

# TEXAS CO-OP DOWNER

MINNIE LOU  
BRADLEY

OF THE  
BRADLEY 3 RANCH

PLUS

Texas Women on  
the Cattle Trail

Breakfast for Mom

Hit the Road: *Waco to Bryan*

**DON'T GO  
OUT ON  
A LIMB!**

Your safety is a top priority at your electric co-op. And it's even more important when it comes to our kids. They don't always know—or remember—what can be dangerous, so it's up to all of us to watch out for their safety.


## Safety Rules for Trees:

- Don't plant trees or install tall playground equipment under or near power lines.
- Don't build tree houses in trees near electric lines.
- Don't allow children to climb trees growing near electric lines.
- Teach your children always to look up to check for power lines before climbing trees or any tall objects.
- Keep children away from ladders, poles or work equipment that may be near power lines.
- Set a good example by following these rules yourself.

And the Number One safety rule for everyone to remember is this: Don't touch a power line or anything that's touching the power line. No one can tell simply by looking at a line whether it is energized or not, and contact with a power line can be deadly. Remember, electricity always seeks the easiest path to reach the ground, and, unfortunately, human beings are good conductors of electricity. Look up and live!



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## TEXAS CO-OP POWER

*Texas Co-op Power* is published by your electric cooperative to enhance the quality of life of its member-customers in an educational and entertaining format.

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# letters

## BIRDING ARTICLES ARE KEEPERS

I want to thank you very much for the well-done features on hummingbirds (March 2007). I also appreciated the hummingbird guide and the extreme birding article. Your issue will remind me to prepare for the hummingbirds' return. I will keep this issue to refer back to.

**MONA CARDIN**  
*San Marcos*

## DONKEY FUN

Very nice work! Your magazine is consistently enjoyable. I have shared it with friends and family all over the U.S.A. I think this issue's photos (Focus on Texas: Snapshots, March 2007) are some of the best ever. My favorite is the cake-eating donkey.

**RANDALL DAVIS**  
*Co-Serv Electric*

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

The article on Mr. Quail Dobbs (February 2007) must have been written especially for me. I wish Mr. Dobbs good health since the article brought me many happy memories of rodeos. At 90 years old, it doesn't happen often.

**IONE BISHOP HALFF**  
*Austin*

## MORE SKY, LESS LIGHT

Our landscape is littered at night with the bright lights that come on at dusk and go off at sunrise. For my grandchildren's sake, I would love to see Texas be on the cutting edge of protecting our nightscape.

**CAROL NEEL**  
*Bandera Electric Cooperative*

We want to hear from our readers. Send letters to: Editor, *Texas Co-op Power*, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, or e-mail us at [letters@texas-ec.org](mailto:letters@texas-ec.org). Please include the name of your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length and will be printed as space allows. Read additional letters at [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com).

# POWER TALK



## HIGH-TOPS ARE DOWNERS FOR LINEMEN

Please don't fling your sneakers up on power lines. You know how you sometimes see a pair, tied at the laces, dangling high above? Well, it's dangerous for the electrical worker who has to climb into a bucket truck lift and retrieve them. Sometimes the footwear brings two wires together, causing them to burn down and energize the ground below. Removing sneakers from energized lines can also interrupt power, cause sparks, stress lines or damage conductors.

## EFFICIENCY vs CONSTRUCTION

Some folks think that promoting energy efficiency is less expensive than building a new energy plant, both for customers and electric utilities.

In the past year, Austin's municipal electricity provider, Austin Energy (AE), reduced peak demand on its generating plants by 57 megawatts (MW). "More than 30,000 Austin Energy residential customers and 2,600 business customers reduced their electric use by 85 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) a year—enough electricity to power more than 7,000 homes year-round. Collectively they will save more than \$8 million annually on their electric bills," according to a recent Austin Energy newsletter.

Energy-efficiency improvements cost an average of \$280 per kilowatt (kW), while a new natural gas-fueled power plant costs more than \$650/kW to build, according to Austin Energy.

The AE energy-efficiency programs have eliminated the need for one 600 MW power plant. By 2020, they will have offset another 600 MW.

## SAFELIVING

### Don't Spark a Disaster

Burning trash or debris outside during arid summers brings with it the danger of wildfire.

1. Burn only when surface winds are expected to stay between 6 and 23 mph. Ensure smoke does not travel across roadways or toward buildings or homes.
  2. Start the burn no earlier than an hour after sunrise and ensure the fire is extinguished—with no visible flames, glowing coals or smoke—no later than an hour before sunset.
  3. Limit burns to yard trimmings.
  4. Have some means of controlling the fire such as a ready water source. Don't leave a fire unattended.
  5. Notify the sheriff's office or fire department before burning.
  6. If burning trash, do so in a metal barrel, preferably covered with a grate, to keep flaming debris from blowing around.
- Generally, burning is limited to areas outside city limits that are not under a burn ban. To find out whether your county has a burn ban, contact your local fire marshal or find a map on the Texas Forest Service's website at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/newsroom/>.



# H A P P E N I N G S



Lavender, a plant usually associated with the French countryside, has taken a firm foothold in the Texas Hill Country, with nearly 20 farms exploiting ideal growing conditions offered by the alkaline limestone soils and dry climate.

Late spring, when fields of the fragrant flowers are at their peak, offers a chance to see, smell and even taste the versatile plant.

Becker Vineyards, a winery in Stonewall that planted 3 acres of lavender in 1998, plays host to **LAVENDER FEST** on May 19 and 20, offering a Lavender Luncheon each day and free tours of the grounds. For more information, call (830) 644-2681 or visit [www.beckervineyards.com](http://www.beckervineyards.com).

Three weeks later, June 9-10, comes the third annual **BLANCO LAVENDER FESTIVAL**. The event features speakers, food and drink (try the Lavender Lemonade), a Lavender Market on grounds of the Old Blanco County Courthouse and tours of nine area farms. For more information, call (830) 833-5101 or visit [www.blancolavenderfest.com](http://www.blancolavenderfest.com).

## BTU DRAWINGS HIGHLIGHT EMPLOYEE SAFETY TIPS

Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) brings electrical safety tips alive for elementary students with an annual calendar art contest. This year, students were asked to illustrate a particular BTU employee and his or her safety tip. It provided not only a safety lesson but also insight into the people who work so hard to keep the lights on.

BTU printed 20,000 of the 10th annual BTU safety calendar. The calendars went to BTU headquarters, elementary schools and nursing homes, as well as city and county offices. Additional copies are available to co-op members on a first-come, first-served basis by contacting Allen Wood, product/account manager at [awood@btutilities.com](mailto:awood@btutilities.com) or mailing Bryan Texas Utilities, 205 E. 28th St., Bryan, TX 77803.

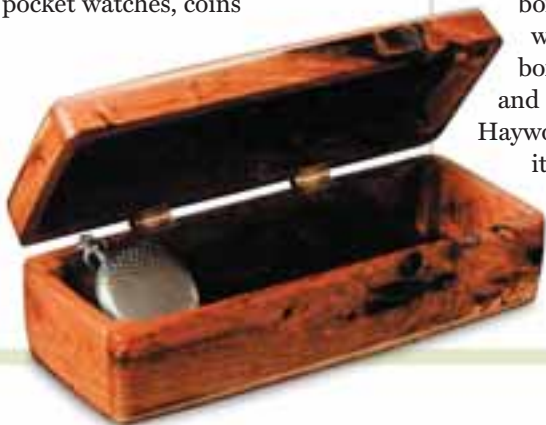


When Ricardo in Customer Service advised children to keep their pets indoors to ensure the safety of meter readers, artist Lindsey Fry, a third-grader at Bonham Elementary in Bryan, applied the lesson to cats.

# HOT STUFF

## POSSIBLES BOXES

According to woodworker J.R. Haywood, settlers in the American westward migrations of the 18th and 19th centuries had to figure out how to keep their "possibles" intact. The possibles included everything from valuable fruit and vegetable seeds to pocket watches, coins



and deeds. They secreted their valuables in small boxes that could be hidden on covered wagons. Many of the boxes became cherished family keepsakes.

Haywood, a former advertising and marketing executive, is reproducing these cigar box-sized boxes using Texas mesquite wood. The one-of-a-kind boxes are lined with leather, and some have turquoise inlay. Haywood crafts these pricy little items, which range from \$239-\$299, in his studio in Alba. For more information, go to [www.possiblesboxes.com](http://www.possiblesboxes.com) or call him at (903) 765-1166.

