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KLEB WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

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leaves a wooded legacy



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Pond at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve.

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By Irene Sandell



NEXT MONTH

Hail the Halls Texas dance halls stand as beloved monuments to history and community.



POND: LARRY DITTO. DANCER: AZP WORLDWIDE | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



ON THE COVER A recent planting of longleaf pine at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve near Tomball. Photo by Larry Ditto

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Service to Country

I was touched by *Circle of Life*. My dad served in World War II on a destroyer in three theaters of the war—Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean. My two older brothers served in the Army, one in Korea and the other in peacetime Germany. My youngest brother was in the Air Force in peacetime. I had several uncles who also served in various branches during World War II. All served because they loved this country.

JOAN PHILBIN | ALVARADO
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

The Need for Charity

The November issue was waiting for me when I returned from my latest trip to Haiti, where I teach disaster-resistant home construction. One of the letters [*On Matters of Aid*] concerning a \$35,000 donation to Bolivian rural electrification ended: “Charity begins at home.”

Yes, take care of your family, but charity should begin where there is a need. I have regularly worked with people in Haiti who eat one meal every two to three days, but I have never found that level of need in the U.S.

HERB NORDMEYER | CASTROVILLE
MEDINA EC

Remembered With Affection

This photo [right] just popped up on my phone, and I gasped [*Abandoned Buildings*, Focus on Texas, November 2018]. To most people, it looks like an old gas station, and to an extent it was, but in truth it was so much more. This used to be a Texaco station and country store. My grandparents’ farmstead was

Wreaths Across America

Your very moving story about *Wreaths Across America* [*Circle of Life*, November 2018] really touched my heart. I went online to make a donation and couldn’t think of a more worthwhile organization.

JOYCE HISER | CRANDALL | TRINITY VALLEY EC



about 3 miles from it in a town rarely even marked on maps, Olmos, close to Skidmore and Tynan.

It was the local hub where neighbors met up, played dominoes, shared a cold beer and caught up on local gossip. As kids, we played freeze tag in the parking lot that was so full of bottle caps it almost looked to be paved with them.

LAURA CURTIS | HELOTES
BANDERA EC



Hitched to a Fable?

Whoa, pardner. Clay Coppedge is galloping us down a false trail. *Bass Reeves, Lawman Extraordinaire* [October 2017]

leads us to think Reeves is the Lone Ranger prototype. But don’t drink that water, cowboy.

The basis for the Lone Ranger is Capt. John Hughes of the Texas Rangers. Author Zane Grey dedicated his novel *Lone Star Ranger* to Hughes and the Rangers.

LAWRENCE E. SMITH | BANDERA
BANDERA EC

The end of the article stated, “He died in 1910, but, oddly, no one knows where he’s buried.”

A quick search of findagrave.com finds that he is buried in Oklahoma. I think it only fitting that people know where he is buried so that we can honor his memory as a true American hero who helped tame our Wild West.

RUTH MAJORS | PALESTINE
TRINITY VALLEY EC

I really enjoy the historical articles in your magazine. While reading the one about Bass Reeves, I could imagine only one person on the whole planet to play Reeves in a

Hollywood movie: Denzel Washington. What a great movie that would be.

TONY PRETTENHOFER | AUBREY
COSERV

Writer Clay Coppedge responds:

Washington would be a good choice, but Morgan Freeman has held the rights to the Bass Reeves story for some time. Rumor has it that a script is underway, but the project is on hold.

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HAPPENINGS

Houston Leads the Way on MLK Day

The Black Heritage Society in **HOUSTON** deems its Martin Luther King Jr. parade the first of its kind in the country. Indeed, the first parade, in 1978, featured King's father as grand marshal.

This year, the annual **ORIGINAL MLK DAY PARADE** is **JANUARY 21**, a state and national holiday, and starts in front of Minute Maid Park.

After the parade, the celebration continues with the MLK Jr. Taste of Houston festival, also at Minute Maid Park.

INFO ▶ (713) 236-1700; blackheritagesociety.org

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ANNIVERSARIES

HOPE YOU EAT THIS UP

Texas Co-op Power turns 75 in 2019, and we'll commemorate the past 75 years with a themed timeline every month in Currents.

Our goal is to highlight events and milestones in history that coincide with the publication of the magazine, which began in July 1944 as a four-page newspaper called *Texas Cooperative Electric Power*.

These timelines are by no means comprehensive—75 years of history can't be captured in just a few hundred words. We trust readers will let us know of overlooked moments and people.

We kick off with food and drink. Next month we'll feature sports. In the coming months, watch for these themes: politics, music, electricity and energy, science and technology, the economy, rural life, travel, outdoors, society and fashion, and the arts.

◀ LOOKING BACK AT FOOD AND DRINK THIS MONTH



THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY into rural kitchens in the 1930s heralded a revolution in cooking and food that changed life in countless ways.

1940s

1944 The second issue of *Texas Cooperative Electric Power* publishes its first recipe—for Fruit-Stuffed Spareribs.

1947 David Pace starts bottling something he calls picante sauce in a rented room in the back of a San Antonio liquor store. Also, the electric dishwasher hits stores.

1949 Pillsbury holds its first bake-off.

1950s

1954 More than 25 million TV dinners are eaten in front of 33 million TV sets in American living rooms.

1958 Blue Bell Creameries, in business since 1907, ceases production of butter to focus solely on ice cream.

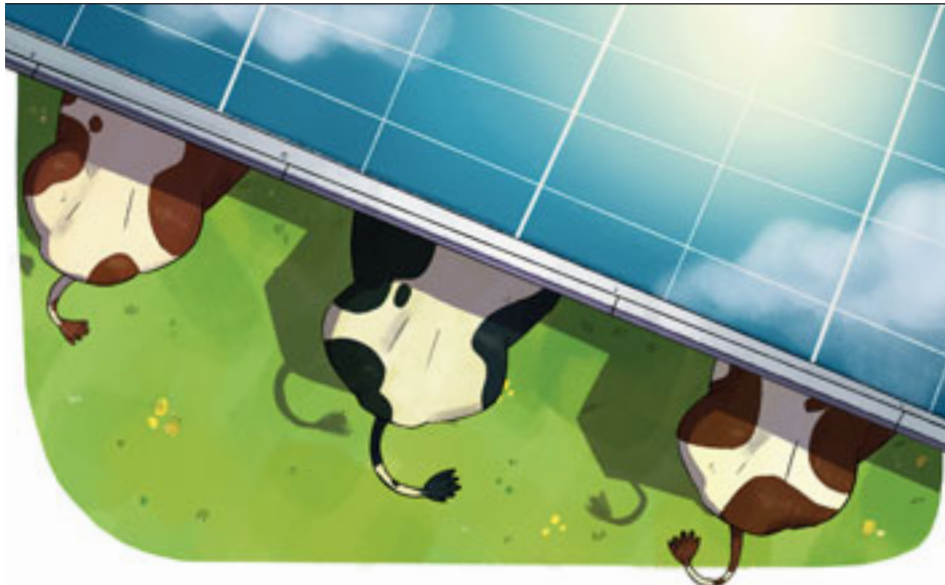


1960s

1960 A Woolworth's store in San Antonio serves lunch to four black people, positioning San Antonio as one of the first major Southern cities to desegregate lunch counters.

1964 The plastic milk container is introduced commercially.

1967 Amana introduces Radaranges, household microwave ovens. They sell for \$495 (\$3,800 in today's money).



ENERGY INFO

Made in the Shade

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA researchers are experimenting with installing solar panels 8 feet off the ground to provide shade for livestock, according to *Farm Journal*. “We’ll monitor the behavior of the cows under the shade, their eating and lying behavior, and also their milk production compared to when they don’t have access to the shaded areas,” researcher Brad Heins said.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Don’t Be Left Out

January 25 is not National Opposite Day. Don’t have fun with that.



1970s

1970 *Typically Texas Cookbook*, more than 300 pages of recipes submitted by electric co-op members, is published.

1971 The first frozen margarita is poured at Mariano’s Mexican Cuisine in Dallas from a repurposed soft-serve ice cream machine.



1980s

1980 Whole Foods Market opens its first store in Austin.

1983 After more than 10 years of research, Texas A&M University creates a supersweet onion called the 1015, named after the ideal date for planting—October 15.

1985 The electric bread maker makes life easier for those who don’t want to do it by hand.

1990s

1991 Salsa overtakes ketchup in sales to become the nation’s condiment of choice.

1994 The George Foreman Lean Mean Fat-Reducing Grilling Machine, named after the former heavyweight boxing champion from Houston, debuts. Sales have surpassed 150 million.

1998 Cute little grape tomatoes show up in groceries.



2000s

2006 Anna Ginsberg of Austin, who later became *Texas Co-op Power* food editor, wins the Pillsbury Bake-Off with her recipe for Baked Chicken and Spinach Stuffing.

2017 Mexican mineral water Topo Chico gains a cultlike following in Texas. Coca-Cola purchases the brand.



SPORTS SECTION

Soccer Superstar Heads Home

Clint Dempsey became the first American soccer player to score a hat trick in England’s top soccer league in 2012. After that, he became the highest-paid American player in the U.K. and scored more goals than any other American in any top-tier European league. He has appeared in 140 international matches for the U.S. national team and scored 57 international goals, tying the U.S. record. He’s been called the greatest American soccer player of all time.

He grew up going to church with his grandmother in Nacogdoches. And after a 15-year career, Dempsey announced his retirement in August.

What now? Locals expect to see the international superstar back in East Texas, where his family still lives. “It’s where you’re from, it’s your roots, and that’s why I like to get back to Nacogdoches in the offseason and hang out with my family,” Dempsey told *The Seattle Times* in 2013. “To me, it keeps me grounded and reminds me of how far I’ve come.”

