

NEWSLINE

A PUBLICATION OF SAM HOUSTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

“GLENN CRYER MEMORIAL TRAINING FIELD” DEDICATED TO FORMER SAM HOUSTON EC EMPLOYEE

On August 27, a new training field at the Texas Electric Underground School in Georgetown, Texas was dedicated in memory of former Sam Houston Electric Cooperative employee Glenn Cryer. Officials from Texas Electric Cooperatives and Sam Houston EC, along with Mr. Cryer's family and students of the school attended the unveiling of the electric line technicians training field.

Prior to his death from cancer in 2000, Glenn Cryer trained electric line technicians for over 20 years as an Underground Foreman at Sam Houston Electric Cooperative and 12 years as a guest instructor at the Texas Engineering Extension Service teaching underground troubleshooting. His career with Sam Houston EC spanned 37 years. “Mr. Cryer was well respected by his peers and was dedicated to his work” said Larry Baker, Director of Loss Control at Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). “When we built the school, we thought it would be nice to remember him in this way.”

The new training school sponsored by TEC offers two, week long courses on electric underground equipment installation and troubleshooting that count toward completion of electric line technician apprentice training. Students spend time both in the classroom and “in the field” completing hands-on training exercises.

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative General Manager and CEO, H.E. Striedel commented, “Sam Houston Electric was proud to have Glenn as a member of our team. We and the Cryer family are so pleased that he will be remembered in this way.”



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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

*Letter from the Desk of H.E. Striedel
General Manager and CEO, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative*

From coast to coast, deregulation and California's energy woes have sparked new interest in electric cooperatives. As a Sam Houston Electric Cooperative member-owner, you know about the advantages of co-op membership first-hand. However, others are only now becoming acquainted with the co-op way of doing business: Co-ops exist solely to serve the best interests of their member-owners. An old concept is new again.

Electric cooperatives cropped up nationwide in the 1930s and 1940s to bring power to rural areas that the large power companies did not deem profitable. In fact, member-owned nonprofit electric utilities operate in 46 states and 80 percent of the nation's counties. In Texas, electric co-ops serve nearly 3 million customers in 245 of the state's 254 counties.

As the electric utility business changes on a national and statewide level, more and more people are discovering they too can have real influence in the marketplace by choosing the cooperative business model to get things done. A cooperative creates a new opportunity for people to secure better and more economical service that otherwise would not be available to them. But of course, Sam Houston EC member-owners have known this for more than 60 years. The cooperative is part of our heritage in East Texas.

Today the movement has reached far beyond its rural roots. Alan Edwards, senior director for strategic alliances with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), says, "The phone is ringing off the hook." Edwards has been in California working with disgruntled energy consumers who want to set up additional electric co-ops there in the hopes of finding better electric deals by aggregating their buying power.

In an industry struggling with change, more and more consumers are looking for a way to take back control. They're discovering that the cooperative business model can help them in a competitive world that may otherwise ignore their needs. And everyday, more and more consumers learn that by working together to meet common needs, they can accomplish more than by going it alone.

National Cooperative Month takes on a special meaning for Sam Houston Electric member-owners as national consumers start to realize and desire the cooperative benefits our members have enjoyed all along. Whether it's on the farm or in the city, there's something inspirational about people banding together to work as a community in order to better their lives. That's what we call "the cooperative way."

REMEMBER THIS

SAM HOUSTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS WORKING HARD TO BETTER SERVE YOU

In our continuing efforts to make power restoration during an outage faster and more efficient, Sam Houston Electric is conducting a complete field inventory of our distribution system. Over the next four to six months, Sam Houston EC survey personnel will cover our entire service area, collecting mapping data that will be used to update our Outage Management System. As a result, the cooperative will be better equipped to provide members with more accurate and timely information when reporting or checking on the status of a power outage.