# WHO KNEW?




**TELEPHONE**, in Fannin County at the intersection of FM 273 and FM 2029, got its name when local general store owner Pete Hindman was having trouble finding a name that wasn't already taken in Texas. He had the only telephone in the area, so he submitted the name "Telephone" to postal authorities, and it was accepted. "The fact that the community is located between Bells and Dial is coincidental," according to Fred Tarpley, author of *1,001 Texas Place Names* (University of Texas Press, 1980).

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The Bradley 3 Ranch, founded in 1955, covers more than 11,000 acres of Childress County. There's a slight rise in the middle of the ranch where you can stand at night and see the lights of Childress 11 miles to the south, Memphis 19 miles west, Wellington 30 miles north and Hollis, Oklahoma, 30 miles east. You can stand in the exact same spot during the day and see nothing but endless ranchland covered in short grass, mesquite, juniper, with a scattering of black Angus cows. It's impossible to spot so much as a distant water tower on the horizon. The Texas Panhandle has often been referred to as a place where you can see farther and see less than any other place on earth. **WELCOME TO THE HOME AND HEARTLAND OF**

# MINNIE LOU

BY ANNE RAPP  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY NEAL HINKLE



BRADLEY.



## Minnie Lou Bradley earned her boots raising black Angus cattle for 5 decades, long before the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame awarded her its highest honor in 2006.

The day I arrived for my visit, I passed through the ranch's entry gate not knowing what to expect. I had grown up on a cotton farm about 15 miles away but had not been to this place in many years. Minnie Lou, a Lighthouse Cooperative member, was standing on the porch of the ranch headquarters dressed in jeans, a pressed khaki shirt with a monogram of her ranch brand, and work boots. She hugged me when I got out of my pickup, then turned to guide me inside. But first, she stopped and gazed out over the east pasture—the same horizon she has looked at every day for over half a century. “These old black cows have been good to me,” she said.

Minnie Lou has raised and worked registered Angus cattle on the Bradley 3 Ranch for over 50 years, and at any given time she runs about 400-500 heifers and 200 bulls, although this year's numbers are down because of the drought.

This was early October, which is calving season, and several new calves were arriving daily. Young heifers having their first calves are routinely brought up to the pens by the barn so that Minnie Lou or one of her two full-time employees, Chic or Bob, (yes, only two for over 11,000 acres) can keep an eye on these first-time moms and help

them if they get into trouble. When cows require human assistance with birth, the task is called “pulling calves.” That pretty much describes what happens—you reach in and pull the calf out.

Did I mention that Minnie Lou is 75 years old? During calving season somebody has to check on the new heifers in the pens every few hours day and night, meaning there are checks at 10 p.m., 2 a.m., then 6 a.m. to start the next day. Minnie Lou takes the 2 a.m. shift. Every night she gets in her pickup and slowly drives past all the pens, shining her floodlight across the pregnant black beauties, looking for any in distress. She told me that her daughter, Mary Lou, and son-in-law, James, recently made her sign a paper promising that if she discovered a heifer needing help in the wee hours, under no circumstances would she get out of her pickup and pull the calf. Instead, she would get help from Bob, who lives near the barn. Minnie Lou's suggestion that she just take a cell phone into the pen was adamantly dismissed, so she signed the paper under protest.

Did I mention that Minnie Lou does all the cooking at the ranch? She personally makes breakfast, lunch and supper for



herself, the employees, any family members who are around, and anybody else who wanders up with a hay truck or an equipment delivery. She uses beef out of her own locker for every meal—meat straight from the Bradley herd.

For nearly 50 years, Minnie Lou has taught ranching skills and principles to students from the ranch management program at Texas Christian University. She also hosts students from other universities, and she has received a lot of awards, including a recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Land Stewardship Award for the Rolling Plains of Texas.

Did I mention that Minnie Lou was the first woman to major in animal husbandry at Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State)? She was also the first woman to win the International Livestock Judging contest in Chicago in the late 1940s. She was one of the first women to serve on the board of directors of the American Angus Association, the largest beef organization in the world with 36,000 members (mostly male) in 50 states. Minnie Lou became the association's first and only female president in 2004.

If you ask Minnie Lou when she plans to retire, she looks at you like you're crazy. "I'm just starting to learn something," she says. She shrugs off being called a "pioneer for women." She just says, "If I know what I'm doing, I'll get the job done whether I'm a man or a woman. I've always said—just know your trade."

On October 26, 2006, Minnie Lou Bradley was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, joining 180 other female trailblazers such as Dale Evans and Patsy Cline. At the awards ceremony, a short video about each inductee was shown. Footage of the other inductees included exciting barrel racing championships and horse showmanship. Minnie Lou's video had a lot of old black cows just standing around grazing. And Minnie Lou standing around watching them. The other inductees wore fancy boots and hats, and glittery jackets and skirts, and a lot of turquoise jewelry. Minnie Lou wore a black skirt and a plain brown jacket, no hat, no jewelry. Her short-cropped gray hair was neatly combed.

When her name was announced, she stepped up to the microphone and looked out at the lively audience made up mostly of women who were as gussied-up as the other inductees. What must've crossed Minnie Lou's mind at that moment were all those times she had stood up in front of thousands of cattlemen in numerous states and enlightened them with her knowledge of ringworm, dehorning, bad udders and good bull semen. What came out of her mouth was, "I'm not used to being in a room with this many women. It kinda scares me."

Back at the Bradley 3 Ranch, not much scares Minnie Lou. She's seen and experienced just about everything a rancher could know in a lifetime. Those old black cows have been good to her. And the land around her, all 11,000 acres, is a big part of her soul. "Most women don't want to live out this far. You either love it or you hate it. I love this old country. It's the best friend I've had for 50 years and it's never let me down. It's taken care of me, this old country. So I take care of it."

---

*Anne Rapp is an Austin-based screenwriter whose credits include "Cookie's Fortune" and "Dr. T and the Women," both directed by Robert Altman.*



# THOROUGHLY MODERN LIZZIE

BY ANNE RAPP



IN THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES, AS THE VICTORIAN ERA WAS BEING LAID TO REST, A FEW FEMINISTS BEGAN PUSHING FOR SOCIETAL RIGHTS THAT HAD LONG BEEN DENIED THEM. MANY WESTERN WOMEN HAD ALREADY CAST OFF STRICTURES THAT SEEMED IRRELEVANT TO THEIR LIVES.

“Cow women simply took their freedom, much to the relief of their men, who always needed help ... They learned to ride as equals with men. Because firearms were a necessary part of everyday life, they used them when they had to. They dealt with hostile Indians and cutthroat rustlers. On the trails, they endured and often enjoyed the rustic conditions,” historian James M. Smallwood writes in *Texas Women on the Cattle Trails* edited by Sara Massey (Texas A&M University Press, 2006).

ALL 16 WOMEN PROFILED IN THE BOOK are compelling, but I find Sara Massey’s account of Lizzie Johnson Williams (1840-1924) especially intriguing because Lizzie’s outlook was so modern and idiosyncratic. It was the polar opposite of my more traditional grandmother. Born over a half century later than Lizzie, in 1898, a mere three years shy of the Victorian cut-off, my grandmother far more fit that era’s definition of womanhood. She was raised in a two-room house on her father’s small Texas Panhandle cotton farm. She received a third-grade education.

Being born into a family of educators, Lizzie spent her childhood learning about arithmetic, spelling, grammar and music. By the time she was 16, she was teaching in her father’s Hill Country school system known as the Johnson Institute. In her mid-20s, Lizzie started making extra income by keeping the books for local cattlemen. She quickly learned the cattle trade, and her bookkeeping business became very lucrative. Still, she found herself bored at times, so she began publishing pulp fiction using a nom de plume and made enough money to start investing in cattle and buy her own home in Austin. At 32, Lizzie was a single, professional woman living on her own and making good money.

By contrast, my grandmother married my grandfather when she was 16. They remained on her family’s farm and cared for her parents until their deaths. I never once heard my grandmother mention being bored. When she wasn’t cooking and cleaning she was quilting and sewing. The closest she ever came to understanding the cattle business was performing her daily task on an overturned bucket at the south end of a milk cow.

Lizzie became a cattle broker after the Civil War and eventually invested in a Chicago cattle company. Originally worth about \$2,500, the stock paid 100 percent for three years straight, and Lizzie sold it for \$20,000. She invested in more cattle

and land, lots of it. This was early in the cattle boom, and she was able to dispatch her cowhands to round up wild cattle and brand them. She was sending cattle up the trail to market by 1879.

In Lizzie's day, young women were considered spinsters if they weren't married by their early 20s. But Lizzie, who turned down several fervent suitors, wasn't ready for marriage until the age of 39 when she fell in love with Hezekiah George Williams, a fellow cattleman and retired preacher with seven children. Lizzie was smitten, but romance didn't alter her shrewd business sense. She insisted that Hezekiah sign a contract saying that her property, along with all future financial gains she might make, belonged to her. The idea of such a "pre-nup" would've been foreign to my grandmother.

