of Texas farms are electrified, and the figure would doubtless be much greater but for the temporary interruption in construction brought about by the war.

The cooperative rural electrification program unites in one great movement the greatest advances mankind has made in the fields of natural and social sciences.

Just as electricity is the most useful scientific tool that man has been able to devise for his own service and well-being, just so is the cooperative method of distributing this electricity the ultimate in economic democracy. All indications are that we have seen only the beginning of the movement to bring electric power to ALL farms in this country. Rural America has had a taste of the blessings of electricity and there will be no let-up until the job is complete. A vast program of construction and expansion awaits only the ending of the war, which will make labor and materials available again.

In our plans for expansion, however, we must not forget that there are certain trusts and monopolies that do not like the cooperative way of distributing electricity. They will be unceasing in their efforts not only to handicap the program's expansion, but to deny co-ops access to wholesale power at reasonable rates. The next several years will be crucial. Members of rural electric cooperatives must be vigilant to protect their program from such opposition.

We must see to it that our lawmakers, our city and small-town friends—the public in general—realize what cooperative rural electrification has meant to American farmers and their families, not only in better living conditions, but also in increased productive efficiency, a matter that concerns not only farmers, but other Americans in all walks of life.

We must protect and extend our program, bearing in mind that its development and worth will be in direct proportion to the interest that we as consumer-owners take in our own cooperative enterprise.

THE TIME FOR ACTION

THIS is election year — the time when the people choose the men who will make and administer the laws under which we live during the forthcoming two years or longer.

It is of utmost importance that we as citizens and voters elect men to office who will serve and promote unreservedly the interests of the people who elect them.

Now—not next January or later—is the time to find out where the various candidates for county, state, and national office stand with regard to such programs as cooperative rural electricity and the related question of public power.

These are issues which vitally concern all America. Rural electrification *should not* be a political issue at all. Its advantages are so obvious, its achievements so great, that every office-holder—and every other citizen—should be able to recognize its value and lend it his enthusiastic support.

But, unfortunately, certain vested interests do not appreciate the program's accomplishments, and they have been so active in seeking to influence legislation and public opinion, that members of the cooperatives are compelled to take steps to protect their program from restrictive and crippling legislation.

Between now and July 22—date of the state democratic primary—every cooperative member who is interested in continuing to enjoy electricity at reasonable rates should review carefully the record and statements of all candidates on these vital matters.

Every office-holder and office-seeker should be called upon by his rural constituents to state definitely and unequivocally his position on the question of cooperative rural electricity, and also the development of public hydro-electric projects to provide such cooperatives with wholesale power at rates that can afford to pay.

Only by such action can we insure the safety and progress of our program during the forthcoming critical post-war period.

CO-OPS NOT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Rural electric cooperatives are NOT agencies of the Federal government. They are private cooperative enterprises owned by the people they serve. The co-ops borrowed money from the Rural Electrification Administration to set up their distributing systems, just as many banks and other private institutions borrowed money from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The rural electric cooperatives are paying their loans back with interest, in many instances considerably in advance of the date such payments are due. Loans to these co-ops are among the best investments Uncle Sam ever made.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

The present rate of activity indicates that when the Rural Electrification Administration's final year is completed, records will show an increase of approximately 400 per cent over the activities of 1943.

This program of extending modern electric power to the farmer on the food front has accomplished unprecedented results. The electrified farm offers wide opportunities for a more diversified agriculture. Rural electricity was a vital factor in making possible the food production record of the past year.

Electrification means, as well, better living on the farms. It means bright lights at night and refrigeration and radios; it means that druggery can be eliminated and modern conveniences substituted.

Post-war programs for agriculture, as planned by the various states, contain outlines indicating a plan of rural electrification to include the 7,151,188 farms and rural homes as yet unserved. The primary objective of REA — that ultimately the farm homes of America may be brought from darkness to light and that the burden of toil upon the shoulders of the American farmer may be lightened by mechanical equipment—cannot be realized too soon.