LOOKING BACK AT SPORTS NEXT MONTH ►



A HIDDEN MAN'S GEM



Eccentric hermit *ELMER KLEB* helped transform his family homestead near Houston into a woodland preserve

ELMER KLEB didn't like school. The truth is he didn't like people much, either. What he did like were birds, trees and solitude. His preferred companion

was a black buzzard with a broken wing that lived with him in his run-down house on 133 acres. The buzzard apparently didn't mind that the century-old dwelling had no electricity or running water.

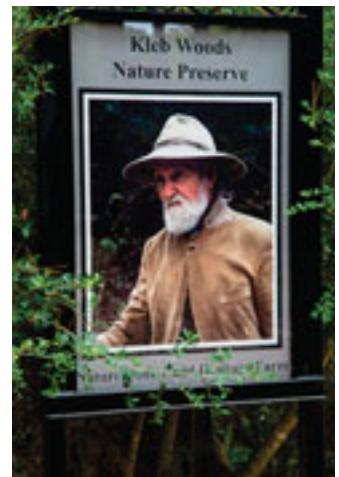
"When I first visited the property, I was immediately enchanted with both the site and the hermit who owned it, Elmer Kleb," says Andrew Sansom, then executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, who visited the home for the first time in the late 1980s.

Despite his eccentric and reclusive lifestyle, Kleb left something priceless for the people of Texas. "I learned that Mr. Kleb had inherited the land when it was a cultivated field," Sansom says, "and he spent his life finding native trees and other vegetation and replanting them on his land so that when I got there, it was a lovely mature woodland."

Today, Kleb Woods Nature Preserve, 8 miles west of Tomball and 40 miles northwest of Houston, offers a rare commodity: silence. Silence, lightly seasoned with birdsong. The preserve attracts bird-watchers, hikers and nature enthusiasts from around the world. The story of why this secluded hideaway exists at all is as eccentric as its former owner.

Kleb's great-grandfather, Conrad Kleb, emigrated to northwest Harris County from Germany in 1846. He purchased 107 acres and established a family farm. Andreas, one of Conrad's 14 children, bought a separate farm in 1871 for about \$250 near Muschke Road, close to the German immigrant community of Rose Hill. Edward, Andreas' son, and wife Minnie inherited the farm from Andreas in 1903, grew vegetables and cotton, raised cattle and sheep, and built a simple wood-frame house on the property. They had two children, Elmer and Myrtle.

Left: A massive live oak at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve. **Right:** A sign shows Elmer Kleb, former owner of the property that became the nature preserve.





His property was worth
an estimated \$750,000,
yet Kleb was penniless.

ELMER, born in 1907, and Myrtle, in 1913, attended Rose Hill School, but Elmer didn't get along with other boys and became the target of bullies who taunted him with the name "Lumpy." He quit school sometime between the fourth and seventh grades (family stories are not precise) to help his parents on the farm. He rarely left the property thereafter.

"Elmer had a condition that was eventually recognized as a form of autism," says Fred Collins, director of the Kleb Woods Nature Preserve. Collins has invested years researching the Kleb family and restoring the site's dilapidated buildings. "When asked to do something," Collins says, "Elmer would insist on an expla-

nation of why the job had to be done. Without that explanation, he wouldn't tackle the task."

Kleb inherited the farm after his parents and sister died. With no one left to explain what jobs needed to be done, he stopped maintaining the property. Grapevines and trees, most of them planted by Kleb and his father, grew uncontrolled.

"Elmer no longer maintained the fences," Collins says, "and allowed his livestock to wander freely, getting into neighbors' crops and gardens. Eventually the county sheriff rounded them up and sold them."

A small man with tangled gray hair and a long beard, Kleb was

Opposite: A barn and flower garden on Kleb's former farm.

considered “peculiar” by neighbors, as his mother had been. His sister, Myrtle, endured periodic bouts with mental illness and died in her early 20s.

Kleb never married and had no children. With no source of income, he had to rely on relatives and friends for food and money, occasionally making forays into his neighbors’ gardens uninvited. Collins explains that although Kleb did drive as late as the 1970s, in later years, he walked wherever he went. When yaupon and pine trees grew up around the windmill and prevented the blades from turning and pumping water, even the single cold-water faucet stopped working.

As Kleb withdrew from the surrounding community, North Houston’s suburban population exploded. Property values and taxes soared. Kleb didn’t understand why he needed to pay taxes, so he didn’t.

When tax collectors came to the property, Kleb vanished into the thick woods until they left. Even though he didn’t open the tax statements—after his death, a collection of unopened tax bills was found in a trunk—Kleb knew something had to be done. In 1986, he wrote a letter to the Houston chapter of the Audubon Society asking for help. Members of the Audubon Society tried to raise the money to pay the tax lien that, in 1988, was \$170,000—but the effort failed.

His property was worth an estimated \$750,000, yet Kleb was penniless. Over the years, relatives tried to persuade him to sell a small part of his acreage to save the rest. He refused. After the Audubon Society failed to raise the funds to pay the past-due taxes, a county judge declared Kleb incompetent and ordered the property to be sold.

Steve Radack, a Harris County commissioner, intervened to prevent the immediate sale. That’s when Terry O’Rourke, Harris County assistant district attorney, contacted Sansom at TPWD.

“We managed to arrange a grant to Harris County, which paid the taxes, provided Mr. Kleb with the means to live out the rest of his life out of poverty and establish a wonderful park in his name,” says Sansom, now the executive director of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University.

The grant from TPWD amounted to \$737,500. With that money, Harris County purchased the land in 1991, paid off the tax bill and set up a trust

to take care of Kleb. As Sansom notes, Harris County commissioners allowed Kleb to remain in the house for the rest of his life. Although plans to transform the Kleb woods into a nature preserve got underway during his later years, the acreage surrounding the house remained untouched until Kleb’s death in 1999 at the age of 91.

“Texas Parks and Wildlife contacted me at the beginning of this saga and asked me if I could try to meet with Elmer,” says Ted Eubanks, then president of the Houston chapter of the National Audubon Society. “I went out to the property and found him, and within a short time struck an unlikely friendship with him. He would call me at home—he would walk to the nearby store to use their phone—and talk endlessly about wanting to save his property as a preserve.”

KLEB left an indelible mark on Sansom, too. “For many years, I kept a photograph of the old gentleman on my wall in the executive office at Parks and Wildlife to remind me of his life’s work and the privilege of having known him and playing a small role in helping him accomplish his dream,” Sansom says.

Kleb Woods Nature Preserve, located in northwest Harris County on FM 2920, is open from 7 a.m. until dusk. Visitors may wander among the restored historic farm buildings or take shady trails that lead through towering pine and oak forests and scattered wetlands. A new nature center houses an auditorium and classroom, which attracts groups interested in birding and local history.

“Kleb Woods offers a unique sanctuary in the midst of an urban landscape,” says park visitor Cynthia Beman. “Walking the trails, enveloped by the trees, birds and verdant heart of the woods, one can certainly understand Elmer Kleb’s tenacious hold on the land and can almost feel his presence. It is easy to picture him sitting on the porch of his home, completely at peace with his surroundings.”

Today, Kleb Woods opens a window into the environmental and cultural history of Harris County. The preserve exists because of an unlikely alliance of environmentalists, government officials and lawyers who helped a reclusive man save his beloved wilderness from becoming another subdivided housing development.

Martha Deeringer, a member of Heart of Texas EC, lives near McGregor.



Wildlife spotted at Kleb Woods includes, clockwise from top, bluejays, red-shouldered hawks, bullfrogs and ruby-throated hummingbirds.

THIRST

≈ for ≈

KNOWLEDGE



**Ancient watering hole—
turned-Aquarena Springs
resurfaces as research center
at Texas State University**



W

hen my three kids were little, we made several trips from Austin to Aquarena Springs in San Marcos.

They marveled at fish and turtles beneath glass-bottom boats, wiggled enough to frighten me in our sky-ride gondola car and spent their allowances in the gift shop. Once, we even stayed in the cotton-candy colored hotel overlooking the water. It was low-key, affordable family fun.

Recently, I returned to see how this place has transformed into the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, a Texas State University research and conservation facility.

The center kept the glass-bottom boats, and I was happy to spot the familiar springs, bubbling up through sand like boiling pots of Cream of Wheat. Some 200 springs in Spring Lake create the headwaters of the San Marcos River, and the water sometimes

≈
BY MELISSA GASKILL

SPLASH: IRINA | ADOBE STOCK.COM | POSTCARDS: MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT



reaches 40 feet deep. But through the glass-bottom boats, the lake floor looks close enough to touch, the water still gin clear thanks to filtering through limestone and a flow that completely refreshes the lake about every 24 hours.

Our boat driver tells a story similar to the one my kids heard when they were young, including a boast that this area is widely regarded as one of the oldest continually inhabited sites in North America, its first occupants arriving nearly 12,000 years ago. Native peoples gathered here regularly, and the first Europeans arrived in 1691. In 1831, colonial Spanish governor Juan Martín de Veramendi received a land grant around the springs. His heirs sold some of the land to Nathaniel Lewis in 1840, and in 1845, Lewis sold to Gen. Edward Burleson. Burleson dammed the river to form Spring Lake and used the outflow to operate a gristmill.

Opposite page: Postcards tout some attractions from the onetime Aquarena Springs. Above: A floating boardwalk over restored wetlands at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment.

Local businessman A.B. Rogers purchased this tract in 1926 and built the Spring Lake Park Hotel, later called the Landmark Inn. His son Paul Rogers founded Aquarena Springs Resort in 1949, adding the boats and putting in a submersible theater where visitors watched mermaids and Ralph the Swimming Pig perform. The sky ride went up around 1959. By the 1970s, the resort drew 250,000 visitors a year and employed more than 200 people.

By the 1980s, when I first brought my kids, the park looked a little down on its luck. “The Rogerses were pioneers, but they couldn’t compete with the second generation of tourism destinations,” says Andrew Sansom, former director of the Texas Parks



and Wildlife Department and current Meadows Center director. The family sold to an investor, who offered to sell to TPWD. The department didn't see an amusement park fitting its mission, though, and passed.