In the mid-1880s, Lizzie and Hezekiah made at least three trips up the Chisholm Trail taking their separate herds. A ranch foreman recounted that both Lizzie and Hezekiah instructed him to appropriate and brand the other's unbranded calves. Lizzie went to cattle sales with Hezekiah, but they bought separately. Lizzie turned out to be the better judge of cattle and the stronger moneymaker.

When she had the opportunity, Lizzie wore fine silks and velvets purchased in New York and Kansas City, and on one trip she bought \$10,000 worth of jewelry. But on the trail, she donned calicos and cottons, a bonnet and a gray shawl and rode in a buggy.

At the end of the century, Lizzie and her husband traveled extensively, staying in fancy hotels and shopping for elegant clothes. When Cuba became a market for Texas cattle, Lizzie and Hezekiah moved there and stayed for three years. At one point, Lizzie lost a \$40,000 shipment of cattle, but it obviously didn't break the bank.

Less than a year later, Hezekiah was kidnapped and held for \$50,000 ransom, which Lizzie promptly paid. After that, she made him sign all his

property over to her. They returned to Galveston on Christmas Eve in 1905.

Despite their friendly rivalry, Lizzie loved her husband. When he died in 1914, Lizzie paid \$600 for a fine casket. "I loved this old buzzard this much," she wrote across the undertaker's bill.

By then she owned property in Llano and Hays counties and buildings in Austin. She owned a 4,300-acre ranch in Trinity County, a 10,000-acre ranch in Culberson County, and acreage in East Texas near Conroe. One thing she didn't have was a close family. In her later years, she became reclusive and lived out the rest of her life in her Brueggerhoff Building in downtown Austin. She no longer lived in grand fashion but became a miser, bargaining down the price of her morning orange juice. She died a decade after Hezekiah without leaving a will. Her

distant family was left to sort out her estate, worth over a quarter of a million dollars.

My grandmother never left her Texas Panhandle farm. Every morning for 86 years, she woke up and looked out the back door at the same horizon. She rode in a buggy a whopping 20 miles away on her honeymoon. It was the farthest she had ever been from home, and the farthest she would go for years to come. She never learned to drive a car. She never traveled on trains or airplanes. To my knowledge, she never owned a diamond.

She outlived my grandfather by two decades and died in 1984, still light-years behind Lizzie in independence, self-confidence and wealth. But she did have a family and she left a will, and because of it I am able occasionally to stand at her back door and take in the same Panhandle horizon she saw every single day of her life.



LIZZIE WILLIAMS WAS A BOOKKEEPER, SCHOOLTEACHER, NOVELIST, HEARTBREAKER, CATTLE BROKER, TRAIL DRIVER, FINE DRESSER AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSWOMAN. BUT SHE DIED ALONE, A MISER, IN AUSTIN.

WEDDING PORTRAIT OF LIZZIE AND HEZEKIAH WILLIAMS.

# TWO TRAIL-DRIVING WOMEN

BY KAYE NORTHCOTT



An East Coast society woman and a motherly rancher's wife were the first two white women to have anything to do with ranching in the wild and formidable Palo Duro Canyon of Texas.

CORNELIA WADSWORTH RITCHIE ADAIR (ABOVE, SECOND FROM LEFT)  
AND MARY ANNE "MOLLY" GOODNIGHT (BELOW) WERE GREAT HORSEWOMEN.



MOLLY GOODNIGHT'S BRANCH OF A DISTINGUISHED TENNESSEE FAMILY MIGRATED TO A settlement near Fort Belknap in North Texas when she was 14. She married a hard-scrabble cowboy with only six months of formal schooling, but he turned out to be one for the history books—Charles Goodnight, whose name adorned the Goodnight-Loving cattle trail. Goodnight's cattle business, based in Pueblo, Colorado, collapsed in 1876, but he rebounded the next year when he joined John George Adair, an Irish financier, in a new venture. \* Adair probably would not have been dabbling in cattle except for the fact that his wife, Cornelia Wadsworth Ritchie Adair, was as adventuresome as she was highborn. Cornelia, a native of Upstate New York, had fallen in love with the West during a buffalo hunt. The unlikely foursome and their drovers moved the makings of the JA Ranch from Colorado to the Palo Duro Canyon. The drive included four wagons and enough supplies to last six months, 100 Durham bulls and sufficient horses to upgrade Goodnight's Texas herd. \* Cornelia rode a beautiful white horse the whole 400 miles, while Molly alternated between horse and wagon. Both were excellent horsewomen. Charles Goodnight later insisted that the cattle had almost died of thirst when Molly mistook a patch of bear grass for a band of Indians in the distance and halted their movement south for a time. If she was

Because many pieces of farm equipment reach heights of 14 feet or higher, always remember to look up when entering fields and barn lots to make sure there is enough room to pass beneath electric lines. Electric contact accidents can result in loss of limbs or even death.


## **Farm Safety Rules:**

- The number one electrical farm hazard is the potential contact from a grain auger to a power line. Always look up before raising or moving an auger.
- The same is true of metal irrigation pipe, often stored along fence lines under an electric line. Never raise or move irrigation pipe without looking up. A few seconds of caution can mean the difference between life and death.
- Be sure hand tools are in good working order and use them according to manufacturers' instructions.
- Ensure that the wiring in your workshop is adequate to handle your tools. And never operate any electric tools near water.
- Read labels and handling instructions carefully and follow them when using chemicals and herbicides. Never leave chemicals where children or animals can get into them; store them in a locked cabinet if possible. Safely dispose of containers.

# **CULTIVATE FARM SAFETY**



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concerned about Indians, she learned over the ensuing years to play the unflappable hostess to cattle-rustling Kiowas and Comanches. Charles gave them an allotment of beef to keep things peaceful.

According to historian Michaele Thurgood Haynes in *Texas Women on the Cattle Trails*, Molly's [and Cornelia's] "first sight of Palo Duro, named for the cedar trees, was breathtaking: a solitary canyon 1,500 feet deep, 10 miles wide and almost 100 miles long, with steep

red cliffs on both sides. Since fencing was unnecessary, the canyon was ideal for raising cattle. ... It was a beautiful sight, but getting the entourage down the old Indian trail took significant effort."

The Goodnight/Adair party had to unload and disassemble the wagons and use ropes to lower the parts down into the valley. Next, the supplies bumped their way down. The cattle and horses trod gingerly down rocky trails. The process took eight days, and the group still had to move the supplies 10 more



CHARLES GOODNIGHT  
AND CORNELIA ADAIR  
IN THEIR LATER YEARS.



**Transformers**

It doesn't take a crack shot to hit an electric insulator or transformer, just a crackpot. During hunting season, careless shooters taking pot shots at electric equipment can cause major problems for your electric company.

**Here's why:**

- You are inconveniencing your fellow member-customers whose electricity has been disrupted.
- It could even be a matter of life and death to someone on a life-support system or to someone who is hit by a stray shot.
- Damage to electrical equipment is very expensive to repair. Lines may be cut or weakened from a shot, and they may sag or break, becoming a severe hazard for anyone who comes in contact with the line.
- Broken insulators can cause power outages that are hard—and expensive—to find. An insulator cracked by a bullet can remain on line for a long time before it finally fails.

Enjoy your sport, but be a responsible hunter. Teach your children to respect power lines, electrical equipment and guns so that they, too, will be responsible hunters.



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**ONLY  
CRACKPOTS  
TAKE SHOTS**

miles to a headquarters site. Once the Goodnights were established, the Adairs left them to do the actual ranch work.

At least during the 1870s, Haynes wrote, Molly was the only white woman within a 75-mile radius on the Texas High Plains. Besides the men, her companions were the bison and three chickens originally intended for Sunday dinner. She wrote to her sister, "No one will ever know how much company those chickens were." She saw to it that enough buffalo were preserved to make up today's Texas State Bison Herd.

Molly persevered as a ranch woman, teacher and healer. According to *Women in Texas* by Ann Fears Crawford and Crystal Sasse Ragsdale (Eakin Press, 1982), Molly's home remedies included "coal-oil for lice, prickly pear for wounds, salt and buffalo tallow for piles, mud for inflammation and fever and buffalo meat broth for a general tonic."

Cornelia traveled the world, but she became one of the largest female landowners in the country after her husband died. "She visited the JA each fall, riding the range with the cowboys and sharing their chuck wagon meals," according to historian Frances B. Vick. The Canyon City newspaper called her "the English cattle queen."