Let there be light.—*Corpus Christi Call-Times.*

Hand Operated Sheller Converted To Motor Use Proves Great Success

Shelling corn by turning a handcrank is a long, tiresome task, especially when one has to shell several bushels a day, as H. O. Angerstein, president of the DeWitt Electric Co-operative has to do for his commercial chick hatchery.

"That's what Mr. Angerstein was doing—shelling corn— one day back in 1940 when C. W. Beck, manager of the DeWitt Co-op, dropped in at his farm. It was springtime and Angerstein was finding the going rough.

"Wouldn't it be fine if we could figure out some way an electric motor could do that job?" Beck asked. "That's the sort of thing children could do after school, and it would free you to do other work."

The upshot was that Beck carted the sheller off to town, with the understanding that if he could redesign it for motor use, Angerstein would pay for the cost of the materials. If he couldn't, electricity successfully—well, Beck would buy Angerstein a new sheller, because the old one would probably be junk!

200 NOW IN USE

The electrified sheller worked. In fact, it worked so successfully that about 200 of this model are now in use on the lines of the DeWitt County Co-op.

Here is the way Beck electrified the sheller. As those who operate one know, the crank which turns the sheller is on the opposite side from the fly wheel, and the handle is geared so that the weight of the fly wheel helps to turn the machine. On the same shaft with the fly wheel is a rubber, and another gear which is connected to the blower in the lower part of the machine, by either a leather belt or an open link chain drive.

Beck had someone turn the sheller at the normal speed, while he checked the number of RPM with a stopwatch. He found the RPM at hand turning to be 50, and knew he would have to gear down the speed of the motor by obtaining a proper reduction through the use of pulleys.

THE CONVERSION PROCESS

First Beck removed the handle of the machine. Then he took the flywheel to a machine shop and had a half-inch groove cut in it for a V-Belt. Next he mounted a quarter-horsepower 1,725-RPM motor with a built-in switch and cord on a piece of one-inch lumber 12x11 inches in size. To the board he bolted two 3-inch bolt hinges, and attached the other ends of the hinges to the motor, in line with the bottom of the sheller, so that the motor could be raised or lowered as needed. (Beck made certain that the motor was in line with the flywheel of the machine.) Attaching the ground flywheel to the sheller, he hooked on a V-belt, and the weight of the motor kept the belt tight.

Beck is now working on an electric sausage mill that will make use of the farmer's present hand-operated equipment. He says farmers who have used the converted shellers say that the slight cost of materials is more than made up for the time and labor saved, and he thinks that a sausage mill could also save a great deal of trouble.

NOTABLES SEND GREETINGS TO REA ON OCCASION OF NINTH BIRTHDAY

Following are excerpts from greetings sent to REA on the occasion of its ninth birthday, May 11, 1944:

Franklin D. Roosevelt—

"On the ninth anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration, I want to send my good

wishes to those who have been steadily engaged in the great task of carrying light and power to rural America.

REA will continue, I know, to serve war-time agriculture to the best of its ability. It must also be made ready to proceed most ably in the fulfillment of plans for the America of the future. As soon as conditions permit, Americans count upon it to bring to many thousands more of our citizens the hope of a future in which "rurality" will be minimized and farm life will be vastly enriched."

Former U. S. Sen. George W. Norris—

"I have a firm and heartfelt conviction that the REA is going to overcome all present misunderstandings and difficulties and live to carry the REA idea to its final culmination, when every farmer in our land will be supplied at a reasonable cost with... the blessings that only rural electrification can bring... My association with this organization has been one of the most gratifying things of my long and rather eventful life..."

Rep. W. R. Poague—

"I want the Rural Electrification Administration to be ready to take the leading place that it should take in our reconstruction program. I am sure that the entire staff of REA is making plans to inaugurate a great extension program as soon as materials and manpower are available."

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G. W. HAGGARD, Editor

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Cass 4-H Boy Uses Electrification as Demonstration Project

Elmond Farrow, 16-year-old president of the Cass County 4-H club council, has used rural electrification as his demonstration project, according to a recent news dispatch in the Linden Sun.

