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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Retrofitting Your Manufactured Home

Improve your home's energy efficiency



If you live in a manufactured home, chances are you may have a disproportionately higher energy bill than a family living in a modular or traditional wood-frame home. The good news is there are many ways you can improve your home's energy efficiency.

Manufactured home or mobile home?

First, a clarification. Some use the term manufactured home and mobile home interchangeably. A mobile home is a factory built home constructed before 1976 when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) set national standards that nearly every manufactured home must meet. Thereafter, factory-built homes were called manufactured homes and are engineered and constructed in accordance with the 1976 federal code administered by HUD.

Manufactured homes come in all shapes and sizes. They may be single- or multi-sectioned and are available in various sizes and floor plan configurations. There are many differences between manufactured homes built before the U.S. HUD Code took effect in 1976 and those built afterward.

One of the major differences is energy efficiency. Those built before federal standards were put in place are generally not as energy efficient as later models, even though thermal standards were changed in 1994. And while your manufactured home may have been built to the energy standards of the time, significant progress has been made over the past decades with high-efficiency mechanical equipment, windows, insulation, siding and roofing materials.

In short, whether your home is less than five years old or more than 50, most homes can benefit from energy efficiency measures simply due to wear and tear. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind can increase air leakage. Doors and windows

may not close tightly and duct work can spring leaks, wasting cooling and heating energy.

If your home was built before 1976, the Dept. of Energy recommends the following steps to retrofit your manufactured home and improve energy efficiency:

1. Install energy-efficient windows and doors
2. Replace insulation in the belly
3. Make general repairs (seal bottom board, caulk windows, doors, ducts, etc.)
4. Add insulation to your walls
5. Install or seal belly wrap
6. Add insulation to your roof or install a roof cap.

Additional energy saving tips

In addition to the measures listed above, consider caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors, particularly if you are not able to replace them with more energy-efficient ones.

Properly seal any openings around ducts and plumbing fixtures. Replace any incandescent light bulbs with LEDs – both indoors and outside. Reduce “phantom” loads by unplugging electronic devices such as computers, printers and gaming systems when not in use. If you are planning to move to a new manufactured home, look for an ENERGY STAR®-rated model.

For more information about energy efficiency improvements for manufactured homes, go online and visit TouchstoneEnergy.com.

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION



2016 Scholarship Winners

\$3,000 Scholarship Recipients

Patricia Marcayla Allen

Karen Andrade

Karina Yvana Avila

Christopher Lane Boothe, Jr.

Courtney Kaye Denise Crain

Maria Isela Garza

Shelby Ann Gehovak

Anna Hernandez

Kailand Renea Hodge

Abby Ruth Jones

Megan Elizabeth Kimes

Kassondra Lynn Korthals

Paige Alexandra Massey

Prestin Allen McCormick

Joshua Bryan Mehl

Daniel Abraham Perez

Yulia Dmitriyevna Pervakova

Peyton Amara Richards

Emma Elizabeth Schoenemann

Orren Cody Smith

Gaby Vera

Emily Marie Whisenant

Jared Lee White

Coldspring-Oakhurst

Goodrich

New Waverly

Livingston

Spurger

Caney Creek

Willis

Hardin

Onalaska

Liberty

Livingston

Spurger

Livingston

Tarkington

Kountze

Caney Creek

Coldspring-Oakhurst

Livingston

Coldspring-Oakhurst

Livingston

Corrigan-Camden

Coldspring-Oakhurst

Coldspring-Oakhurst

\$1,500 Vocational Scholarship Recipients

Jaci Catherine Davis

Sarah Elizabeth Drake

Ashley M. Fenton

Titus Jay Lilley

Seth Allen Maze

Bailey Dannielle McClendon

Zoey Storm Shotwell

Chester

New Waverly

Hardin

Big Sandy

Big Sandy

Livingston

Big Sandy

Relay for Life Raises Nearly \$7,400



Sam Houston Electric Cooperative's Relay For Life team wrapped up another season at the Polk County Relay For Life

event April 22. Originally scheduled to take place at Pedigo Park in Livingston, earlier heavy rains forced the event to relocate to the Livingston High School. With clear skies, the Co-op's team "KISSed Cancer Goodbye" celebrating with a Rock 'n Roll theme.

According to the American Cancer Society, each year, more than 4 million people in over 20 countries raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer through Relay For Life.

Co-op Connections Deals



The Co-op Connections Card is a member benefit program that delivers discounts from participating businesses, both local and nationwide. Visit www.connections.coop/samhoustonec for more deals.