*Kaye Northcott is the editor of Texas Co-op Power.*

# TAME YOUR TREES

## Tree Trimming


We love our trees, but when branches are too close to power lines, they can cause power outages, fire hazards and safety concerns.

### Here are some rules to follow:

- If a tree or a large branch is touching or falls on an electric line, call your electric cooperative immediately. Tree sap is an excellent conductor of electricity, so a downed branch on a line is an electrocution hazard as well as a fire hazard.
- Never trim trees that grow close to power lines; that is a job for professionals. Call your electric co-op for assistance and guidance.
- Don't allow children to climb trees or build tree houses close to power lines.
- When planting a tree, plan ahead. A tiny tree may eventually grow large enough to damage power lines and possibly interrupt power during storms. At maturity, your trees should not be within 10 feet of a power line.
- Plant appropriate distances from all power lines—those along the street or right-of-way, as well as those running to your home and outbuildings.



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## Energy-Efficient Cleaning: New Washers Offer Options

**DEAR JAMES:** I want to buy a new energy-efficient clothes washer, but I would prefer a top-loader because of back problems. Are top-loading washers really much less efficient than the large front-loading washers?

—Leslie L.

**DEAR LESLIE:** Front-loading washers are the most efficient design, using about half as much water and detergent as a top-loader, but they are less convenient to load and unload. If you have a bad back, unloading heavy wet clothes can also be a problem.

There is a new design of top-loading washer, which is almost as efficient as a front-loader. Instead of using a large rotating agitator, it uses a wobbling washer plate and small agitator in the tub to move clothes through the soapy water. This design does not require the entire tub to fill with water and has a relatively fast spin speed for a top-loader design.



New top-loading washers use less energy, water and detergent.

If you do not mind bending over and you want the most efficient and best-cleaning washer, a front-loader is difficult to beat. With the tub on a horizontal axis, the tub has to be only partially filled, and the clothes naturally tumble through the soapy water. Fins inside of the tub also catch some of the water and shower it down over the tumbling clothes.

Another advantage of a front-loader is that you can stack the dryer on top of the washer to save space. The horizontal axis tub in a front-loader spins at a much higher speed during the rinse cycle.

This high spin speed forces more soapy water out of the clothes during each cycle. Clothes last longer when there is less residual detergent in them. Also, more thorough rinsing is a plus for people with sensitive skin or allergies.

As with most appliances today, front-loading clothes washers are becoming smarter and more automatic. Instead of setting the water level dial depending upon the size of the load, the washer automatically senses the weight of the clothes and selects the most effective and efficient settings. These also have manual overrides in case you prefer a particular setting.

Whether purchasing a front-loading or top-loading machine, be sure to choose the most energy-efficient one sized to meet your laundry needs.

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## LEAVE THERMOSTAT CONTROL UP TO HER



In the tug-of-war over how warm or cool the house should be, the woman almost always wins.

That's the finding of a survey by ServiceMagic, a company that matches homeowners with handymen and other service professionals.

Of the 1,500 people who responded to the survey, 55 percent said women control the thermostat, while 5 percent said their pets or children get the final say. (Sorry, Dad!)

Looking to resolve the thermostat war? Unless you're among the 15 percent who said they "pretend not to hear" their spouses' complaints, consider installing a programmable thermostat.

A programmable thermostat lets you program temperature settings throughout the day so the house uses less energy when the family is away or sleeping. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says using an automatic thermostat can save a household up to 18 percent a year on energy bills.

Even if a programmable thermostat doesn't end the argument, the energy savings could be enough to stop your spouse from griping that it's too hot or cold inside!



# Add an Energy Check to Yearly Cleaning List

Warm weather has a way of making things grow: flowers, grass, your to-do list. So what's one more task? While you're scrubbing and inspecting your home this spring, check for energy-efficiency around the house. Making a few energy-related repairs could help lower your electric bill all year long.

- While you're cleaning the windows, check for loose or leaky panes, and identify any single-paned windows. These energy no-nos allow cool air to escape from your home during the summer and steal heated air during the winter. That can raise your utility bill no matter the season. Replacing old, inefficient windows now is an investment that will pay for itself in energy savings.

- Light bulbs looking dim? Wipe them down to remove excess dust, and trash those incandescent bulbs. Compact fluorescent bulbs come in almost every size and mimic the glow of incandescents while using less energy—and they last up to 10 times longer.

- Replace your dirty air filters once a month. Dusty filters make your air-conditioning system work harder.

- Open the windows. If it's not warm enough yet to turn off the heat and enjoy the fresh air, install a programmable thermostat, which auto-



matically adjusts the temperature so you use less energy to heat your home when no one is there.

- Vacuum under and behind the refrigerator to remove dust build-up that decreases efficiency. If you use an extra fridge or freezer, turn it off when not in use. If you use it year round, keep it stocked or fill gaps with extra jugs of water or trays of ice so it will operate more efficiently.

- Before you scrub major appliances such as refrigerators, ovens or washers, check to see whether the model is Energy Star certified. If not, consider upgrading—Energy Star models use loads less energy and are worth the purchase price, even if your older, less-efficient appliance is still in working order.

## IF SOMEONE GETS SHOCKED

- Do not touch them! You could become shocked yourself. Call 911.
- Turn off the appliance if possible, or shut off the power at the circuit breaker.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible. If qualified, attempt first aid or CPR if necessary, but only if the power has been turned off or if the victim is in a safe area. Do not risk electrical shock to yourself or others.
- Remember, electricity always seeks a path to the ground and will travel through any conductor to get there. The human body is made mostly of water and is a very good conductor of electricity. Do not become an electrical path.

## EVEN SUPERHEROES NEED TO BE CAREFUL AROUND ELECTRICITY

We all know the wonderful things electricity makes possible. There are TVs, radios, video games and computers. Not to mention that electricity keeps us warm in winter, cool in summer, cooks our food, heats our water, cleans our clothes, and keeps our homes and schools bright, even when there's no sun outdoors.

While we should be grateful for what electricity provides, we should also remember that electricity is powerful, and we must be careful when using it.

Here are some kid-friendly tips on electrical safety:

- Never touch broken electrical cords or ones that have wire showing.
- Don't bite electrical cords. Now you may be laughing, but small children and pets sometimes do bite these cords, and it is very dangerous.
- Never stick your finger or any object into light sockets or electrical outlets. Ask your mom or dad to buy plug covers so no one will get into trouble.
- Do not pull on cords to unplug them. Hold on to the plug.
- Do not touch anything electrical while you are wet or standing in water.
- Did you know that electricity can travel down kite strings or wires? Never fly kites or balloons near any power lines.
- Do not climb power poles or trees close to power lines.
- If one of your toys gets caught in electrical equipment, don't touch it. Find an adult to help you.



NOCONA

# Rebirth of a Texas Legend

*“The fire destroyed our plant, but our two most valuable assets—our employees and the Nokona name—survived. Both will help us rebuild a new facility.”*

by Russell A. Graves



When I walked into the temporary home of the Nokona Athletic Goods Co.’s baseball glove factory in Nocona, Texas, my career as a baseball player had come full circle.

Twenty-two years ago, I was named catcher of the newly formed Dodd City High School baseball team. One of my first orders of business was to prepare my gear.

Coach Reed gave me a brand-new Nokona catcher’s mitt and told me to have it ready for the season. For weeks, I oiled the glove and would throw a ball into it, trying to break in the leather. Living way out in the country, I didn’t always have someone with whom to play catch, so for hours at a time, I’d throw the baseball on the roof of our barn and catch it as it rolled off the eaves—all in preparation for opening day.

All those memories came flooding back as I walked through the front doors of the Nokona factory. Rob Storey, president and chief executive of the company, was my personal tour guide.

It was a tour that almost did not happen. A fire last July destroyed the company’s nearly 80-year-old factory building and warehouse. Fortunately, workers were able to save many of the artifacts that trace the history of the company—and of the sport with which it is so closely identified.

Cad McCall, a local banker, started the business in 1926. “At first, the company made purses, but due to the Great Depression, the company had to change its offerings,” Storey said. In 1934, Nokona’s first glove was released. When the company applied for a patent for its baseball gloves, the United States Patent Office wouldn’t allow the town’s name to be attached to the patent, so a “K” took the place of the “C” in Nocona.

For more than 70 years, the company quietly produced handmade gloves in its old, brick factory just a couple of blocks west of downtown. Nokona has been a mainstay of the local economy and one of Nocona’s major employers.

“One of the company’s guiding principles is to provide jobs for American workers,” Storey beamed. “The company’s commitment to that principle is what’s allowed us to stay in Nocona while other American glove companies have moved their production overseas.”