Elmond has made a study of all electrical appliances used at his home, and knows how to repair them and use them. On his farm electricity furnishes the lights, pumps the water, churns the milk, toasts the bread, cooks the waffles, mows the lawn, hatches the eggs, broods the chicks, keeps the cows in their pastures and pens. On his pens, grinds the feed, washes and rinses the clothes, brings news and music over the radio, cleans the house, cooks the meals, heats the water, and cools the house in summer.

This area is served by the Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative Inc., Douglasville.



Typical of the achievements of the rural electrification program during the past eight years is the modern headquarters building of the Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative at San Augustine (shown above). Constructed in 1942, it is a source of pride to all members of the cooperative. Many more such headquarters buildings are expected to dot the Texas scene, from the Plains to the Piney Woods, when wartime restrictions on construction are lifted.

THE BABY IS BORN—

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time, you hear some persons refer to the Co-op as the "government lines." They should be advised that there are some 850 R.E.A. Cooperatives in the United States, each of which is chartered by the respective states in which they are located. They are private cooperative corporations and are subsidized by the government. This ownership is, of course, subject to a mortgage given to the United States of America as security for all of the money advanced by it for the construction.

NOT A SUBSIDIZED PROGRAM

There is an impression among some that the cooperatives are subsidized by the government. This is not true. All of the funds advanced by the government are represented by loan, with no gift or grant. The loan contracts provide that all of this money shall be repaid in monthly installments over a period of 25 years with interest.

Interest rates paid by the cooperatives in the past ranged from 2½ per cent minimum to 3 per cent maximum. These rates were calculated on the cost to the government on long-time borrowing. The money actually furnished to date has been borrowed from the R.F.C. on short-term rates which are usually around 1 to 1½ per cent and if every dollar of interest and principal paid due by any or all of the Cooperatives is totaled up, then added to that amount the total administrative cost of the Rural Electrification Administration, then subtracted from the difference paid by the cooperatives less the amount paid by the government as interest on the same money, you will find a balance in favor of the government as of December 31, 1943, of approximately \$7,000,000. From this you can readily see that the cooperative receives no subsidy from the government, but instead the government has been making profit from their financing of the cooperatives and the total cost which we shall term reverse subsidy with Uncle Sam on the receiving end. The reason for this situation is that the Rural Electric Administration Cooperatives have proven themselves the best credit risk in the United States ever loaned money.

CO-OPS PAY TAXES

You hear some uniformed persons refer to the cooperatives as tax free. This also is untrue. The cooperatives pay every kind of tax just as private utility corporations with the exception of an estate tax. It is true that all true cooperatives, 85 per cent of whose business is done solely with its members, are exempt from income

tax by statute. In the case of the Rural Electrification Administration Cooperatives this statute answers no particular purpose, inasmuch as income represents profit and the R.E.A. Cooperatives are non-profit organizations that distribute no dividends except dividends represented, not in dollar values, but in service rendered to the members. It is provided in the by-laws of the cooperatives that if or when revenue derived from the business exceeds operation expenses, plus debt service, plus a reasonable depreciation reserve, it is mandatory upon the board of directors of the cooperative to rewrite the rate schedule lowering it sufficiently to absorb any difference of revenue above necessary expenditures, thus proportionately lowering the cost of service to the members.

FUNCTION IS TO INFORM

It will be one of the functions of this publication to educate the general public with regards to the cooperatives, to insure their having the benefit with full and detailed explanation of all information of the kind contained in the four preceding paragraphs. Knowledge of these things by the general public is vital to the Co-ops public relations and full understanding by the public of all problems, aims, and ideals plus their effect upon the general public, socially and economically. This publication should also serve as a medium of coordination of the problems, plans and operations that are mutually common to all. It should facilitate proper presentation and approach when presented for collective problems and needs with the Congress, the

Legislature and Commissioners Courts. It should be the medium of gathering information of interest to all cooperatives, properly correlating and distributing it; of facilitating all operations, approvals and information between the cooperatives and the Rural Electrification Administration where such interests are common problems of all.