If you'd like to add your business to the Co-op Connections program, contact Sam Houston EC today!

Mark's Painting & Drywall

12771 Royal Green, Conroe, TX 77303

936-203-2186

Hours: 8-8

Offer: 10% discount

Milk & Honey Bakery

PO Box 7348

Cut-N-Shoot, TX 77306

936-777-0901

www.milkandhoneybakery.net

Hours: M-F, 8-5; Sat, 10-5

Offer: 10-15% discount

Mobile Merchant Machines

320 Clayton Lane

Livingston, TX 77351

936-435-4203

Hours: 10-10

Offer: \$25 discount on application fee and free equipment.

Conservation Corner



Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool

your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.



Annual Meeting June 14



Join us for Sam Houston Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of Members on Tuesday, June 14, 2016.

We're meeting again in June this year!

Doors will open at 12 p.m. for registration, and the meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. Join us again at the Polk County College/Commerce Center in Livingston. The facility is located at 1017 North 59 Loop, with the entrance at Pedigo Park. Shuttles will be available to take attendees from the parking area to the facility.

Members present at the meeting will be able to visit with other member-owners, as well as meet the Board of Directors and Cooperative management. There will also be entertainment and a door prize drawing. Cooperative managers will report on Co-op business, including the announcement of the Board of Directors election winners. Remember to submit your election ballot so it is received by June 13 at 10 a.m. for a chance to win more prizes!

Powering Safely After a Storm



One of the great things about the modern American electric grid is that power almost always flows when we need it. Given our dependence on electricity, it's understandable why portable generators are popular when the power goes out and stays out for a while. But generators can cause more harm than good if not used properly.

Here are a few safety tips to protect yourself and the line technicians who are working to restore your power. First, never, ever plug a portable generator directly into one of your home's outlets. It's best to have had a licensed electrician install a "transfer switch" in your home. If you don't have a transfer switch, electricity produced by the generator can "backfeed" along power lines, causing injury to the line technicians working on those lines.

In addition, portable generators create carbon monoxide—the odorless, colorless gas that can quickly become deadly if the generator isn't exhausted outside. Attached garages with an open door don't count—the carbon monoxide can still seep indoors and poison inhabitants. Generators must go outside in a dry area, which might mean you'll need to build a canopy to protect it from precipitation at a safe distance from your home's windows, doors and vents. How far is a safe distance? Even 15 feet can be too close.

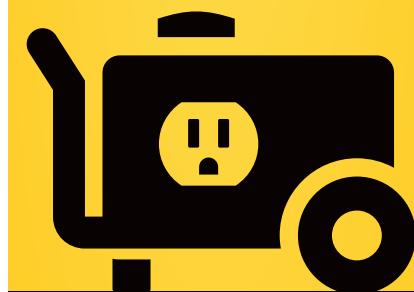
Other things to keep in mind: Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords, but don't overload it. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maximum load. Shut off the generator before refueling, or a fire could start—and it's a good idea to have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Stand by generators need full-time safety.

For safety's sake, be sure to use your emergency backup generator correctly.

If you don't, you risk damaging your property and endangering your life and the lives of power line technicians who may be working some distance from your home.



 **Sam Houston**
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

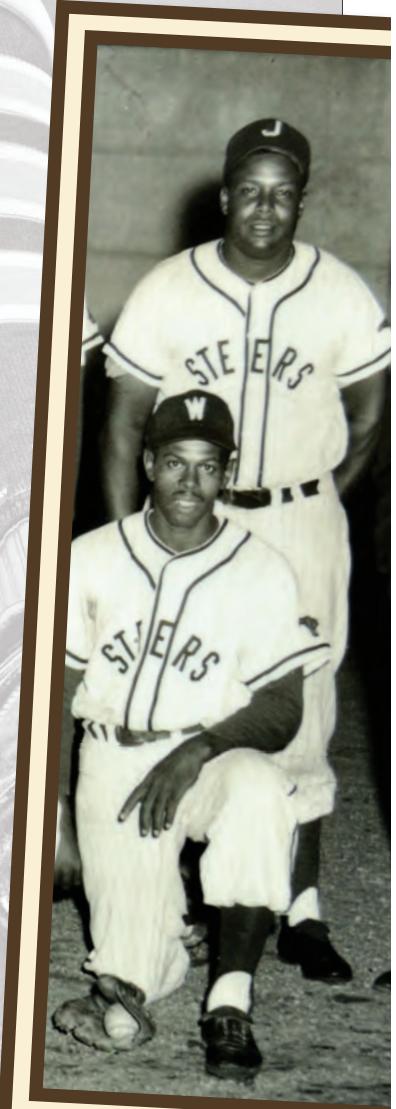
www.samhouston.net



THE JASPE

BY JANET RUTH MYERS

[PHOTOS] Jasper Steers team photos from the 1950s. Elmer Simmons, a wealthy logging contractor and team owner, is seen at the far right of the images.