The Nokona brand, a staple of youth baseball and softball clubs, has occupied a modest but comfortable niche in the American baseball world. But a recent aggressive growth plan brought new investors into the fold. The injection of cash spurred ambitious plans for the company. A marketing campaign, along with the signing of the Chicago Cubs’ Todd Walker (now with the Oakland A’s organization) as an endorser, poised the company for growth.

The July fire threatened this progress, consuming the building within a few hours. But the dies (tools used to create pieces of the gloves), which had been



**Cam Washington plays outfield and catcher for the Childress High School Bobcats.**

around since the company was formed, were salvaged, as was some memorabilia and critical computer data.

“In the end, the fire burned down the factory but not the company,” Storey said.

Within days after losing its building, the company announced plans to rent 20,000 square feet at the former Nocona Boot Factory on the eastern edge of town. Back orders had grown to 10,000. Just shy of two months after the fire, the first glove was produced and presented to New York Yankees Manager Joe Torre.

While many CEOs would view a devastating fire as a setback, Storey sees it as a way to become bigger and better.

“We are continuing to market the company heavily and have signed even more major leaguers to represent our gloves. This factory is temporary, and we will definitely rebuild,” he vowed. “The fire destroyed our plant, but our two most valuable assets—our employees and the Nokona name—survived. Both will help us rebuild a new facility.”

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*Russell A. Graves is an award-winning photographer and frequent contributor to Texas Co-op Power.*

# Ribbons of History



*As our family steps forward into the future, I worry about how much of our inheritance we've washed away in the rushing waters of acculturation.*

BY WINTER PROSAPIO

My daughter has no Mexican clothes. We discovered this when she came home announcing that her school would be celebrating Mexican Independence Day, *Diez y Seis de Septiembre*.

"I need to wear something Mexican," Sierra said as I flipped through the hangers looking for a bright fabric, embroidery, ribbons. I look at her, 7 years old, olive skin from me, large, brown eyes like her great-grandmother, full lips from her father and dressed in capri pants and soccer shirt, straight brown hair pulled back in a ponytail, and I think, "You know, *mija*, technically anything you wear is 'Mexican.'"

Later, as we finished our dinner, she started on her homework. "What are the flowers of Mexico?" she asks.

"I don't know. How about cities? I know cities ..."

"OK." She settles for the knowledge I have. I wonder why I don't know the flowers of Mexico. I know the Texas state flower, the bird, the song. Suddenly I feel like a tourist in my own culture.

So I search for cultural threads to weave into our life. Music. Art. Dance. I tried to sign her up for folklorico dancing, the same dancing I learned as a 6-year-old. I remembered the shiny, black shoes with heels that made loud clacks on the ground as you stomped and bright-colored skirts so full that when you lifted one end up to your head, the middle still trailed onto the floor. My mother pulled my hair into a ponytail so tight I could barely blink, and bright red blush shone on my cheeks.

I called the Mexican cultural center in our community.

"Not till she's 12," the woman on the phone said, with no trace of an accent. "Sign her up for ballet."

Twelve? *Hola*, I need a cultural infusion now. I need a way to bring back my grandmother's kitchen where I grew up, sneaking bits of masa as Spanish filled the air. Where I watched the masked wrestler "El Santo" from behind the living room couch.

Our house is filled with CNN, Disney and Nickelodeon, with only "Dora the Explorer" tossing in an occasional Spanish word. As Hispanics, my husband and I never really speak Spanish—unless we don't want the children to understand what we are saying. Sure, our birthdays have *piñatas*, the papier-mâché shapes that shatter after being hit with a stick, candy raining down on shrieking children.

When my grandmother visits, telenovelas whisper from the television at night, and my daughter's lunchbox often features quesadillas—tortillas and cheese sealed with butter—instead of grilled cheese.

But these are cultural Band-Aids on a missing limb. As our family steps forward into the future, I worry about how much of our inheritance we've washed away in the rushing waters of acculturation. These are waters I've been bathed in all my life, waters that widen the border well beyond its riverbank.

I find a shirt and skirt my sister brought back from her trip to Mexico City, and Sierra runs around in her costume, dancing into the sunshine of the living room. The embroidery spells out MEXICO in stiff block letters, and I wonder whether I should pull her hair back into a tight ponytail and rub some blush on her cheek.

As my children stretch our family history into a future where borders split political parties, will I give her something more culturally substantial to carry with her than a few Tex-Mex phrases and an embroidered dress?

That night, I give my daughter one end of the colorful ribbon I find in my heart. I tell her stories of her grandfather, who raised cotton after his family had picked it on farms for years. I share the stories of the long trips her great-great-grandfather took to gather salt, a four-day ride away by wagon. I tell her about her great-grandmother, who had never even eaten in a restaurant, taking over ownership of a busy café during World War II, serving tacos to soldiers on leave.

Oye, miija. Listen, my daughter. Your inheritance is in these words. It will not be washed away. You come from a hard-working, loving people, people who were not purely Mexican, not purely Texan, but a powerful melding of history, geography and pride. These are their stories. Take them and weave them into your future.

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*Winter Prosapio is a Hill Country writer and humor columnist. She wrote "Walking With Grandfather" in the March issue.*



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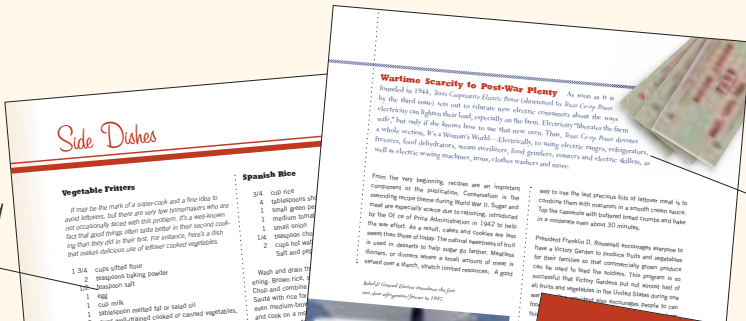
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# Bringing Texas' Grand Capitol to Life

BY GEOFF RIPS

Imagine Austin, a dusty frontier town on the north bank of the Colorado River in 1876, when the state fathers decided to erect a government building modeled on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. At completion, it would rise 15 feet taller than the original. The granite superstructure would dwarf the one- and two-story buildings of the Texas capital city in the 1880s. It was as if the spirit of Donald Trump had taken hold of the post-Reconstruction Texas Legislature.

But the state was poverty-stricken. Receipts in 1874 did not meet even half of the state's expenditures. What were legislators thinking?

They wanted a symbol of power to rival that of the federal government. It would be a boost to Texas' battered psyche. After all, between 1835 and 1875, the state had survived three major wars (Texas Independence, the Mexican War and the Civil War), several national economic depressions and six complete overhauls of government.

So the state commissioned a grand building to serve as a sign of independence and stability.

But if you're an agrarian economy that hates to tax itself, how do you pay the staggering \$3 million price tag to build this capitol? Well, Texas might have been cash poor, but it was land rich.

When the Republic of Texas joined the Union in 1845, it brought a large debt as part of its baggage. So the federal government cut a deal with the state, allowing it to keep its unappropriated land to sell to pay off its debt. That land did not become federal property like most of the vast unclaimed tracts of the western United States.

Railroads got 32 million acres of land, the equivalent of one-fifth of the state or all of Alabama. An additional 20 million acres of state lands went to the benefit of public schools.

In 1876, Texas still owned 61 million acres, most in the western reaches of the state. The Constitution of 1876 designated 3 million of those acres to pay for building a state Capitol. The land sold for about 50 cents per acre, generating about \$1.5 million for construction of the Capitol. The designated land made up large parts of 10 Panhandle counties: Bailey, Castro, Cochran, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Hartley, Hockley, Lamb, Oldham and Parmer.

Running about 220 miles north from near present-day Lubbock to the Oklahoma Panhandle and averaging about 30 miles in width, the land was dubbed the XIT Ranch, probably stemming from a brand devised to thwart cattle rustlers. Another 50,000 acres were appropriated by the Legislature in 1879 to pay for surveying the land. When the old Capitol burned to the ground in 1881, work speeded up



on designing and building the new one.

At the same time, the developers of the XIT had their work cut out for them. They turned to a syndicate of British investors, who put up the equivalent of \$15 million to finance initial operating expenses and to stock the ranch with cattle. For a time, the Earl of Aberdeen and his British associates held the note on the XIT, at the time largest fenced ranch in the world. In the late 1890s, huge swaths of the XIT began to be offered for sale to pay off the British investors.