Recent Allotments

Recent REA allotments in Texas including the following:	
South Plains Electric Co-Op, Lubbock	\$40,000
Hamilton County Electric Co-Op, Hamilton	60,000
Karnes Electric Co-Op, Karnes City	40,000
Jasper-Newton Electric Co-Op, Kirbyville	20,000
Lamb County Electric Co-Op, Littlefield	50,000
Trenton Refrigeration Co-Op, Trenton	24,000
Shelby County Refrigeration Co-Op, Center	28,000
Floyd County Rural Electric Co-Op, Floydada	50,000
Medina Electric Co-Op, Honda	70,000
Tri-County Electric Co-Op, Azle	50,000
Baylor Electric Co., Seymour	60,000
Glade-water Refrigeration Co-Op, Glade-water	5,000
Opahar Refrigeration Co-Op, Gilmer	5,000
Farmers Refrigeration Co-Op, Emory	10,000
Hill County Refrigeration Co-Op, Itasca	6,000
Cap Rock Refrigeration Co-Op, Stanton	5,000
Taylor Refrigeration Co-Op, Merkel	5,000

Texas Power Reserve Sets Up State Office in Austin

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tional organization for the rural electric co-ops of Texas. Soon after its incorporation it purchased a mobile generating unit of 100 KW capacity to be used by member cooperatives in cases of power failures or other emergencies. Last year three more of these generators were acquired, and they have been in almost constant use by the various cooperatives and on defense and army camp construction projects.

KEEPS MEMBERS INFORMED

In the spring of 1943 the Power Reserve took the lead in informing local cooperatives regarding legislation which threatened to seriously handicap the progress and expansion of the rural electrification program in Texas. As a result, farmers—supporters of electricity from all sections of the state made their wishes known to their representatives and the proposed legislation was defeated.

The Texas organization, along with other state groups and the national association, played an important part in bringing about recent approval by both houses of Congress of provisions in the Pace bill which will reduce interest rates to cooperatives and in other ways aid the rural electrification program.

A recent achievement by the organization in the field of service was the marshaling of assistance for the Deep East Texas Cooperative following an ice storm in that section this past spring which disrupted some 650 miles of line. With the assistance of crews from 20 other cooperatives over the state, the lines were repaired in record time.

SPONSORS SAFETY PROGRAM

In the spring of 1941 the Texas Power Reserve sponsored the inauguration of a Safety and Job Training program operated jointly by the Industrial Extension Service of Texas A. & M. College and the State Department of Vocational Education to serve the co-ops of the state.

This valuable program has resulted in giving Texas one of the best safety records of any state in the Union. Since its inception, there has not been a fatal accident involving any electric cooperative participating in the program.

Although it has been an active and aggressive organization since its founding, the Power Reserve has heretofore not had a central state office. The business of the association has been carried on by the officers and members of the state board of directors.

With the setting up of a state office in Austin, the association should now be in a better position than ever before to serve its membership. Suggestions from local cooperative managers, directors, and members regarding the work of the association will be appreciated.

G. W. HASKARD, who will manage the affairs of the organization under the general supervision of the board of directors, has had several years of active experience in agricultural, newspaper and cooperative work.

Born on a farm in Comanche county, Central Texas, he was educated at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, and at the University of Texas. After several years on daily newspapers and six years as teacher of journalism in Abilene High School, he became executive secretary of the Texas Farm Bureau and editor of its state newspaper in 1942. In this position he took an active interest in farmer cooperatives, including the rural electrification co-ops, which reach the largest number of farm people of any cooperative program in the state.

Members of the board of directors of the association, elected by member cooperatives in seven districts over the state, are C. M. Curran, Greenville, president; Josef Barton, Bellville, vice president; A. C. Thomas, Comanche, secretary-treasurer; Glyn W. Scott, Van Alstyne; Raymond Hampel, McGregor; O. K. Woodall, Littlefield; and E. A. Hassman, Cost. William C. Church of San Antonio is attorney for the association.

Denison Dam Power Sold to Utility

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 21.