In 1994, what was then Southwest Texas State University bought the property. "President Jerry Supple understood this is a globally significant site and something bad would happen to it unless he acted," Sansom says. "There is no other university in the world with anything like this on its campus."

With the San Marcos community concerned about the economic impact of losing Aquarena Springs, the university kept it open at first. But that didn't work. In 2005, the university, now Texas State, created the Meadows Center and brought Sansom on board.

By 2014, almost every trace of Aquarena Springs had disappeared—the sky ride dismantled; the submarine theater removed; and the gift shop, restaurant and outbuildings demolished. A \$5 million project had created several miles of nature trails and a floating boardwalk over restored wetlands.

"San Marcos is one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, so the issue of the economic impact became moot," Sansom says. "And we still have 125,000 visitors each year."

I can see why. In addition to the boat tours, visitors can enjoy indoor displays, which include endangered Texas blind salamanders, and an interactive exhibit about the Edwards Aquifer, as well as the outdoor trails and boardwalks. Plans call for turning an entire floor of the old inn into a visitors and research venue. The Meadows Center conducts water-related research around the world, including on the Edwards Aquifer and endan-

The Meadows Center conducts research around the world and at the springs in San Marcos, above. Visitors enjoy a glass-bottom boat tour, right.



gered species in Spring Lake.

I return one more time, to kayak, an experience offered in partnership with REI Outdoor School, along with stand-up paddleboard lessons and special tours, including under a full moon.

Apart from the glass-bottom boat tours, these outings provide the only public access to the lake.

I spot herons and egrets on the shore. Under the clear water, largemouth bass, redbreast sunfish, Rio Grande cichlids and toothy spotted gar swim among forests of furry-stalked cabomba and long-leafed arrowhead grass. The center has dramatically increased the population of endangered Texas wild rice, found nowhere else on the planet, and the lake boasts one of the highest concentrations of turtles anywhere.

See more of **Melissa Gaskill's** work at melissagaskill.blogspot.com.

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see videos of Aquarena Springs.



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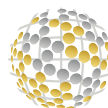
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Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2019. Throughout the year, we will look back at our history — and ahead to our future — in this magazine, on our social media, on our website, at the co-op's Annual Meeting, in our Member Service Centers and in other ways. Keep an eye out for contests and requests for memories. Want to share a story about Bluebonnet, or electricity, back in the early days? Email us at lisa.ogle@bluebonnet.coop or call 512-925-5621.

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's 80th anniversary celebration starts with a look back at Central Texas in 1939

By Clayton Stromberger and Denise Gamino

If you were born at least fourscore and seven or so years ago, and grew up in these parts, you may remember what it was like in 1939.

No one was in a huge rush back then. The highway speed limit was 45 mph — lower for trucks. More than half the state was rural. Kids in the country rode a horse to confirmation class. Air conditioning meant opening a window or sitting on the front porch with a hand-held fan from church. Screen time was for when the mosquitoes came back.

To communicate with faraway friends and family, you wrote long letters by hand and carefully saved the letters you received. To make a telephone call, you usually had to go through a switchboard operator — someone like German-born Selma “Grandma” Schwartz in Burton, who'd been on the job 29 years in her big wooden swivel chair and kept all the party lines straight with constant plugging and unplugging of cords and jacks. Folks read the local weekly news-

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John Crawford, born a slave on a Manor cotton plantation in Travis County, is immortalized in a book of more than 2,300 first-person slave narratives collected by a New Deal program and given to the Library of Congress in 1939. The oral histories of Crawford and other freed slaves reflect the dialect of that era. “Nobody ever larnt me my ABC’s and I didn’t git no chance at school,” Crawford told the Federal Writers’ Project in the late 1930s at age 81. He remembered being freed and said plantation owner Judge Thompson Rector Sr. was too emotional to speak to the gathered slaves because he “hated to lose his slaves, I reckon.” According to Crawford, Rector’s son-in-law said, “You folks am now free and can go where you wants to go.” Only two slave families stayed.

Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress





Bluebonnet line workers in the 1940s take a break from their hazardous and backbreaking work in Giddings, original home to the co-op's headquarters. From left, William Proske, Walter Urban and Winslow Zwerneman. *Bluebonnet photo*

80th ANNIVERSARY

THE WAY WE LIVED

Bluebonnet

Selma "Grandma" Schwartz was an answering machine. In 1910, the same year this German-born mother of seven was widowed, she became the first telephone operator in Burton, running this communications command center. She worked the Burton Telephone Co.'s manual switchboard until 1940. Schwartz worked from a wooden swivel chair in a little clapboard building next to the Schwartz & Schwartz grocery store she built in 1922 at 400 N. Main St. Her sons Walter and Hugo ran the store. Rural residents with telephones shared party lines with 12 to 20 members. Eavesdropping happened — even when locals spoke German. And the telephone operator could always listen in, too. Schwartz had them at "Hello." *Photo courtesy of the family of Annie Maud*



In 1891, the first basketball game was played with peach baskets and a soccer ball. A year later, the women at Smith College in New England were learning the new sport. In 1897, the first female teams were formed in high schools. Just over four decades later, these high school students in McMahan, a small community 10 miles east of Lockhart, were happily embracing the phenomenon of girls' and women's basketball — and winning a trophy. The population of McMahan gradually declined in the 1940s, and its schools were consolidated with the Lockhart Independent School District in 1949. *Photo courtesy of Harry Annas Collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin*

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paper page by page, and each issue had a section to keep you updated on the important comings and goings around town (“Miss Martha Woodson, of Texas University, Austin, was home last week-end.” “Eben Price, of Waco, was a business visitor here Tuesday of this week.”)

Somehow everyone survived without Twitter and cell phones.

At the country store, or the town café, people would stand or sit around and talk with neighbors and strangers about the weather or politics or how the Aggies were doing — and they were doing well, working their way to a 20-0 Thanksgiving Day drubbing of the Longhorns and, by season’s end, the national title. On the radio, if you could afford one, you might listen to Jack Benny or Bob Wills or perhaps Fred Waring and his orchestra; everyone would gather around when it was time for one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “fireside chats.”

Kids buying comics at the town drugstore had new favorite characters to follow — Batman premiered in “Detective Comics” in May and “Superman No. 1” appeared in June.

The Great Depression, which had begun with the stock market crash a decade earlier, was slowly beginning to ebb and recede, and folks finally started to have a bit of pocket money. The minimum wage rose a nickel to 30 cents. Yams were two cents a pound at Dippel’s Food Store in Caldwell; a 28-ounce jar of Pure Apple Butter was 17 cents. When going into town, men wore hats and often a jacket and tie. Women wore hats, too, and dresses — nothing too fancy, and sometimes made at home, but they were part of what was considered proper attire for Main Street in the communities within the Bluebonnet service area. There was a lively bustle on weekdays and often on Saturdays as well. And it was a treat on a Friday night to see a movie at the Strand in Bastrop, the Sterling in Giddings or the Baker in Lockhart (showing the first week of January, 1939: “The Dawn Patrol” with Errol Flynn).

The theaters were segregated, as were the schools, the water fountains and lunch counters. Slavery and the Civil War were still in the living memory of the area’s oldest residents. Lifelong Travis County resident John Crawford, who was 81 in 1939, could still tell a visitor about his early days as a slave on a plantation in Manor. He was a child when word came of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, but back in 1939, he had detailed memories of the day more than seven decades earlier.

In 1939, shiny new automobiles enticed passers-by at small downtown dealerships or glided by with their large graceful curves and Art Deco grilles. They made the occasional surviving beat-up Model A look

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F. C. Winkelmann immigrated to New York from Germany as a teen in 1890, caught a steamer to Galveston, and made his way to Brenham, where he worked for two years in a furniture factory. In 1894, he realized his dream of opening a photo studio. Winkelmann’s Studio captured the civic life of the Brenham area for the next six decades, from births to funerals. It became a tradition for brides and grooms in Washington County to make the trip into town and stand in front of Winkelmann’s camera. The couple at right is identified on the negative, taken in 1939, as Mr. and Mrs. Jose Ortega. Today the entire Winkelmann Collection of prints and negatives resides at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin — an invaluable window on the comings and goings of a community for almost a century. *Photos courtesy of Winkelmann Photo Collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin*





Newspaperdom, a trade journal for newspapers in the early 1900s, was captivated by the kind of flatbed printing press owned by the Deutsches Volksblatt weekly in Giddings: “Any printer who sees the Monona Leverless will be quite certain to fall in love with it.” The paper, founded in 1899, bought the press in 1907, and its “printer’s devil” (a printing apprentice), Albert Miertschin, did indeed fall for it. Miertschin taught the press to speak three languages: German, English and Wendish. He was the only person in the country who could hand-set type in Wendish, which was spoken in Serbin, southwest of Giddings. The Deutsches Volksblatt was a German-language paper with a few columns in English and Wendish. In 1938, the paper was sold to Miertschin, above right with his trilingual Monona Leverless, and Theodore Preusser, left, who became editor. In 1940, they founded the English-language Giddings Star. Miertschin would set German type Monday through Wednesday, and English type on Thursday and Friday. The Deutsches Volksblatt shut down in 1949, and Miertschin and Preusser sold the Star in 1954. The fluent press became scrap metal. *Photo courtesy of the University of Texas at San Antonio’s Institute of Texan Cultures*



Henry August “Hank” Hausmann, at left, of La Grange was a sure shot with a shotgun. He was the 1939 Texas State High Overall Champion, setting a world record for trapshooting. This Texas Trapshooting Hall of Famer won multiple state and national trapshooting contests. Locals paid to watch him shoot in 1934 to raise money for a Fayette County machine gun to defend against outlaws Bonnie and Clyde (who were fatally shot by police in Louisiana three weeks after La Grange got its weapon). Hausmann was a daredevil. At 20, he charged gullible locals 25 cents to watch him “fly” an E-M-F automobile off a 200-foot bluff above the Colorado River on April 24, 1916. He built a ramp for the car, but stood on the running board to steer and jumped off just before the car hurtled off the cliff. Refunds were requested. *Photo courtesy of Hank’s grandson, Pete Hausmann*

Continued from page 20

like a raggedy scarecrow in comparison. The new model Chevy pickups were touted in ads as “big, brawny,” with improved “Supremeline styling” and front windows you could crank open.