With financing secure, the look of the building was cemented when the owners of Granite Mountain near Marble Falls donated the distinctive pink granite used for the structure. The stone was largely quarried and the structure built by convicts and migrant workers, including stone masons from Scotland, swarming the site a thousand-strong at times. After six years of construction, the state Capitol was completed for a total cost of \$3.74 million. When it was dedicated in 1888, it was said to be the seventh largest building in the world.

One century after their sale, the lands exchanged for the Capitol's construction were valued at nearly \$7 billion.

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*Geoff Rips, a former editor of The Texas Observer, directs Foundation Development & Special Projects for the Austin Independent School District.*



# ‘Forget Breakfast ... Just Let Me Sleep’

**BY SHANNON OELRICH** I took an informal poll of several mothers with young children, asking what their perfect Mother’s Day breakfast in bed would be. Among the wistful replies for fresh-squeezed orange juice and French toast or an omelet and fruit was this common refrain: “Forget breakfast ... just let me sleep.” As the mother of a 2-year-old, I can relate. Those late, lazy mornings of my early 20s are just a distant memory now.

I feel sheepish when I think about all the hours of sleep my mother lost when I was little, and how many Mother’s Days I neglected to do something special for her. Sure, there was always a requisite card and gift, but they paled in comparison to her efforts to make our lives comfortable.

Mom, I’d offer to bring you breakfast in bed to make up for all those times, but thanks to my considerate husband, I’ll be sleeping in for breakfast this year.

For all you fathers and for kids old enough to help in the kitchen, the following is an easy recipe that Mom will love ... when she finally wakes up.

## MOTHER’S DAY FRITTATA

- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 small jars (6 ounces each) marinated artichoke hearts, drained and chopped (keep liquid from 1 jar)
- 6 eggs
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup bread crumbs
- 1/2 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon

- (basil or chives will work also)
- 6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- Dash of black pepper
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In 10- or 12-inch skillet, sauté onion in butter until transparent. Add artichokes and liquid from one jar. Keep on low heat while making the following mixture:

In large bowl, lightly beat eggs, add Parmesan cheese, bread crumbs, herbs, bacon, pepper and sautéed onions and artichokes. Mix together and pour back into skillet. Remove from stovetop and put in oven. Bake for 25 minutes or until set. Sprinkle with mozzarella and return to oven to melt cheese. Serves 4-6.

Serving size: 1 wedge. Per serving: 219 calories, 13 g protein, 17 g fat, 5 g carbohydrates, 409 mg sodium, 215 mg cholesterol





**RANDY MCBRIDE** *Sam Houston Electric Cooperative*

Prize-winning recipe: **Asparagus Frittata**

Frittatas can be as down-home or as upscale as you want to make them. The basic idea is to add herbs, cheese and vegetables or meat to eggs, mix it all together and throw it in a pan. The winning recipe this month is for an Asparagus Frittata, as pretty as it is tasty. Arranging the asparagus spears in a pinwheel shape adds that extra touch to the presentation.

## ASPARAGUS FRITTATA

- 12-16 asparagus spears
- 12 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 2-3 tablespoons butter
- 1 bunch green onions, including tops, chopped
- 3 roma tomatoes, diced
- 1/2 cup each shredded Cheddar and mozzarella cheeses, mixed

Blanch asparagus in boiling water for 1 minute. Drain in colander and rinse with cold water. When cool, cut spears in half. Cut the lower stems into 1-inch sections, leaving the upper parts with tips intact.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In large bowl, whisk eggs, milk, parsley, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Set aside.

In oven-proof skillet (10- or 12-inch), heat butter over medium heat. When melted, add onions and 1-inch asparagus pieces. Sauté until tender, about 2-3 minutes. Add tomatoes and stir. Turn heat to low and add egg mixture. Stir thoroughly to mix. Do not stir again. As the eggs begin to cook, go around the pan with a spatula, carefully lifting the edges and tilting the skillet to allow the liquid egg mixture to flow underneath the cooked eggs. Continue until eggs are set.

Remove skillet from stovetop and

sprinkle with cheese mixture. Arrange asparagus tips in a pinwheel fashion on top of eggs. Place skillet in oven. Cook until cheese is melted and slightly browned, about 3-5 minutes (you may also use a broiler for this step). Cut frittata into pie-shaped wedges and serve from skillet. Serves 6-8.

Serving size: 1 wedge. Per serving: 217 calories, 13 g protein, 16 g fat, 6 g carbohydrates, 482 mg sodium, 308 mg cholesterol

## CRAB-ZUCCHINI FRITTATA

- 8 ounces fresh or frozen crabmeat
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 clove garlic
- 2/3 cup chopped green onion
- 1 cup zucchini, sliced paper thin
- 1/2 cup sliced, fresh mushrooms
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pepper to taste
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon fresh oregano or 1 teaspoon dried

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, drain crabmeat and pick out shell or cartilage; set aside.

Melt butter and gradually add garlic, onion, zucchini and mushrooms, cooking only until hot. Add salt and pepper.

Beat eggs, milk and cheese together and add oregano, sautéed vegetables and crab. Pour into buttered, shallow 1 1/2-quart casserole dish.

Bake 20-25 minutes or until firm. Serve immediately or at room temperature. Will also reheat nicely in microwave. Serves 8 as appetizer or first course, 4 as main dish.

Serving size: 1 square. Per serving: 156 calories, 15 g protein, 9 g fat, 3 g carbohydrates, 685 mg sodium, 145 mg cholesterol

**DOROTHY ARNOLD**

*Karnes Electric Cooperative*

## PARISIAN PANCAKE

- 1/2 cup shallots or onions, chopped fine
- 2 tablespoon butter
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon each of salt, pepper and hot sauce
- 2 ounces Monterey jack cheese, grated (or other mild cheese)
- 8 ounces chopped ham (or bacon or sausage)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Sauté onions in butter in 10-inch iron skillet. Place eggs, flour, milk, salt, pepper and hot sauce in blender. Blend until mixed well. Pour blended mixture into skillet, sprinkle cheese and meat over top. Bake for approximately 20 minutes or until "puffy" and toothpick comes out clean. Can be frozen and used as needed. Serves 6-8.

Serving size: 1 wedge. Per serving: 235 calories, 12 g protein, 14 g fat, 15 g carbohydrates, 639 mg sodium, 126 mg cholesterol

**BEVERLY PORTER**

*Sam Houston Electric Cooperative*

**Cook's Tip:** Serve a frittata with homemade hash browns, a fruit salad and fresh-squeezed orange juice for a special breakfast or serve it with some crusty bread and a salad for a casual dinner.

## RECIPE CONTEST

September ... fall ... back to school ... hard to think about now, but it'll be here before you know it. We want your **PEANUT BUTTER** recipes, gourmet or grade school, for our September recipe contest. Send them to Home Cooking, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. You may also fax them to (512) 486-6254 or e-mail them to [recipes@texas-ec.org](mailto:recipes@texas-ec.org). Please include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. The deadline is May 15. The top winner will receive a tin filled with Pioneer products. Runners-up will also receive a prize.

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

## 3rd Annual Holiday Recipe Contest

**\$5,000 in Total Prizes!**

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**GRAND-PRIZE WINNER TAKES HOME \$3,000.  
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Once again, we're looking for the best original recipes from your holiday celebrations. All recipes must include a Pioneer product such as Pioneer Brand Flour, Pioneer Brand Gravy Mixes or the new Pioneer Brand Microwaveable Gravies, Pioneer Brand Biscuit & Baking Mixes, or Pioneer Brand Pancake Mixes. Winners will be announced in our December issue.

Up to three entries are allowed per person. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper. Entries MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your electric cooperative, or they will be disqualified. All entries must be postmarked by September 10, 2007. Send entries to: Holiday Recipe Contest, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, or fax to (512) 486-6254. To enter by e-mail ([recipes@texas-ec.org](mailto:recipes@texas-ec.org)), you must include "Holiday Recipe Contest" in the subject line and submit one recipe per e-mail (no attachments). For official rules, visit [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com) or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address above.



▲ **Debbie Rigney** of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative sent this photo of a nighttime barbecue in Evant. “Even dark of night won’t keep die-hard cooks from barbecuing,” she writes. Pictured at the pit is barbecue master **Lupe Morales**, also a Hamilton County Electric Cooperative member.



▲ **Patti Clay** of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative sent this photo of the ultimate addition to her pig collection—a barbecue pit built by her husband, David, to celebrate her 50th birthday.