Federal Power Commission approved this week a contract between the Southwestern Power Administration and the Texas Power and Light Company under which the TP&L is to purchase the bulk of electric energy to be generated at the Denison Dam on Red River.

The agreement extends until July 1, 1949, or until six months after the war, whichever is earlier. TP&L is to pay five mills per kWh for primary energy, and 2½ mills on peak and 1 mill off-peak for secondary, with a reduction of two mills for primary energy under certain conditions.

In return the company is to lower rates to commercial and industrial at \$400,000, and agrees residential users in an amount equal to boost wholesale rates to six rural electric cooperatives of that area during the life of the contract. These rates are now slightly under six mills per kWh.

In approving the contract, the Federal Power commission emphasized that it was done to meet a war emergency, and was not to establish a precedent in the disposition of such electric energy.

Fort Belknap Completes Four Years of Service

The Fort Belknap Electric Cooperative, Inc., with offices at Olney, June 1 completed four years of supplying electric service to farmers and other rural consumers in surrounding counties, according to a statement by Thomas D. Pitts, manager.

Since the cooperative's lines were first energized in 1940, they have brought electricity at cost to 672 consumers and in the last year the farms served have increased from 271 to 564. Pitts stated.

Who Owns Your Co-op?

Who owns your co-op? Not the government. Not some absentee stockholders. No, sir! You do. It's yours. It belongs to you and to the other member-users jointly. It's owned by the people it serves.

Today your cooperative owes money to the Federal government. It was financed by REA so that the people in your community, you and your neighbors, could serve yourselves with electric power. When your co-op's REA loan has been repaid fully, you and your fellow-members will own this valuable property free from all unnecessary interferences.

Your Co-op is a dollars-and-cents asset that helps to make your life better, your work easier, and your income greater.

Have you not a single working tool in your home or on your farm that's worth more to you than your electric power? Your power is worth taking care of, isn't it?

You want good, dependable, low-cost service free from all unnecessary interferences. You want to keep faith with your government that made electricity possible. Together, you and your neighbors have the re-

sponsibility of seeing to it that your REA loan repayments are met on time. It adds up to this: you have a direct, financial interest in the health and success of your Cooperative.

Here's one more thought: Today, your Cooperative, with your support, can render an active war service. And you, through your Cooperative, can also take an extra part in the nation's war effort.

A JOB FOR YOU

Keeping an eye on the affairs of your Cooperative is a job for you. It is your right and your duty. It doesn't necessarily mean daily work, or weekly work, or even monthly work unless you choose to be that active. But it does mean this: Make sure that your Cooperative is well managed and well administered by your Board of Directors. Elect a good Board and support it in its direction of your Cooperative's affairs.

How to do it? It's simple—At least one day a year, take an active, serious interest in your Cooperative. Come to your annual meeting and bring your neighbor-members with you. —Rural Electrification News.

Farmers Win Major Victory In Pace Bill

(Continued from Page 1)
Rivers and Harbors bill. As originally passed by the House, this measure failed to give preference to cooperatives and public power agencies in the sale and disposition of power to be generated by five proposed hydro-electric projects, including one on the Guadalupe river in Texas.

This omission was at variance with a long-established government policy. At its last meeting, the Board of Directors of the Texas Power Reserve passed a resolution asking that the Bone amendment be incorporated in the bill.

"Inasmuch as these much-needed and worthwhile public power projects are to be constructed with public funds, every safeguard should be provided to insure that their benefits shall accrue to the public and that they do not swell the profit accounts of private investors at the expense of the public," the resolution read.

Copies were sent to members of the Senate committee considering the measure and to all Texas members of Congress.

Rural electrification sustained a disappointment, which may or may not be only temporary, in the report of the conference committee on the Agricultural Appropriations Bill. The House provided authorization for REA loans amounting to \$29,000,000 for the forthcoming fiscal year. This was increased to \$40,000,000 by the Senate. However, the conference committee on the measure cut the amount back to \$25,000,000, which friends of REA do not consider adequate if building materials become available in the quantity expected.