While filling up at Arbuckle Oil in Elgin, you might pull up alongside one of everyone’s favorite vehicles — the Blue Bell Creameries delivery truck, a refrigerated 1933 Chevy model that chugged up and down the country roads to deliver 5-gallon cans of “B.B. Ice Cream” to Lotta Cream counters in drugstores across the area. Lotta Cream booths — created in 1935 by Blue Bell General Manager E.F. Kruse to sell scoops inside local establishments — were your places to go for relief on a broiling summer weekend, all for a nickel a cone. On a typical Saturday in August, customers at the Lotta Cream #1 inside Mr. Schmid’s Savitall grocery store in Brenham consumed 110 gallons.

Life moved at a calm pace, but changes were just around the corner. In parts of Central Texas where the night had long been lit only with moon glow, candles and kerosene lamps, electricity was coming. The Lower Colorado River Electric Cooperative (later renamed Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative) received a state charter to provide electricity to residents east of Austin in Washington, Fayette, Austin, Lee, Bastrop, Travis, Williamson, Caldwell, Hays and Guadalupe counties, thanks to the relentless work of a young Texas congressman — and future U.S. president — named Lyndon Baines Johnson. (Later, parts of Burleson, Colorado, Gonzales and Milam counties were added to the Bluebonnet service area.)

In rural Fayette County, Isabel Albrecht saved up and bought a washing machine when the electric grid finally reached her cotton farm in Willow Springs, 22 miles east of La Grange. That’s where she and husband Oscar also raised cattle and chickens. But even after home electricity, she still preferred to scrub clothes on a washboard.

War was coming, too, though that was still just a rumble in the distance. In July, an article in Life magazine asked a group of prominent journalists just returning from Europe, “Will there be war?” No, reassured Amon Carter of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and his colleagues agreed. But in September, as Fred Quitta (seen in the photo at right, top row, fifth from the left) and Edward “Toad” Smith (third row, second from left) suited up for their Smithville Junior High Tigers football game, German tanks were already rolling into Poland. Five years later, those two young men would join the heartbreaking list of those who had given their lives in the defense of freedom. Quitta died in the battle to take the island of Leyte in the Philippines from the Japanese, and Smith lost his life at Saint-Georges-d’Elle, France, just three weeks after D-Day. Tiger teammate Carl “Rusty” DeLoach (top row, fourth from right) served on the destroyer USS Black, survived

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The mission: Bring a pastor and youth director to four rural congregations of the Reformed and Evangelical Church in the German farming communities of Mound Prairie, Birch, Gay Hill, and Lyons in Burleson County. The team was led by Lone Star Parish leaders the Rev. Martin Ernst (standing to right of map) and Ms. Leona Poppe (left of map), who moved to Somerville in 1939 and stayed until 1943. In a 1961 thunderstorm, lightning struck the steeple at Birch and the old church burned to the ground, prompting an eventual consolidation of the four churches into one congregation in Lyons, which lives on today as the Evangelical United Church of Christ, led by the Rev. Darrin Holub. *Photo courtesy of Winkelmann Photo Collection*



1939 THE MUSIC

When the Saints Go Marching In — Louis Armstrong and his Orchestra
Over the Rainbow — Judy Garland
God Bless America — Kate Smith
Moonlight Serenade — Glenn Miller and his Orchestra
Strange Fruit — Billie Holiday

The Lion Sleeps Tonight (aka Mbube) — Solomon Linda's Original Evening Birds
Lester Leaps In — Count Basie's Kansas City Seven
Begin the Beguine — Chick Henderson
Beer Barrel Polka — Andrew Sisters
Beautiful Brown Eyes — Roy Acuff

A moment of innocence in the fall of 1939 was captured in the annual football team photo of the Smithville Junior High Tigers, below. War was approaching, and in September, as the boys suited up for their first game, German tanks were rolling into Poland, ushering in a war that would affect them all. Several of them served in World War II, and two made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. *Photo courtesy of the Smithville Heritage Society*



Feeding turkeys until they were stuffed was just one of Isabel Heinsohn Albrecht's chores in 1939 at "Wayside Manor," the Fayette County poultry, cotton and cattle farm she owned with her husband, Oscar, on land that had been in his family since 1866. Before rural electrification, her house was powered by a Delco-Light Plant. Albrecht died in 1966, but Trinity Lutheran Church in Frelsburg, 19 miles southeast of the old farm in Willow Springs, still displays an altar cloth intricately crocheted by her. *Photo courtesy of the Albrecht family*

1939 THE MOVIES

Gone with the Wind — Starring Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Thomas Mitchell, Barbara O'Neil and Hattie McDaniel. Directed by Victor Fleming, George Cukor and Sam Wood. Eight Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Director, Art Direction, Cinematography, Film Editing and Screenplay

The Wizard of Oz — Starring Judy Garland, Frank Morgan, Ray Bolger and Bert Lahr. Directed by Victor Fleming, George Cukor, Mervyn LeRoy, Norman Taurog and King Vidor. Academy Awards for Best Original Score and Best Song, "Over the Rainbow"

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington — Starring James Stewart, Jean Arthur, Claude Rains and Eddie Arnold. Directed by Frank Capra. Academy Award for Musical Scoring and Best Original Story

Stagecoach — Starring John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Andy Devine and John Carradine. Directed by John Ford. Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor

Continued from page 22

the war, and returned to Smithville to work on the railroad and marry his high school sweetheart Juanita. DeLoach died in 2013 at age 86; Juanita, who had been by his side for 65 years, died 12 hours later in her sleep.

The Great War, known then as “the war to end all wars,” had started just 25 years earlier, and some of its veterans living in Central Texas were still in their early 40s. In fact, that terrible conflagration received a new name in June of 1939, when *Time* magazine grimly dubbed it “World War I” with a gloomy eye to “World War II” building in Europe.

Other changes, as a tumultuous decade entered its final year: On Jan. 17, radio host and flour mill owner W. Lee “Pappy” O’Daniel was sworn in as the state’s 34th governor with great hoopla at Memorial Stadium in Austin with 37 marching bands and an attendance of 60,000. O’Daniel replaced James V. Allred, who late in his second term was nominated by President Roosevelt to a federal district judgeship.

In Giddings, a new mural was unveiled on the wall of the U.S. Post Office. The artist hired by a federal New Deal jobs program had painted cowboys opening mail at a rural mailbox, including one who received a package of red cowboy boots. The painting shows mountains in flat Lee County, but the postmaster called the mural “a first class job.” New Deal post office murals were also completed in 1939 in Elgin, Lockhart, Smithville, La Grange and Caldwell. In Lockhart, the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps were busy building a swimming pool next to Clear Fork Creek that later would become part of Lockhart State Park. Additional New Deal workers were building Bastrop State Park and Buescher State Park near Smithville.

These moments and so many others live on in the black-and-white photos taken that year by photographers such as F.C. Winkelmann in Brenham and Harry Forrest Annas in Lockhart, who each had downtown studios for decades in their communities. They documented countless weddings, babies, funerals, group photos and civic events both grand and intimate. We are fortunate to have their images as we look back and wonder what life was like then.

Although the people in these hand-printed black-and-white images are frozen in time today, they lived these moments in color. For them, the days of 1939 slipped by one at a time, a bit quicker than folks wanted them to.

What was to come was uncertain. They didn’t know how the story would end, but their contributions live on in this particular patch of Texas that stretches from the San Marcos River in the west to the Brazos in the east. ■



The federal New Deal job programs during the Great Depression produced recreational treasures in Central Texas state parks. In Lockhart, the Civilian Conservation Corps built the pool in what is now Lockhart State Park. It was 93 degrees on the Fourth of July, 1941, opening day for the pool next to Clear Fork Creek. The pool’s proximity to the creek caused persistent problems: flooding after heavy rains and the occasional snake. Lifeguards had to shovel mud into buckets and throw it back into the creek. The pool closed in the early 1970s. The old pool site now is a grassy area with picnic tables where the bathhouse once stood. *Photo courtesy of Harry Annas Collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin*



Central Texas has a smokin’ hot reputation for outstanding slow-cooked barbecue, with a pedigree that dates to German and Czech settlers who arrived in the mid-1800s. Back then, local meat markets would wood-smoke meat that had not been sold to prevent spoiling. The oldest barbecue shop in Central Texas is Southside Market in Elgin, above, which opened in 1882. By 1939, Southside and several other barbecue joints were so popular they remain open today, including two in Lockhart: Kreuz Market (opened in 1900) and Black’s Barbecue (opened in 1932 under a different name). By 1941, Giddings had City Meat Market, which is still serving today. Central Texas barbecue continues to lure world travelers to those famous 5-star spots as well as ‘younger’ barbecue shops across Bluebonnet’s service area. After all, different smokes for different folks. *Photo courtesy of Southside Market*

Co-op board seats up for election in 2019

Bluebonnet members interested in serving on the co-op's Board of Directors can run for one of four seats up for election during the Annual Meeting on May 14, 2019.