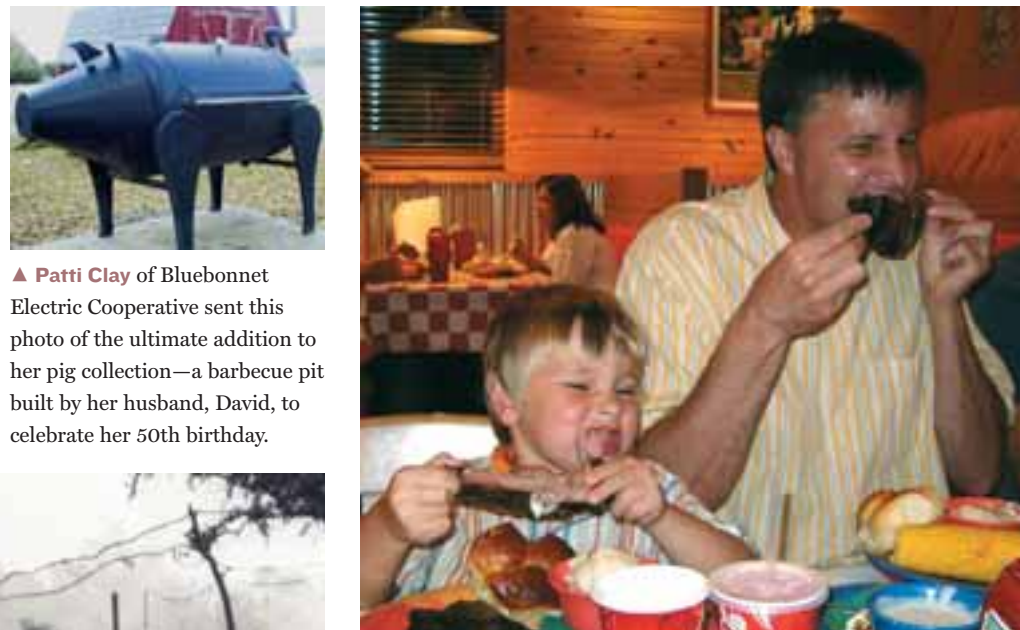


▲ **James Bright**, a member of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, sent this photo taken by his grandfather, **John R. Blocker**, of a “real Texas pit barbecue in the 1930s.” The meat was placed in a pit dug in the ground and cooked with coals made from burning wood.

**BROTHERS** is the topic for our **JULY 2007** issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to **Brothers, Focus on Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704**, before **May 10**. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We regret that *Texas Co-op Power* cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline. Please note that we cannot provide individual critiques of submitted photos. If you use a digital camera, e-mail your highest-resolution images to [focus@texas-ec.org](mailto:focus@texas-ec.org). (If you have questions about your camera’s capabilities and settings, please refer to the operating manual.)

Upcoming in **Focus on Texas**

| ISSUE  | SUBJECT               | DEADLINE |
|--------|-----------------------|----------|
| July   | Brothers              | May 10   |
| August | Off to the Races      | June 10  |
| Sept   | Birdhouses            | July 10  |
| Oct    | Hats and Caps         | Aug 10   |
| Nov    | Hunting with a Camera | Sep 10   |
| Dec    | Holiday Decorations   | Oct 10   |



▲ **Barbara Yerby**, a member of Wise Electric Cooperative, caught her brother, **Steve**, and his son, also named **Steve**, chowing down with abandon on some juicy barbecue ribs.

▼ Four-year-old **Ellie Lewis** takes the sideways approach to getting her corn off the cob at a Hill Country barbecue. Her aunt, **Jackie Miller**, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative, took this photo.



# AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

## MAY

**03 GAINESVILLE** [3-5]  
Spring Fling & Rodeo,  
(940) 668-4530

**04 CARTHAGE** [4-6]  
Celebration of Flight  
Balloonfest, (903) 986-  
0933, www.carthage  
texas.com/balloonfest

**LLANO** [4-5] Rio Llano  
Fiesta, (325) 247-5354,  
www.llanochamber.com

**MIDWAY** [4-7]  
PRCA Rodeo & Dance,  
(210) 695-2103,  
www.cornyval.com

**05 BASTROP**  
Barbecue & Chili Cook-  
Off, (512) 809-0352

**BRENHAM** Ice Cream  
Festival, (979) 836-3339,  
www.downtownbrenham  
.com

**05 CLUTE**  
Cinco de Mayo Festival &  
Parade, (979) 388-0916

**CREEDMOOR** Mayfest,  
(512) 243-3117, www.creed  
moorcommunitycfa.org

**EL PASO** [5-6]  
Cinco de Mayo Festival,  
(915) 351-1680

**HARPER**  
VFD Barbecue, Chute-Out  
& Dance, (830) 864-4912

**HUNTSVILLE**  
Airing of the Quilts,  
(936) 294-0212,  
www.tallpinesquiltguild.com

**MAYBANK**  
Kiwanis Crawfish Boil,  
(903) 887-3152,  
www.cedarcreeklake  
chamber.com

**PATTISON**  
German Sausage Dinner,  
(281) 934-8218

**06 DENISON**  
Grayson County Master  
Gardeners' Spring Tour of  
Gardens, (903) 813-4204

**MEDINA** VFD Fish Fry,  
(830) 589-7178

**10 CROCKETT** [10-12]  
Lions Club PRCA Rodeo,  
(936) 546-2265

**MINEOLA** [10-12]  
May Days Festival,  
(903) 569-2087,  
www.mineolachamber.org

**11 KILLEEN**  
Lions Golf Tournament,  
(254) 519-5839

**ROCKDALE** [11-12]  
Tejas Art & Book Festival,  
(512) 446-2030,  
www.rockdalechamber.com

**12 ANDERSON**  
Stagecoach Stopover,  
(936) 825-6600

**CEDAR CREEK**  
Spring Festival,  
(512) 303-1393

**12 COLEMAN** Walk for Cure  
Cancer Fund Raising  
Event, (325) 625-4654

**DECATUR** Chisholm  
Trail Antique Tractor  
Show, (940) 393-2155

**GREENVILLE**  
Hunt County Master  
Gardeners Plant Swap,  
(903) 455-9885

**HAMILTON** Hill-Aceous  
100 Bike Ride, (254)  
386-9933, www.hamilton  
hospital.org/biketour

**LONE CAMP** Chili Cook-  
Off, (940) 325-2557

**NORTH ZULCH**  
Mother's Day Barbeque,  
(936) 399-2495

**WIMBERLEY**  
Garden Club Garden  
Tour, (512) 847-2201

**16 BRYAN** [16-18] Illegal  
Dumping Prevention  
Workshop, (979) 595-  
2800, www.bvcog.org

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Make check or money order payable to Texas Electric Cooperatives. Send \$15 for each poster (price includes tax, shipping and handling) to Posters, Texas Co-op Power, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. You may order online at www.texascooppower.com. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

# AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

**18 CONROE** [18-20]  
Cowboy Mounted Shooting Regional Championship, (936) 344-2327, [www.gulfcoastmountedshooters.com](http://www.gulfcoastmountedshooters.com)

**SAN ANGELO** [18-19]  
Bluegrass Festival, (325) 653-7030

**THROCKMORTON** [18-19]  
Rocky Mountain Oyster Festival & Barbecue Cook-Off, (940) 849-3170, [www.worldchampionshiprockymountainoysters.com](http://www.worldchampionshiprockymountainoysters.com)

**19 ABILENE** Buffalo Gap Historic Village's Courthouse Fried Chicken Cook-Off, (325) 572-3365

**BELLVILLE** Bluebonnet Master Gardeners Plant Sale, (979) 865-0102

**COMANCHE**  
John Wesley Hardin Days, (325) 356-2032, [www.johnwesleyhardindays.com](http://www.johnwesleyhardindays.com)

**19 MOUNT PLEASANT**  
Moonlight Jubilee & Outhouse Races, (903) 572-8567, [www.mtpleasanttx.com](http://www.mtpleasanttx.com)

**PORT ARANSAS**  
Anglers on Wheels, (210) 637-8316, [www.doorinthewall.org](http://www.doorinthewall.org)

**STONEWALL** [19-20]  
Lavender Festival, (830) 644-2681

**VALLEY SPRING**  
VFD Fish Fry, (325) 247-3158

**20 ANHALT** Mayfest, (830) 833-4749, [www.anhalhall.com](http://www.anhalhall.com)

**25 EARLY** [25-26]  
Rib Burn-Off & Ole Time Fiddlin' Contest, (325) 646-8531

**ENNIS** [25-27]  
Polka Festival, 1-888-366-4748, [www.nationalpolkafestival.com](http://www.nationalpolkafestival.com)