ER STEERS



1954. Post World War II America was in the throws of the baby boom and a societal changing of the guard was well underway.

At the cinema, moviegoers watched three young American women cast their love to fate in the movie "Three Coins in the Fountain." A young Elvis Presley released his first hit song "That's All Right (Mamma)," introducing us to his swaggering hips and ushering in a new genre of music called Rockabilly. From Detroit, Ford Motor Company released its first sports car; the two-seater Thunderbird. And, in the world of sports, Marilyn Monroe married baseball legend Joe DiMaggio.

Notably, East Texas had its own sports story that year, one that was almost scandalous at the time. A 16-year-old white boy by the name of C.C. Risenhoover joined the Jasper Steers, an all black, semi-pro baseball team—an event that neither whites nor blacks quite knew what to think about back then.

The story begins with Elmer Simmons, a wealthy African American logging contractor in the small timber town of Jasper. Having played baseball in his youth, Simmons loved the game. So, he hired 11 black athletes to play for the team he founded, which he named the Jasper Steers.





"We had a team that was capable of playing any professional team," said Raymond Lacy, a 93-year-old former Steers player. Lacy had previously been in a baseball major league, the Negro American League, along with several other players on the Steer's team. "Simmons recruited players from all over the country and Cuba."

“One of my fondest memories of that trip was a stop we made at an old boarding house,” Risenhoover remembered. “A lady there cooked pot roast with all the trimmings. It was the best meal we had eaten all summer.”

Wanting a proper place for his team to play, Simmons purchased the works: lights, concession stands, bleachers and locker rooms from a defunct Evangeline League team in Louisiana, moving everything to a piece of land that he owned just east of Jasper's city limits.

"Summer nights, the Steers were one of the only attractions in Jasper," Lacy said, who now lives in Wiergate in northern Newton County. "The Steers were something that helped the city. Folks really flocked to see the games."

In 1947, Jackie Robinson, recruited by the Brooklyn Dodgers, became the first black player in major league history. In the mid-1950s, two players from the Jasper Steers also became stars in the major leagues. Longview's Charlie Neal played third base for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers. Alvin Jackson, from Waco, pitched 10 seasons for three National League teams.

The Steers sometimes played practice games against local white baseball teams. And in 1954, Simmons opened the facility to the Jasper High School Bulldogs baseball team, which had no stadium of its own. It was here that he first saw C.C. Risenhoover pitch.

"I believe he came to every game to watch me pitch," C.C. Risenhoover said. "I was also working part-time for \$1 an hour for the Kurth Lumber Company sawmill. When Simmons offered me \$50 to pitch in an exhibition game against a Lake Charles, LA., team, I was thrilled. My dad loved baseball as much as I did, but my mom needed a little convincing. Ultimately, they let me play."

As Simmons had hoped, the game drew a crowd, as Risenhoover, shrugging off a severe case of bronchitis, helped the team capture the victory in 13 innings.

Then came the opportunity that changed Risenhoover's life, and ultimately, a tiny bit of baseball history.

"Simmons offered me a place on the team for a summer barnstorming trip throughout the South, Midwest and parts of Canada," Risenhoover said. "Since he had already spoken to my parents and they had approved, I immediately accepted, grateful not only for the chance to play ball but to also escape a hard summer's labor working at the sawmill."

Barnstorming was a common phenomenon at the time. Teams from almost every town of sufficient size

[PHOTO] Raymond Lacy, 93, played for the Jasper Steers as well as other teams in the Negro American League. After leaving baseball he became a school principal and superintendent. Due to a house fire decades ago, Lacy lost everything from his baseball days. His niece located a small photo and had copies made.

would load into old school buses and travel across the country looking for a baseball game to play. Simmons had such a bus. Painted white with "Jasper Steers" emblazoned on the side, the bus featured torn up seats and no air conditioning—not a comfortable place to ride. More to the point, not a place to get a good night's rest.