Field survey personnel will be wearing Sam Houston EC identification badges and will be traveling in vehicles marked by the Sam Houston EC logo. While they may be in your surrounding area, field survey personnel will not require access inside your home or business. If you have any questions, please contact a Member Services Representative at 800-458-0381.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2001 at the VFW Hall located on U.S. Highway 59, approximately three miles north of Livingston. Look for your proxy card with the November issue of Texas Co-op Power magazine. Everyone who returns a proxy card before November 13 will be eligible to win prizes. Don't miss your chance to win up to \$1,000 credit on your electric bill, or one of many valuable door prizes. Return your proxy card and you could be a winner!

**Sam Houston**

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

SAFETY MATTERS**GET READY TO HEAT THINGS UP SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY THIS WINTER**

Is it time to replace your heating system? On average, a heating system will last about 25 years. And chances are, a heating system that's more than ten years old is much less efficient than a newer, high efficiency system. If you're not sure how efficiently your system is operating, have a licensed heating contractor check it out this fall and get prepared to stay warm efficiently this winter.

Include any portable heaters you plan to use when the weather cools off in your annual heating system safety check. Make sure cords to portable electric heaters are in good condition and that the switches and controls are working properly. A dysfunctional space heater is an accident waiting to happen.

Have the chimney cleaned and the flues checked out so you're ready to enjoy that first crackling fire of the winter. A clean chimney will prevent any accidents from built up soot and promote better burning of the wood.

Your window air conditioning unit may have kept you cool this past summer, but be sure it doesn't heat up your energy bills this winter. Check all around the top, bottom and sides to determine if warm air will leak from your house or if cold air will seep inside. If you discover an inefficient seal, ask your local hardware store for easy remedies that could help save you money and keep your home warmer.



SAM HOUSTON EC'S COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS HONORED AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative was the recipient of four national "Spotlight on Excellence Awards" at the 2001 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Marketing, Member Services and Communications Conference in Arlington, Virginia. The Council of Rural Electric Communicators announced the award winners at the conference in July.

Sam Houston EC's 1999 Annual Report, distributed to each member-owner last summer and featuring the Sam Houston EC "storytellers" Cloyce Reinhardt, Billie Trapp, Scott Ehni and Kim Parker, received recognition for Best Special Publication and Best Annual Report. The "storyteller" ad series featuring the same individuals was also recognized, taking the honor of Best Advertising Campaign. The 2001 Calendar and Member Handbook, featuring flowers and foliage local to East Texas and distributed to member-owners at the first of the year, was awarded first place in the "Wild Card" division of the competition.

Nearly 500 entries were reviewed by a team of judges assembled from faculty of the prestigious University of Missouri School of Journalism. The awards program was developed 13 years ago as an annual event to recognize top-rated performances by electric cooperatives and related organizations. The Council, organized in 1982, is an independent association representing about 1300 electric cooperative communicators across the country.

Communications materials, such as those recognized, are developed to provide our member-owners with pertinent information. It is for this reason, in particular, that the cooperative is honored to have been recognized for developing effective and attractive materials.



JACK-O'-LANTERN CHEESEBURGER PIE

The kids will love helping prepare this Halloween supper pie.

1 pound ground beef
1 medium onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, pressed
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup ketchup
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 (15-ounce) package
refrigerated piecrusts
1 tablespoon prepared mustard
3 cups (12 ounces) shredded
Monterey Jack cheese, divided
2 tablespoons water
1 large egg
Red and yellow liquid food coloring

Cook first five ingredients in a large skillet over medium-high heat, stirring until beef crumbles and is no longer pink; drain. Stir in ketchup and Worcestershire sauce; cool.

Unfold one piecrust and place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Spread mustard evenly over crust. Stir together meat mixture and two cups cheese; spoon onto center of crust, leaving a 2-inch border.

Unfold remaining piecrust, and cut out a jack-o'-lantern face, reserving pastry cutouts to use as a stem. Place crust over meat mixture; crimp edges of crust, and fold under. Place stem on top of jack-o'-lantern face.

Whisk together two tablespoons water, egg, and 1 drop each of red and yellow food coloring; brush over crust.

Bake at 425° for 20 minutes; remove from oven and brush again with egg mixture. Fill eyes, nose, and mouth with remaining 1 cup cheese.

Bake 5 to 10 more minutes or until golden brown.

Serves 6 to 8.