**25 FREDERICKSBURG** [25-26]  
Crawfish Festival, (830) 997-8515, [www.tex-fest.com](http://www.tex-fest.com)

**26 GRANBURY**  
Airport Fly-in Breakfast, (817) 579-8533

**PORT ARTHUR** [26-28]  
Salt Fishing Rodeo, (409) 718-8787, [www.portarthurtexas.com](http://www.portarthurtexas.com)

**27 ELLINGER**  
Memorial Day Feast, (713) 622-3492, ext. 420

**31 SHERMAN** [5/31-6/2]  
Bluegrass Festival, (903) 546-6893, [www.chrystalopryhouse.com](http://www.chrystalopryhouse.com)

**01 YOAKUM** [1-2]  
Tom Tom Festival, (361) 293-2309, [www.yoakumareachamber.com](http://www.yoakumareachamber.com)

**02 ABILENE** [2-3]  
Stars Over Abilene Quilt Show, (325) 695-5585, [www.abilenequiltguild.org](http://www.abilenequiltguild.org)

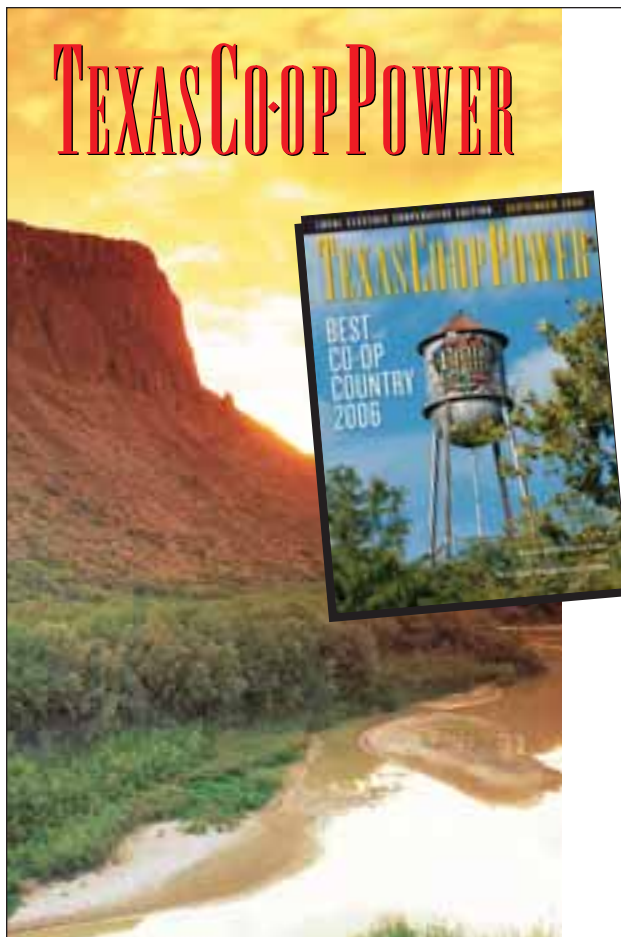
**PALESTINE** [2-3]  
Heritage Balloon Festival, (903) 723-1914

**SLATON** South Plains Air Show, (806) 828-6238, [www.slatonchamberofcommerce.org](http://www.slatonchamberofcommerce.org)

Event information can be mailed to **Around Texas**, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, faxed to (512) 486-6254 or e-mailed to [aroundtx@texas-ec.org](mailto:aroundtx@texas-ec.org). Please submit events for July by May 10. Events are listed according to space available; see the full listing at [www.texascoopower.com](http://www.texascoopower.com). We appreciate photos with credits but regret that they cannot be returned.

## JUNE

**01 FRANKLIN** [1-3]  
Carnegie Library Benefit Art Show, (979) 828-3276



## SHARE THE POWER!

*Texas Co-op Power* is the Texas living magazine with a rural, suburban and small town focus. Each month you will read entertaining articles about Texas people, Texas history, Texas nature, Texas travel and Texas food.

And, in every issue we feature a personal look at chosen towns in "Texas, USA" along with "Around Texas," featuring selected events around the state.

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About midway through the Brazos River's 850-mile southwesterly trip from the Texas South Plains to the Gulf of Mexico, the river's central section flirts with some of the state's history-haunted hamlets. Fate didn't ignore these towns, surrounded today by gently rolling farmland, and neither should you. Each has a story or two to tell; study them on a simple, 85-mile route from Waco to Bryan on Texas Highway 6, pausing along the way in Marlin and Calvert.

## WACO

Consider that Waco was once a wild and woolly place nicknamed Six Shooter Junction, thanks to its Chisholm Trail cattle-drive days, and you'll appreciate the irony that it's home now to the **TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM**. The oldest law-enforcement agency in the state is immortalized in exhibits pertaining to investigations, equipment and heroes since its founding in 1837, including one on Bonnie and Clyde featuring, among other things, weapons the fugitive pair had possessed. Football, the king of pastimes in Texas, plays a big part at the **TEXAS SPORTS HALL OF FAME**, which honors former Dallas Cowboys Coach Tom Landry, of course, as well as boxer George Foreman, basketball star Sheryl Swoopes and almost 300 other Texas greats. My favorite place in town is the soda fountain inside the **DR PEPPER MUSEUM**, where I sip a handmade Dr Pepper float after touring the old bottling company where Texas' most famous elixir was once made with artesian spring water.

**Waco Tourist Information Center**, exit 335B on Interstate 35; 1-800-922-6386 or (254) 750-8696; [www.wacocvb.com](http://www.wacocvb.com)

**Dr Pepper Museum**, 300 S. Fifth St., Waco; (254) 757-1025. [www.drpeppermuseum.org](http://www.drpeppermuseum.org)

**Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum**, 100 Texas Ranger Trail, Waco; (254) 750-8631; [www.texasranger.org](http://www.texasranger.org)

**Texas Sports Hall of Fame**, 1108 S. University Parks Dr., Waco; (254) 756-1633; [www.tshof.org](http://www.tshof.org)

# WACO to BRYAN

*Meander down the Brazos for a date with history*

BY JUNE NAYLOR



## MARLIN

Drive about 25 miles from Waco to the seat of Falls County, which came to some fame in the early 1890s when hot mineral waters were discovered during the search for an artesian well. For half a century, Marlin enjoyed prosperity as a health center as folks traveled to town for a multitude of hot-water therapies. Although the Bethesda Bathhouse, Majestic Bathhouse and Imperial Hotel no longer bring such pilgrims to Marlin, you can still see vestiges of the heyday's grandness. Restored and open again, the **PALACE THEATRE** functions today as a venue for fashion shows, concerts, recitals, films and plays.

**Palace Theatre**, 133 Heritage Row, Marlin; (254) 803-2507; [www.palacetheatremarlin.com](http://www.palacetheatremarlin.com)

**Marlin Chamber of Commerce**, 245 Coleman St., Marlin; (254) 803-3301; [www.marlintexas.com](http://www.marlintexas.com)

## CALVERT

Another 30 miles along Texas 6, Calvert's downtown looks as though not a moment has passed in at least 75 years. Right on Main Street, you can pick up a handmade pastry at **ZAMYKAL KOLACHES**, a small bakery where owner

Jody Price makes some 18-20 dozen kolaches daily from the recipe her Czech grandmother left behind. Grab a few to munch on while you take a driving tour of the town's historic district; be sure to see the **CALVERT INN**, a magnificent 1906 home made of native cypress and featuring double-gallery porches. Operating now as a lovely bed-and-breakfast, its interior is decorated with crystal chandeliers and eight fireplaces. Private bedrooms bear every sort of luxury. Book a stay and be spoiled by chocolate-chip pancakes or eggs Sardou in the morning.

**Calvert Chamber of Commerce**, 300 S. Main St., Calvert; (979) 364-2559

## BRYAN

Just 30 more miles down Texas 6, the wonderful row of beautifully restored buildings comprising downtown Bryan is one of the better-kept secrets in the state. Shops include those selling a

wonderful variety of goods, just as a proper downtown should. There's a children's museum, as well as the **CARNEGIE CENTER OF BRAZOS VALLEY HISTORY**, the latter inside the 1903 Carnegie Library. I'm crazy about the **LA SALLE HOTEL**, a 1928 inn that's been recently and lovingly renovated and reopened. Next door, **DOE'S EAT PLACE** serves one of the best T-bone steaks I've tasted; be sure to order yours with a side of fried sweet potatoes.

**LaSalle Hotel**, 120 S. Main St., Bryan; 1-866-822-2000; [www.lasalle-hotel.com](http://www.lasalle-hotel.com)

**Doe's Eat Place**, 200 S. Main St., Bryan; (979) 823-3637

**Historic Downtown Bryan**, 120 S. Main St., Bryan; (979) 822-2000, ext. 303; [www.downtownbryan.com](http://www.downtownbryan.com)

*June Naylor wrote Texas: Off the Beaten Path.*