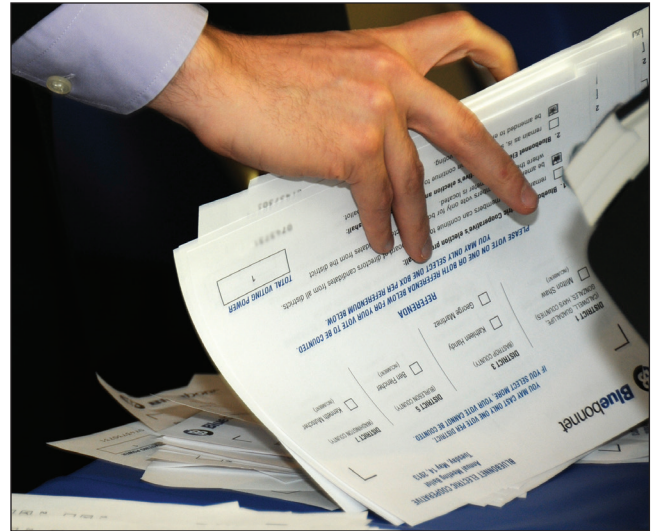
Candidates can be nominated either by presenting an application for nomination with at least 50 signatures from co-op members in their respective districts or by paying a \$250 filing fee.

Bluebonnet's Board is made up of 11 directors who serve staggered three-year terms. The four seats up for election in 2019 are for District 1, Caldwell, Gonzales, Guadalupe and Hays counties; District 3, Bastrop County; District 5, Burleson County; and District 7, Washington County.

To run for the Board, candidates must be at least 21 years old, a co-op member in good standing, agree to a background check and meet other qualifications outlined in Bluebonnet's bylaws.

Nomination application forms are also available at the co-op's member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor.

All candidates' petitions, filing fees and application for nomination forms must be submitted at any Bluebonnet member service center by 4 p.m. Feb. 13, 2019.



Details, bylaws and nomination applications are online at bluebonnet.coop: Click About, then Leadership, then Becoming a Director. For more information, call a member service representative at 800-842-7708. (Sarah Beal photo)

DEADLINES APPROACHING! APPLY TODAY!

2019 OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN BLUEBONNET SERVICE AREA

Government-in-Action Youth Tour

Two high school students to tour Washington, D.C., June 12-21, 2019 — plus a \$1,000 scholarship

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
JAN. 18, 2019

Scholarships of Excellence

\$2,500 each to graduating high school seniors to pursue a trade and technical certificate, associate degree in a vocational field or a bachelor's degree

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MARCH 8, 2019

Find out more at bluebonnet.coop (click Community, then Scholarships) or by contacting Karen Urban at karen.urban@bluebonnet.coop or **512-332-7961**



CONTACT US

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 729 Bastrop, TX 78602

Member services: **800-842-7708**, email memberservices@bluebonnet.coop or visit one of our five member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor.

REPORT AN OUTAGE

At **800-949-4414**, bluebonnet.coop or via our mobile app.

OFFICE CLOSING

Bluebonnet offices will be closed Jan. 21 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Jan. 24 for a company meeting. Report outages at 800-949-4414, bluebonnet.coop or via our mobile app. Pay your bill any time online, on our mobile app or by calling member services at 800-842-7708.

BOARD MEETING

Bluebonnet's Board of Directors will meet at 9 a.m. Jan. 22 at Bluebonnet's Headquarters, 155 Electric Ave., Bastrop.

MAGAZINE QUESTIONS?

Contact Lisa Ogle at **512-332-7968** or email lisa.ogle@bluebonnet.coop.



“There are so many people in the co-ops of Texas who do extraordinary things for other people.”

—NANCY JOHNSON, whose Little Hats, Big Hearts program builds awareness of congenital heart defects.
Texas Co-op Power, February 2017

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

Let us know about your local hero! Nominate a co-op member in your area who improves the community's quality of life.

Email your nomination to people@texascooppower.com.

Include name, co-op affiliation and a short description of their work in the community.

We'll highlight select nominees in a future issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

WYATT MCSPADEN

2019 HOLIDAY RECIPE CONTEST

\$2,500 IN PRIZES

\$1,000 GRAND PRIZEWINNER | One \$500 Best Savory Winner
One \$500 Best Sweet Winner
Two \$250 Honorable Mention Winners

Share your best original recipes!

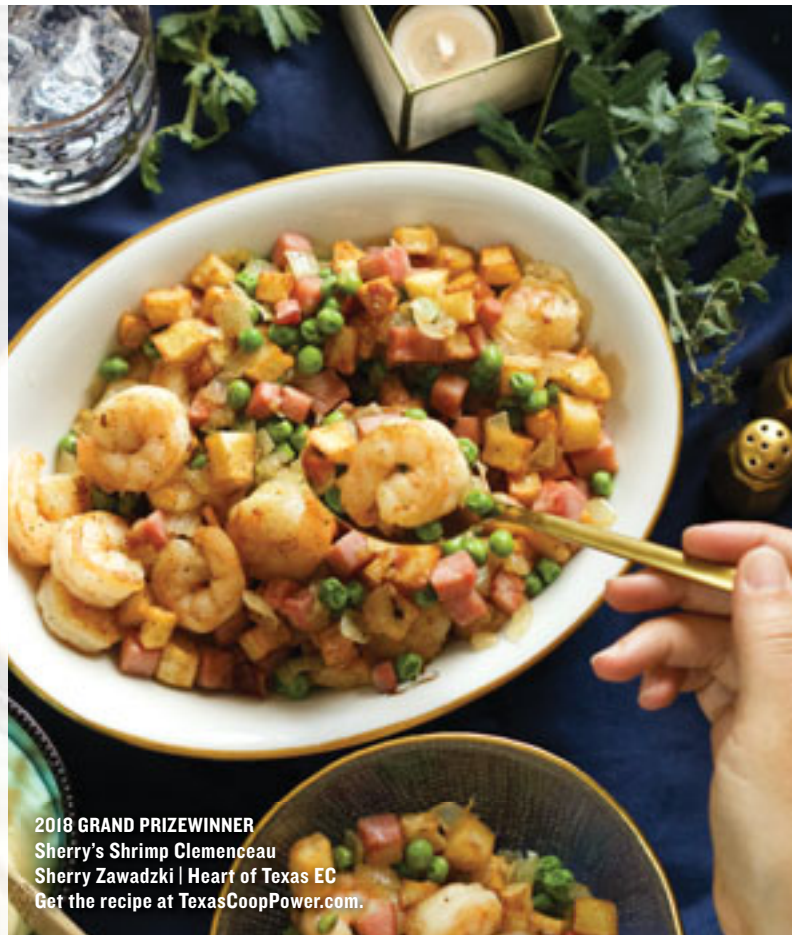
Show us how you add your personal touch to every part of a meal—from savory beginnings to sweet endings—for fun and festive holiday gatherings.

Send us your best ORIGINAL holiday recipes—ones you've developed, not copied from a friend or found in a book or magazine. Winners will be featured in our November 2019 issue. Enter by June 10 at TexasCoopPower.com.

Go to TexasCoopPower.com for details and official rules.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com. Each entry MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Specify which category you are entering, Sweet or Savory, on each recipe. Mail entries to: *Texas Co-op Power*/Holiday Recipe Contest, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can also fax entries to (512) 763-3401. Up to three total entries are allowed per co-op membership. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries all can be sent in one envelope. No email entries will be accepted. For official rules, visit TexasCoopPower.com. **Entry deadline: June 10, 2019.**



2018 GRAND PRIZEWINNER
Sherry's Shrimp Clemenceau
Sherry Zawadzki | Heart of Texas EC
Get the recipe at TexasCoopPower.com.



"The quality of their watches is equal to many that can go for ten times the price or more."

— Jeff from
McKinney, TX

"Blue face watches are on the discerning gentleman's 'watch list'."

— watchtime.com

STONE COLD FOX

So good-looking...heads will turn. So unbelievably-priced...jaws will drop.

Every once in a while a timepiece comes along that's so incredibly good looking, masterfully equipped and jaw-droppingly priced, that it stops us stone cold. A watch that can take you seamlessly from the 18th hole to the board room. A watch that blurs the line between sports watch and dress watch. We're talking the **Blue Stone Chronograph**, and it sits at the top of the discerning gentleman's watch list.

Striking in appearance and fully equipped with features, this is a watch of substance. The **Blue Stone** merges the durability of steel with the precision of crystal movement that's accurate to 0.2 seconds a day. Both an analog and digital watch, the **Blue Stone** keeps time with pinpoint accuracy in two time zones.

The watch's handsome steel blue dial seamlessly blends an analog watch face with a stylish digital display. It's a stopwatch, calendar, and alarm. Plus, the **Blue Stone** resists water up to 30 meters, making it up for water adventures.

A watch with these features would easily cost you thousands if you shopped big names. But overcharging to justify an inflated brand name makes us blue in the face. Which is why we make superior looking and performing timepieces priced to please. Decades of experience in engineering enables Stauer to put quality on your wrist and keep your money in your pocket.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Experience the **Blue Stone Chronograph** for 30 days. If you're not convinced you got excellence for less, send it back for a refund of the item price.

Time is running out. Originally priced at \$395, the **Blue Stone Chronograph** was already generating buzz among watch connoisseurs, but with the price slashed to **\$69**, we can't guarantee this limited-edition timepiece will last. So, call today!

TAKE 83% OFF INSTANTLY!