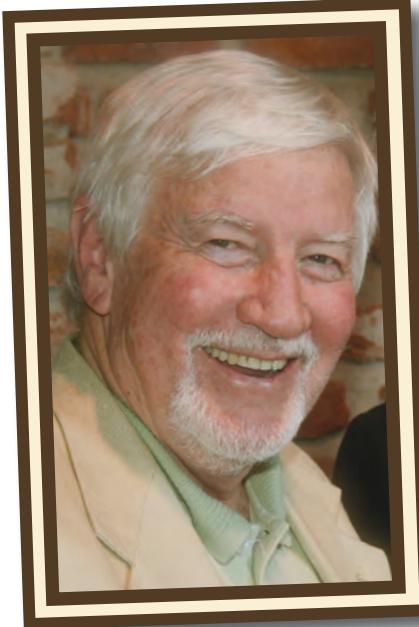
"We were supposed to be paid \$2 a day and a portion of the gate for meals each day," Risenhoover said. "But often after buying gas for the bus, there would be no money left over to buy food or lodging, so we ate grass to numb the hunger, slept on the bus and bathed in any river or stream we could find."

But it wasn't about the money.

"I think everybody on the team was from the old-school in terms of their desire to play baseball," Risenhoover said. "We would have paid to play the game. In a way, we did pay to play."

When they had money for food, the players usually ordered chili, bottles of ketchup and as many packages of





[PHOTO] A recent image of C.C. Risenhoover. Today, Risenhoover is a prolific novelist and head pastor of his church in Granbury, Texas.

crackers as they could find. In Canada, the cheapest food available was chicken fried rice.

"One of my fondest memories of that trip was a stop we made at an old boarding house," Risenhoover remembered. "A lady there cooked pot roast with all the trimmings. It was the best meal we had eaten all summer. I'll never forget it."

So, how did the crowds respond to a white boy playing on an otherwise all black team?

"When I encountered racial prejudice on the road, it surprised me," Risenhoover said. "I never thought much from a racial perspective. I played with blacks like I would anybody else. We enjoyed playing ball together and we rarely lost a game."

Part of Risenhoover's unique perspective comes from his upbringing.

"I lived in what was called 'Mill Town,' a couple of blocks of gray frame houses



adjacent to the saw mill," Risenhoover explained. "These houses, owned by the lumber company, were rented to the white workers. Directly across a railroad spur that ran by the house we were renting, also adjacent to the sawmill, was an area called the 'Quarters.'"

According to Risenhoover, the "Quarters" were houses that looked a lot like railroad boxcars, except they were painted red and had slanted tin roofs. Of course, the lumber company also owned the red houses, but they didn't have indoor bathrooms like the gray houses. The red houses were for the black employees and their families.

"That's the way things were back then," Risenhoover said. "Whites and blacks didn't go to school or church together, and didn't eat in the same area of a restaurant (there was usually a place in the kitchen for black patrons)."

Risenhoover added that public restrooms and water fountains were labeled "White Only" or "Colored Only."

"But I simply didn't pay a lot of attention to segregation," he said. "I played baseball, basketball, football and softball with black kids from day one."

Eighty-year-old Arthur Neal Davis, another Jasper Steer who played first base, pitcher and outfielder for the team, still lives in Jasper and has his own perspective on segregation.

"When we were young, Candy (C.C. Risenhoover) and I played softball on my side of the tracks," Davis said. "When we were segregated, we were integrated; and when we were integrated, we were segregated."

Today, Risenhoover believes that if he and his family had lived in one of the nice, white-owned houses in Jasper, Elmer Simmons would probably not have recruited him.

"He knew what I was about—and he knew what my parents were about," Risenhoover said. "He knew that we didn't base our likes and dislikes of people on the color of their skin."

Even though he made a little history in East Texas with his decision to pitch for the Steers, he doesn't claim any noble purpose in doing so.

"That summer there were no organized teams of any kind for baseball," he said. "I just wanted to play baseball and only a black team offered me the opportunity."

Things have changed a lot since 1954. The Steers played their last game in 1961. Jasper schools integrated in 1968 and kids of both colors now eat together, go to church together and play school sports together.

It's been 64 years since C.C. Risenhoover experienced his "boys of summer" moment. But change was in the air and black players began being accepted as equals on the baseball diamond—many players later serving their communities as authors, teachers, coaches, school administrators, ministers and businessmen.

For Risenhoover, Lacy, Davis and the other surviving Jasper Steers players, the crack of the bat and the thud of a baseball in a worn leather glove now exist only as distant memories. Yet, in these fond recollections, they can dream of being young again and relive with joy the sport they loved so well.