However, chairman Cannon stated on the floor that if more money is needed during the year, the appropriations committee will be glad to consider favorably a deficiency appropriation.

Award for Fighters on Farm Front



Shown above are members of the Ward family of Dublin, Texas, receiving the national REA award for increased food production in 1943. Left to right, are: James Salisbury, Jr., who presented the plaque to the Wards on behalf of the national office of REA; C. A. Ward, Mrs. C. A. Ward, Gene Ward, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Jr., and Aaron Ward, Jr.

Dublin Farm Family Receives REA Award for Increased Food Production

Increasing their production 70 per cent last year through use of electrical equipment, the C. A. Ward family of Dublin became the first farm family in Texas to receive the National REA War Food Production award.

A plaque bearing the inscription "Award for distinguished service in the production of the nation's food through use of rural electric power" was presented to the Wards by James Salisbury, Jr., representing the national office of REA, at a ceremony in the Erath County courthouse at Stephenville March 11, 1944.

Selection of the Ward family for this distinction was made by the Rural Electrification Administration from nominations submitted by co-ops and local farm leaders. The nominations were based on farm production records.

"The Ward family was the award because they put their electricity into overalls and made it a chore boy working for greater

wartime food production," said G. A. Tunnell, manager of the Erath County Electric Cooperative association, which serves the Ward farm with electric power. **BOOST FOOD OUTPUT**

The Wards operate a 210-acre diversified farm near Dublin. They stepped up their production from 83 agricultural units in 1942 to 143.6 units in 1943. The Ward farm produced 2,000 turkeys last year, 14,000 turkey eggs for market, 155,000 chicken eggs during five months, 31,000 broilers, and 42 head of cattle. There are 140 acres in cultivation, producing, among other things, 18 tons of Irish potatoes, 7 bales of cotton, 122 bushels of peanuts, and 122 bales of peanut hay, and 6,000 bundles of feed.

Mr. Ward has an electric water pump and pressure water system to provide water to chickens, turkeys and other animals. More than 3,000 feet of pipe carry an abundant supply of fresh water to 43 automatic fountains and 20 regular hydrants located in various parts of the farm. It formerly required two men to haul water now supplied by the pressure system. **LIGHTS INCREASE EGG PRODUCTION**

Already this year Mr. Ward has sold almost a thousand dollars worth of turkey eggs, and he credits this early production entirely to his use of electric lights. His neighbors without lights have not had many eggs yet. The 25 lights on his turkey range are turned on automatically at 4 o'clock in the morning so that the turkeys may begin feeding.

In addition to other electrical labor-saving equipment, the Wards use two electric incubators, seven electric battery brooders, brooder house lights, brooder fans, electric iron, water heater and washer.

The Ward farm is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ward, their son Gene, age 12, and Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Ward, Jr.

"The Ward family have earned this award by the manner of their performance — the enterprise marking their endeavors — the clear pursuit of a goal—their skill

in the application of human effort and mechanical tools," said Mr. Salisbury in presenting the plaque in behalf of the Rural Electrification Administration. "The Axis will reach its doom a little quicker because they made their electricity work for them and against Hitler."

"As members of the Erath County Electric Cooperative Association, the Ward family receive electricity over lines that were built by common effort," Mr. Salisbury pointed out. "Like the good neighbors of the American frontier, who joined forces to do a job that was too big for a single family, the Ward family and their neighbors got together a few years ago to build their own electric power system."

"The Erath County Electric Cooperative Association is simply the modern version of some of the community enterprises of pioneer days."

JOIN FORCES TO DO JOB

"As all the families of the frontier community joined forces to build roads over which they could haul products of their farms to market, so the Ward family and the other members of the REA cooperatives built high lines that link their farms with the conveniences of urban life and with the efficiencies of power-age production methods."

Cap Rock Electric Cooperative Building Freezer Locker Plant

Construction is expected to be completed about August 15 on a modern freezer-locker plant at Stanton in Martin county, according to O. B. Bryan, superintendent of the Cap Rock Electric Cooperative, which is sponsoring the project.