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Stauer Blue Stone Chronograph non-offer code price ~~\$395~~†

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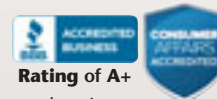
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 - 5' Box Blade with Scarifiers
 - Post Hole Digger with 9" Auger
 - 3 Point Quick Hitch
- Insulated Canopy Top
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- No DPF Filter
- Choose Ag. or Ind. Tires

Packages Include:

- MF Quick Attach L-135E Front End Loader with Skid Steer Bucket
 - Woods 6' Rotary Cutter with Slip Clutch
 - Post Hole Digger with 9" Auger
 - 3 Point Quick Hitch
- Insulated Canopy Top
- 6' Box Blade with Scarifiers
- 20' HD Trailer with Ramps, Brakes & Spare Tire
- No DPF Filter
- Choose Ag. or Ind. Tires



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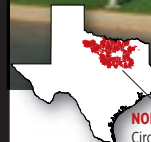


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Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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NEW 3 COLORS

COMPARE TO \$219.99 **YOUR CHOICE \$189.99**

SAVE \$610

COMPARE TO \$800
Snap-on BLUE-POINT MODEL: KRBC10TBPS

ITEM 64031 BLACK
ITEM 64032 64033 shown
ITEM 64059 64061
ITEM 64060 shown
ITEM 56237 64721 shown
ITEM 56238 64722 shown
ITEM 56239 64720 shown

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

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FREE

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PITTSBURGH

LIFETIME WARRANTY

1" x 25 FT. TAPE MEASURE

COMPARE TO KOMELON \$6.98
MODEL: LAR25KV

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- Rubber Wrapped Case

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MECHANIC'S GLOVES

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE 54%

NOW \$4.99

COMPARE TO VALEO \$11.02
MODEL: 25521

ITEM 62434, 62426, 62433, 64178, 64179, 62432, 62429, 62428 shown

40451734

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Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$79.99

SAVE \$65

COMPARE TO \$125.68
K TOOL MODEL: KTI63084

ITEM 64545/64552/64832, 68053/62160/62496/62516, 60569 shown

40453567

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

PITTSBURGH LIFETIME WARRANTY SUPER COUPON

130 PIECE TOOL KIT WITH CASE

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAE AND METRIC

NOW \$299.99

COMPARE TO \$66.99
NDX MODEL: H137HDS

ITEM 63248/64080, 68998/64263, 63091 shown

40463071

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

A. HOT DOG
ITEM 69269/97080 shown

B. PANCAKE
ITEM 60637/61615, 95275 shown

Air delivery:
0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI
1 CFM @ 40 PSI

COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$99.62
MODEL: PCFP2003

SAVE 59%

YOUR CHOICE \$399.99

NOW \$56.99

40466261

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

WARRIOR SUPER COUPON

29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$9.99

COMPARE TO DEWALT \$64.99
MODEL: DW189

ITEM 62281, 5889/61637 shown

40470690

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS SUPER COUPON

12" DOUBLE-BEVEL SLIDING COMPOUND MITER SAW

- Laser guide

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$139.99

COMPARE TO RYOBI \$249
MODEL: TSS120L

SAVE \$109

ITEM 69684/61970/61969 shown

Blade sold separately.

40481192

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$5.99

COMPARE TO BLUE HAWK \$19.99
MODEL: 77280

ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shown

40482479

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

drill master SUPER COUPON

4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$9.99

SAVE 65%

COMPARE TO PERFORMAX \$28.99
MODEL: 2411-1

ITEM 69645, 95578/60625 shown

40490263

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

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17 FT. TYPE IA MULTI-TASK LADDER

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- Weighs 34 lbs.

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Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE \$189

COMPARE TO LITTLE GIANT \$298.99
MODEL: YE117

ITEM 63418/63419, 67646/63417 shown

NOW \$109.99

40508744

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

SUPER COUPON

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- Great outdoor accent lighting
- Super bright light

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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MODEL: 82056-05SSR

ITEM 62533/63941/64625/68353 shown

40510376

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

PREDATOR SUPER COUPON

6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$999.99

COMPARE TO HONDA \$1199.99
MODEL: B320U1023

ITEM 60363/69730, 69727 shown
CALIFORNIA ONLY

SAVE \$230

40511277

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

CENTRAL MACHINERY SUPER COUPON

8", 5 SPEED BENCHTOP DRILL PRESS

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$54.99

SAVE \$55

COMPARE TO BUFFALO BLACK \$110.95
MODEL: B-DEJL

ITEM 62520/60238 shown

40514336

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

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18" x 12" MOVER'S DOLLY

- 1000 lb. capacity

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NOW \$7.99

COMPARE TO BUFFALO TOOLS \$17.65
MODEL: HFDOLLY

ITEM 61899/63095/63096, 60497/63098/63097/93888 shown

40519183

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

CHICAGO ELECTRIC WELDING SUPER COUPON

125 AMP FLUX-CORE WELDER

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO WELD

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SAVE \$50

COMPARE TO IRONTON \$149.99
MODEL: 45433

ITEM 63583/63582 shown

40527079

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE, 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWNS

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

- 400 lb. working load

NOW \$6.99

COMPARE TO ATE TOOLS \$54.88
MODEL: 33979

ITEM 63057/63056/63094, 60405/63150/61524 shown

40532685

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 5/2/19*

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

18" WORKING PLATFORM STEP STOOL

- 350 lb. capacity

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$19.99

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MODEL: H-21

ITEM 62515/66911 shown

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Still Empowering People

Texas Co-op Power celebrates 75 years of chronicling the cooperative movement

BY ELLEN STADER

SOMEWHERE IN TINY ANYWHERE, TEXAS, a high school senior opens her laptop, plugs her phone into its charger and clicks Play on her study music playlist. She's applying for a college scholarship she learned about in a magazine; the application is almost ready. After a final read-through, she hits Send—and, with the help of high-speed internet, makes an investment in her future.

Nowhere in her mind is the fact that all this is possible because of her great-grandfather.

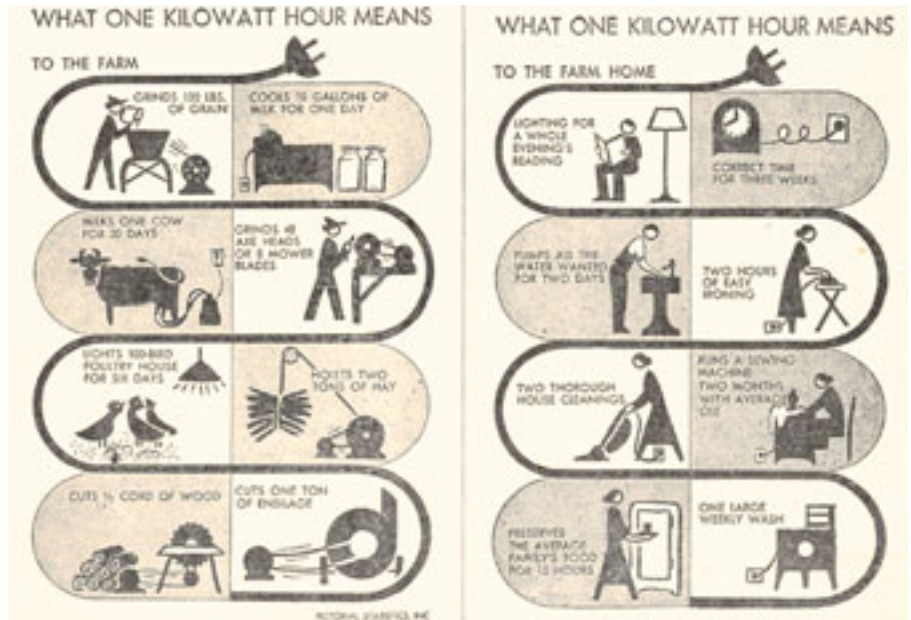
Her great-grandfather was one of thousands of Texans who banded together with neighbors in the 1930s and '40s to build cooperatives that would electrify their farms, transforming the countryside and economy. The magazine containing the scholarship information is *Texas Co-op Power*, which has chronicled the state's electric cooperative movement since 1944—and celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

What started as four pages of newsprint titled *Texas Cooperative Electric Power* doubled to eight pages by the second issue. Circulation in the first year grew from 14,000 to 39,500 as the 49 co-ops affiliated with the Texas Power Reserve (later Texas Electric Cooperatives) continued to grow.

"It's a fascinating story this newspaper has set out to tell," read an editorial by the first editor, George W. Haggard. "In 1935 only three Texas farms in 100 had central station power—today, three in ten are solighted. Tomorrow, we hope to make it well-nigh universal."

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see a timeline that puts the creation of *Texas Co-op Power* in perspective.



Written for a population poised to join in the war effort and postwar prosperity, *Texas Cooperative Electric Power* articles took a forward-looking tone. In February 1945, the name was changed to *Texas Co-op Power*. Columns like March 1945's *War Duty Checklist* encouraged readers to make "every kilowatt you use do a real war job."

After World War II, rural electrification pushed full speed ahead alongside the economy. Ads aimed at newly prosperous members offered appliances to improve home life and expand farm production. The magazine added "women's pages," filled with household tips for using new products and recipes to be cooked with electric stoves and ranges.

Pages were dedicated to developments at individual co-ops, and the words and faces of members appeared. A 1945 contest asked for essays answering the question, "How has electricity helped you?" One winner's moving response told of her daughter, born prematurely, who survived only because of the incubator that enclosed her first weeks of life. "Lyndah Nell will be 3 this month and is in perfect health," the Limestone County mother wrote.

Rural electrification eventually reached

all corners of the state, and co-op members acquired the conveniences of modern homes and farms. *Texas Co-op Power's* focus shifted from the wonders of electricity to advice on using it safely and efficiently. Industry- and government-focused articles were replaced by stories covering travel, food, gardening and other topics of general interest.

Form changed with function, too. In 1960, two-color printing brought the publication a fresh look, but 1992 saw the most visible transition when the format changed to a full-color magazine. Photo and recipe contests became a staple, as did statewide events listings. Then the 21st century came calling with a *Texas Co-op Power* website and Facebook page, allowing more interaction between the magazine and its readers.

In some ways, not much has changed. The technology is new, sure, but the magazine still strives to cover topics important to co-op members. Throughout this anniversary year, *Texas Co-op Power* delves into its 75 years of archives to see how its past informs its present and builds foundations for its future.

Ellen Stader is a writer and editor in Austin.