The plant is to have 500 locker boxes, complete slaughtering facilities, pork curing room, meat preparation room, and vegetable processing department, aging and cooling vault and locker room.

Officers and directors of the Cap Rock Refrigeration Cooperative are J. D. McCleskey, president; W. L. Clements, vice president; C. P. Gray, secretary-treasurer; Glenn Cantrell, and L. B. McLain.

A special edition of the Stanton Reporter of May 5, 1944, con-

Statewide Meet To Be In Austin July 10-11

(Continued from Page 1)

(Monday evening, July 10.)

An important feature of the first day's program will be talks by a leading Texas farmer-consumer and a farm woman on what rural electricity means to farm people.

Texas Safety and Job Training program is scheduled for the morning of the second day. Several outstanding leaders in this program will be heard.

The meeting will be concluded that afternoon with a business session of the Texas Power Reserve, statewide association of rural electric cooperatives which is sponsoring the two-day meeting.

The sessions will be held at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, in Austin.

The tentative program (not entirely complete at this writing), follows:

JULY 10, 1944
Morning
9:00 Registration
9:30 Group Singing
Investigation
Welcome Address, Mayor Tom Miller, Austin
Response, Josef Barton, Bellville
Recognition of delegations and visitors
Talk by farmer-consumer on the REA line
Talk by farm woman on an REA line.

Afternoon
Addresses by:
1:30 William J. Neal, deputy administrator, REA
B. F. Vane, state administrator, Agricultural Adjustment Administration
Arthur Gerth, chief, Applications and Loans Division, REA

Evening
8:30 Banquet—Will Sidney Price, Guadalupe, master of ceremonies.
Congressman Bob Poage, Waco, speaker.

JULY 11, 1944
Morning
9:30 Safety and Job Training Program, under direction of P. M. Lumbeke, Brady, chairman.

1:00 Business session, Texas Power Reserve
Reports of president, secretary-treasurer and executive secretary
Round table discussion
Election of directors
Adjournment

500 Attend Sixth Annual Meeting of Guadalupe Coop

Members, consumers, guests and their families from throughout the five-county area served by the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative gathered at Canton, Texas, June 8 for their sixth annual membership meeting.

Approximately 500 attended. The meeting was held on picturesque picnic grounds near the banks of the river from which the cooperative takes its name. A barbecue lunch was served at noon.

In the program which followed, progress during the past year was reviewed, and plans for the future outlined by President R. B. Williams, Secretary Milton Lindeman, and Manager E. A. Hassman.

Membership increase during the year was approximately 10 per cent, and except for labor and material shortages, would have been considerably more, the president said.

"WORK FOR BIGGER, BETTER ORGANIZATIONS"

"Let us continue to work for a bigger and more prosperous organization," he advised, adding that, in his opinion, the "rural electrification program represents the greatest step forward in a quarter of a century for the rural home."

The manager's report showed 25 1/2 miles of line were constructed to serve 98 new members, bringing the total miles energized

to 567 and the membership to 1,027. Twenty-five applications have been approved by War Production Board, and construction on these will start as soon as possible, he said. In addition, approximately 250 other applications have been approved by county ACA boards, and are now being prepared for submission to WPB. The manager expressed the hope that after the war electricity will be made available to every rural home which desires it.

Guest speakers included Edgar F. Nauert, chief supervisor of the Texas Safety and Job Training program, and G. W. Haggard, executive secretary of the Texas Power Reserve, state association of rural electric cooperatives.

DIRECTORS CHOSEN

Two new members were elected to the board of directors—Richard Tolle and Frank Marrow. Other members of the board, in addition to the president and secretary, are George Turk, vice president; H. H. Juergensen, R. E. Weyel, Ed Hajek, and Arthur Boenicig, all re-elected at this meeting.

Hassman has been manager of the cooperative since its organization in January, 1940. Other employees include H. C. Gillette, line foreman; W. W. Gandre, assistant lineman; J. B. Stephens, bookkeeper; Mrs. George Dikes Smith, cashier; and Anton Brozowski and Robert Mueller, helpers.