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Sunny Citrus

EVERYONE KNOWS CELEBRATIONS call for dessert, and to ring in *Texas Co-op Power's* 75th anniversary, we're raiding our archives. Each month, we'll feature a retro recipe tweaked to accommodate evolving tastes and cooking methods. To kick off January's citrus recipes, we're sharing a Frozen Lime Pie. The recipe that ran in July 1950 featured bright green gelatin, courtesy of food coloring, and called for freezing the filling in ice cube trays before thawing it and beating until smooth. To streamline the process, we're relying on frozen limeade and sweetened condensed milk to create a refreshing, tart-sweet pie that everyone will love.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Frozen Lime Pie

CRUST

- 1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- ¼ cup sugar
- 6 tablespoons (¾ stick) unsalted butter, melted

FILLING

- 1 container (6 ounces) frozen limeade concentrate, thawed
 - ½ can (7 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
 - 4 ounces sour cream
 - 4 ounces frozen whipped topping
- Grated lime zest or sliced limes, for garnish

1. CRUST: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine the graham crumbs, sugar and butter in a bowl. Press the mixture into a 9-inch pie dish, making sure the sides and bottom are even in thickness, and bake 10 minutes, until fragrant and golden. Cool completely on a wire rack.

2. FILLING: Combine the limeade and milk in a large bowl. Using a rubber spatula, fold in the sour cream and whipped topping until the mixture is smooth. Pour the mixture into the

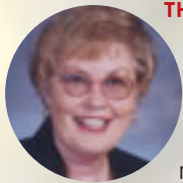
CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



See a video online to watch Paula make this pie.

Retro Recipes

Sunny Citrus



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

MILLIE KIRCHOFF | NUECES EC

With orange, grapefruit and Meyer lemon trees in her backyard, Kirchoff doesn't have to look far for citrus inspiration. Her fragrant quick bread makes for a delicious breakfast or midafternoon snack.

Lemon Thyme Tea Bread

BREAD

- ¾ cup milk
 - 1 tablespoon chopped lemon balm
 - 1 tablespoon chopped lemon thyme
 - 2 cups flour
 - ½ teaspoons baking powder
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - 6 tablespoons (¾ stick) butter, softened to room temperature
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 2 eggs, room temperature
 - 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest
- Additional lemon thyme for garnish

LEMON GLAZE

Juice of 2 lemons

- ½ cups powdered sugar, plus more as desired for consistency

- 1. BREAD:** Preheat oven to 325 degrees and apply butter or nonstick cooking spray to a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan. Heat the milk and the chopped herbs in a small, heavy saucepan until the mixture is hot but not simmering. Remove from heat and allow the mixture to steep until cool.
- 2.** Combine the flour, baking powder and salt in a bowl. In a separate bowl, cream the butter and gradually add the sugar, beating until the mixture is light and

fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, then beat in the lemon zest. Combine the flour mixture by sections with the herbed milk and mix until the batter is just blended. Use a rubber spatula to transfer the batter to the prepared pan. Smooth the top and bake 50–60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the loaf comes out clean.

3. LEMON GLAZE: Meanwhile, combine the lemon juice and 1 cup of powdered sugar in a bowl and whisk until smooth. Add remaining ½ cup of sugar and whisk again, until the mixture is thick and glossy but still pourable. Add additional powdered sugar as desired for consistency.

4. Cool bread in the pan on a wire rack placed over a baking sheet for 5 minutes, then run a knife around the inside of the pan, inverting the loaf and removing from pan. Drizzle the lemon glaze over the top of the warm cake and allow it to cool completely. Garnish with additional lemon thyme sprigs, if desired. ▶ Makes one 9-by-5-inch loaf.



\$100 Recipe Contest

June's recipe contest topic is **Standout Summer Sides**. What do you like to serve alongside ribs, burgers and other summer entrées? The deadline is **January 10**. Readers whose recipes are featured will receive a special *Texas Co-op Power* apron.

ENTER ONLINE at TexasCoopPower.com/contests; MAIL to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; FAX to (512) 763-3401. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op and the name of the contest you are entering.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

prepared pie crust and freeze overnight. Garnish with lime zest or lime slices if desired. ▶ Serves 8.

COOK'S TIP If time is of the essence, feel free to use a prepared store-bought graham cracker or pastry pie crust.

Lavender Lemon Cookies With Lemon Glaze

AMY STRAIN | DEEP EAST TEXAS EC

Aromatic lavender is famous for its soothing qualities, and these cookies are no exception. Speckled with pale purple buds and drizzled with lemony glaze, these elegant cookies have a delicate texture and wonderful perfume. Strain uses buds from Chappell Hill Lavender Farm and describes the results as "small treats that pack a huge citrus punch."

COOKIES

- 2½ cups flour
 - ½ teaspoon baking powder
 - 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
 - ½ cup sugar, plus ¼ cup for rolling (optional)
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Finely grated zest and juice of 2 lemons, divided use
- 1 egg, room temperature
 - 1 tablespoon lavender culinary buds, plus extra for garnish (optional)

LEMON GLAZE

- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ½ cup powdered sugar

- 1. COOKIES:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line two baking sheets with parchment. Combine the flour and baking powder in a bowl and set aside.
- 2.** In a separate bowl (or stand mixer), cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, then mix in the vanilla, lemon zest and 2 teaspoons lemon juice. Mix in the egg, then gradually add the flour mixture and lavender buds, mixing until just combined.
- 3.** At this point, you can roll the dough into a log and slice (or wrap with plastic and refrigerate until you're ready to bake) or shape it into balls, each slightly larger than a quarter. Coat the dough slices or roll the dough balls in additional sugar and place them on the

prepared baking sheets (pressing each ball down slightly with a fork). Bake the cookies about 14 minutes, or until lightly golden, then cool on a wire rack.

4. LEMON GLAZE: Whisk together lemon juice and powdered sugar until smooth. Drizzle the glaze over the cooled cookies and garnish with additional lavender buds if desired. ▶ Makes about 36 cookies.

COOK'S TIP Strain grinds the lavender buds in a coffee grinder that she cleans with rice beforehand. But you'll also get delicious results (and a pretty cookie) using whole buds.

Grapefruit Pie

SUE WEST | WISE COUNTY EC

Lemon meringue pie is a classic; this clever variation uses fresh grapefruit. West showed us how the tang of pink grapefruit complements a cloud of meringue. To give the custard a firmer texture, chill the baked pie for at least two hours before serving. Note that this pie is made with a pre-baked crust.

PIE

1 pink grapefruit
 ⅔ cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar, divided use
 ⅓ cup cornstarch
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 1¼ cups fresh grapefruit juice
 ¾ cup water
 3 egg yolks
 2 tablespoons butter
 One 9-inch pie crust, baked

MERINGUE

5 egg whites
 ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
 ⅔ cup sugar

- 1. PIE:** Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Use a knife to trim the peel from grapefruit, then slice into segments (discarding seeds and white membrane). Sprinkle the fruit with 1 tablespoon of sugar and refrigerate while you make the pie.
- 2.** Combine ⅔ cup sugar, cornstarch and salt in a saucepan over medium

heat. Gradually whisk in the grapefruit juice and water. Lightly beat egg yolks and whisk into the juice mixture. Bring the mixture to a boil, stirring frequently. Boil 1 minute, stirring constantly, and then stir in the butter and remove from heat. Place the baked pie crust on a baking sheet, pour in the custard and set aside while you prepare the meringue.

3. MERINGUE: Beat the egg whites and cream of tartar on high speed until foamy. Add sugar, a tablespoon at a time, until stiff peaks form. Spread the meringue over the filling, sealing to the edge of the crust. Bake the pie 28 minutes, or until the meringue is lightly browned. Transfer the pie to a wire rack to cool, then serve with the chilled grapefruit segments. ▶ Serves 8.

WEB EXTRAS

▶ Read these recipes on our website to see the original Frozen Lime Pie recipe from July 1950.



FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST


Every month, Focus on Texas features Texas photos submitted by our readers. Send us your best photos for a chance to see your entry in the magazine!

Upcoming Contests

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 On the Ranch
 Deadline: January 10

JUNE ISSUE
 Feedin' Time
 Deadline: February 10

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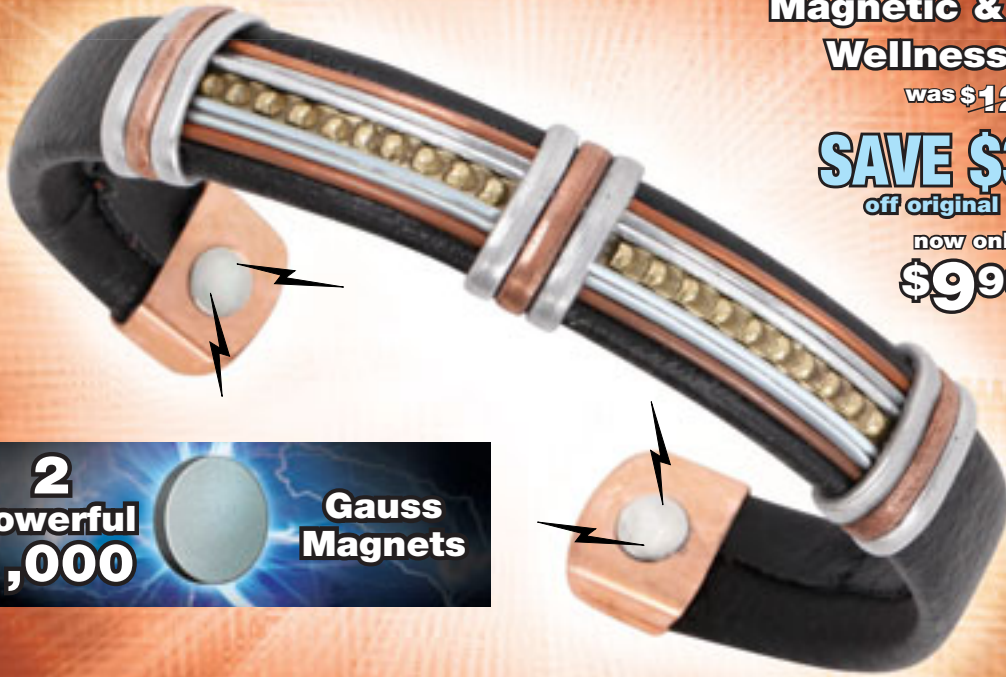
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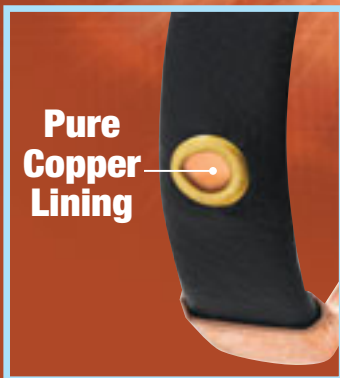
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Harvest



WE PLANTED THE SEED WITH OUR READERS, and now it's time to reap the harvest. We're willing to bet the farm that this crop of photos shows Texans what we bring to the table. Now, let's plow ahead and see what your part of the state yields. **GRACE ARSIAGA**

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

◀ **COURTNEY WILDE**, Magic Valley EC: Granger and Bristol get ahead of the pickers to collect their share of cotton.



▲ **NANCY FALSTER**, Wood County EC: Grandson James Nichols helps with the cabbage harvest on Falster Farm.

▼ **SHARON BLACK-GREENE**, Pedernales EC: Last fall, Black-Greene planted two artichokes and a cardoon. The three plants were protected from the deer and winter chill, surviving to flower.



▲ **AMANDA CHILDRESS**, Cherokee County EC: "This is some of our homegrown produce from raised beds that my husband built. We were lucky to get this much before the heat and drought this year."

◀ **ALAN KIRBY**, Cherokee County EC: Kirby, his wife, Rebecca, and the 1959 John Deere he inherited. "I have been growing gardens my entire life in Cherokee County. This was my best year ever. I had a 21-pound return for each pound of seed potatoes planted."



UPCOMING CONTESTS

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| MAY OUT ON THE RANCH | DUE JANUARY 10 |
| JUNE FEEDIN' TIME | DUE FEBRUARY 10 |
| JULY TRUCKS | DUE MARCH 10 |

All entries must include name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo.

ONLINE: Submit highest-resolution digital images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. **MAIL:** Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. 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 do not accept entries via email. We regret that *Texas Co-op Power* cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.



Pick of the Month

Grace Lutheran Church Wild Game Dinner

Bandera January 26

(830) 796-3091, gracebandera.weebly.com

Members of Grace Lutheran Church, many of whom are members of Bandera Electric Cooperative, serve up chili, soup, sliders, duck gumbo and other wild game dishes as part of this 32nd annual gathering. The event, which includes a popular raffle, supports scholarships for two Bandera County high school seniors. Church youths offer desserts for sale.

January

11

Boerne [11-12] Kendall County Junior Livestock Show and Sale, (830) 249-9343, visitboerne.org

Levelland [11-13] Ultimate Calf Roping, (806) 894-4161, ucroping.com

12

Monahans Sandhills Resolution Run, (432) 943-2187, monahans.org

Aransas Pass [12-13] Texas Winter Market, 1-888-225-3427, texasmarketguide.com

18

Longview [18-20] East Texas Boat & RV Show, (903) 237-4000, boatrvshow.com

Arlington [18-Feb. 3] *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, (817) 275-7661, theatrearlington.org

19

Emory Rains County Eagle Fest, (903) 473-2465, emorytx.com

Lago Vista Casino Night, (512) 267-7952, lagovista.org

Luckenbach Blues Festival, (830) 997-3224, luckenbachtexas.com

Fredericksburg [19-20] Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show, (830) 456-5419, fredericksburgrockhounds.org

January 18
Longview
East Texas Boat
& RV Show



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AROUND TEXAS

EVENT CALENDAR

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20

San Angelo Chamber Music Series: Oceana Ensemble, (325) 653-3333, samfa.org

22

Lufkin *Something Rotten!*, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

23

Denton [23-27] Black Film Festival, (214) 247-6028, dentonbff.com

24

Galveston *Diary of a Worm, a Spider and a Fly*, 1-800-821-1894, thegrand.com

25

Kerrville [25-27, Feb. 2-3] Renaissance Festival, (214) 632-5766, kerrvillerenfest.com

26

Ozona Permian Basin Square and Round Dance Association Winterfest, (432) 685-3226, pbsrda.com

Goliad [26-27] El Soldado de Mexico, (361) 645-3752



January 20
San Angelo
Chamber Music Series:
Oceana Ensemble

27

Crockett *Twelfth Night*, (936) 544-4276, pwfaa.org

31

Waco Mid-Tex Farm, Ranch & Garden Show, (254) 757-5611, wacochamber.com

February

1

Levelland [1-2] South Plains Bull Riding Challenge, (806) 894-4161, malleteventcenter.com

2

Surfside Beach Marathon and Half Marathon, (409) 539-5150, surfsidemarathon.com

5

McKinney [5-March 22] Feathered Friends: 13 Texas Endangered and Threatened Birds, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

6

Laredo [6-9] Birding Festival, (956) 718-1063, laredobirdingfestival.org

Submit Your Event!

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

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North Texas Rail Yard

Cleburne's mural and museums hark back to the town's transportation and Native American past

BY GENE FOWLER

AS I ADMIRING THE VINTAGE STOREFRONTS around Cleburne's courthouse square, a faded soda pop bottle and hamburger sign at the tiny Burger Bar luncheonette caught my eye. "Every couple of months, someone will stop in wanting to buy the sign," said Katy Grantges, owner of the beloved eatery. The minirestaurant's building dates to 1902, when it served as the office for a wagon yard and livery stable. "They used to sell Model T's here, but it's been the Burger Bar since 1949."

"My mother used to come here and get seven burgers for a dollar," testified the diner sitting next to me in one of the Burger Bar's four counter seats as I munched my cheeseburger. "My boy lives in Corsicana," offered a customer waiting for takeout, "and the first thing he does whenever he comes home is head for the Burger Bar."

After lunch, a mural near Cleburne's square depicting historic local sites and events guided my exploration. Created by Texas artist Styfle Read, it features a gleaming, steaming locomotive that commemorates the railroad's local impact.

The **Cleburne Railroad Museum** tells the story of the rail lines and repair shops that served as the city's largest employer for nearly a century. Attired in a dapper conductor's uniform, R.A. McAlister told me the story of the Santa Fe Railroad establishing machine shops in Cleburne when its Galveston headquarters were quarantined because of yellow fever in 1898.

"When the train left Galveston heading north, looking for a place to set up temporary offices and shops, every community it stopped at greeted it with shotguns and 'keep moving' commands," said McAlister. "But when they reached Cleburne, the mayor met them with a brass band. It was a sad day here in 1989 when they closed the shops."



The Burger Bar downtown draws a lunch crowd that overflows its 169 square feet.

Read's action portrait of baseball great Tris Speaker recalls the Hall of Famer's first team, the minor-league champion Cleburne Railroaders of 1906. A reborn Railroaders club took to the field of dreams in 2017, playing home games at a sparkling new park called the Depot at Cleburne Station.

The mural includes rangy longhorns and a rangier cowpoke that evoke a cattle drive route west of town that was known as part of the Chisholm Trail. Johnson County's original log cabin courthouse, built in 1854, still stands among the pioneer buildings in Cleburne's **Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum**.

Caddo Indian settlements depicted in the mural inspire a visit to the **Big Bear Native American Museum** and to the **Layland Museum**.

In a 1905 Greek Revival structure built as a Carnegie library, the Layland houses the collection of plumber William J. Layland, who took time off every summer to gather relics. Among the hundreds of artifacts, you'll see Hopi katsina figures and a late reservation-era Lakota beaded buckskin dress.

Mural work is a Read family signature,

and until recently, Read's father, Sleepy Read, painted in his publicly accessible studio in the Wright Building, a mini-mall near Styfle's mural. Another stop on the square, the **Published Page** bookstore, specializes in vintage sci-fi, Texana and Western history.

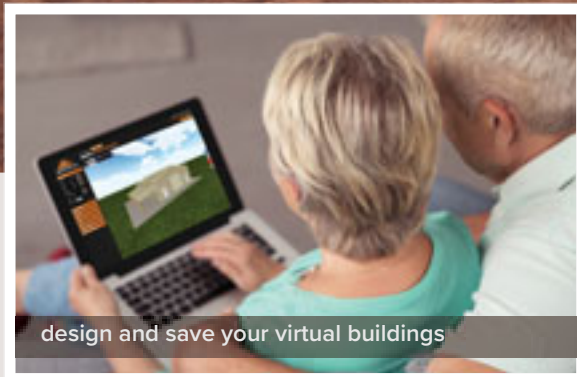
Sleepy Read's mural adorns the hallways of the **J.N. Long Cultural Arts Complex**, a former public school built in 1915. The complex offers changing exhibits and serves as the permanent home of the Texas Woodcarvers Guild Museum.

A scene at Buffalo Springs in Styfle's mural sent me back to a favorite Cleburne spot, a brick-lined spring on Buffalo Creek, right off U.S. 67, where indigenous people and wildlife came for water, followed by explorers, soldiers and pioneers. Even Sam Houston is said to have visited the spring.

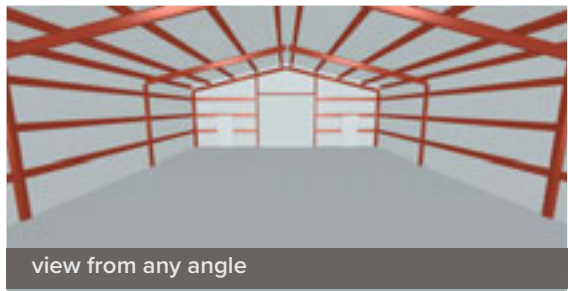
"The creek transports the spirits of those who take the time to listen and see the great blue herons, sunfish and other wildlife," said Julie Winchell, city environmental coordinator. "Buffalo Creek is a treasure."

Author **Gene Fowler** specializes in Texas travel and history.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to view a slideshow.



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