

COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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MARCIE STRUBE AWARDED COMANCHE EC SCHOLARSHIP OF EXCELLENCE

Comanche Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce that Marcie Strube of Comanche High School has been chosen as the 2006 recipient of the Scholarship of Excellence program. Helping our members and their children attend an institute of higher education is one of the many ways Comanche Electric Cooperative helps the communities to which it provides electricity.

Comanche Electric Cooperative created the Scholarship for Excellence program to encourage and assist in the educational pursuits of CECA members and their families. Applicants must meet certain criteria to qualify for the scholarship. The recipients are selected by a panel of judges from outside Comanche Electric Cooperative's service district. The Scholarship Committee's selection process was difficult as all of the applicants were deserving.

Congratulations, Marcie, on being named Comanche Electric Cooperative's Scholarship for Excellence recipient of 2006.

DISTRICT 7 NOMINATES BOARD CANDIDATES

On June 13, XXX members met at the Gunsite Community Center to nominate candidates for the election of board members. Nominees are Phil Taylor and Xxxxx Xxxxxxx. The floor was then opened to all other business. These nominees will be placed on a ballot to be voted on at the annual meeting on August 19 at Comanche City Park.

DISTRICT 1 NOMINATES BOARD CANDIDATES

On June 15, XXX members met at the Comanche High School Commons to nominate candidates for the election of board members. Nominees are Travis Day and Xxxxx Xxxxxxx. The floor was then opened to all other business. These nominees will be placed on a ballot to be voted on at the annual meeting on August 19 at Comanche City Park.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Comanche Electric Cooperative
Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, August 19
Comanche City Park**



Watch for details in the next issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

WHEN THE LIGHTS CAME ON

I guess you could say that today began as a normal day at my house. My alarm was set for 5:30. However, I am very rarely still asleep when it goes off. It is just set as a precaution, in case for some reason my body decides to rest a little longer than usual. I woke up, reached over, turned it off so that it wouldn't wake the rest of my household, and stepped out of bed. I headed to the bathroom and turned on the lights and the water for my morning shower. Then it was time to put on my makeup, blow-dry my hair and curl it, and dress for the day. I turned

on the lights for my children to help them wake up and face their morning routine. A cup of coffee in the morning is a nice addition as well. Then I took my cell phone off the charger and headed out the door to work. As usual, and just like most of the rest of you, I never once thought about the electricity that it took to power all the lights and appliances that I used before I even left the house, much less all the ones it takes to run an intricate business such as ours.

We are a very fortunate society in that many of us have never had to do without power. However, if any of

our readers can remember when the power went on in their area, I would LOVE to hear from you. Your stories will be featured in future issues of *Texas Co-op Power*. You may e-mail me, Shirley Dukes at sdukes@ceca.coop or call me at 1-800-915-2533, and I will make arrangements to come hear your story.

Help us to preserve the history of "When the Lights Came On" for those who remember the day, as well as for those of us who have been fortunate enough to have never lived without power. I look forward to hearing from you!

WHAT IS OPERATION ROUND UP?

It's a community service program funded by the members of Comanche Electric Cooperative. As a participant, your electric bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar each month, and the few extra cents go into the Operation Round Up® fund. Your average annual contribution is about \$6 per account enrolled.

For example, if your monthly bill was \$85.64, it is automatically rounded up to \$86. The extra cents collected from members goes into the Operation Round Up Fund.

Operation Round Up was started at Comanche Electric Cooperative in 2003. It is a separate entity from Comanche Electric Cooperative with its own board of directors, consisting of one representative in each district. Funds are spent locally. It is intended to benefit individuals in need and non-profit service organizations within the Comanche Electric Cooperative service area. Donations go to:

- Rural fire departments
- Community service projects
- Economic development
- Education and youth programs
- Crisis centers
- Emergency assistance, such as

fires or medical tragedies

To qualify for funds, the organization or individual must be located within the service area of Comanche Electric Cooperative. Groups and individuals may apply for funds by completing an application form available at Comanche Electric Cooperative and submitting it to the board of directors.

Operation Round Up is a great example of the charitable spirit and generosity that exist among cooperative members to reach out to those within their local community who are in need. You, too, can become an active member in a growing program to help those less fortunate by simply filling out the form below.

OPERATION ROUND UP PARTICIPATION RESPONSE

We appreciate you taking the time to consider helping Operation Round Up. Just complete this form and mail it with your next electric payment. Let your \$6 work miracles!

Yes, I want to be a part of Operation Round Up!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Account #: _____

Signature: _____

If you have more than one meter in your name, how many meters do you want to sign up? _____

KOKOMO, PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Fire is nature's way of cleaning house, and is a natural process that will never be totally suppressed. In its own way, it is as natural to our ecosystem as the rain that we depend on to grow the vegetation that the fire consumes. But while it is certainly a part of life that we cannot eliminate, many times the destruction that it causes can be painful and hard to forget for years to come. Ask anyone who was affected by the raging fires that consumed much of Texas on January 1 of this year. Fortunately, no lives were lost in the fires, but homes were destroyed and memories lost that can never be replaced.

The little community of Kokomo was one of the hardest-hit areas. I heard much speculation as to whether they would be able to bounce back and rebuild, and remain the close-knit little community they had been. Four months later, I decided to go myself and see how the little community had fared. Having lived in the small community of Beattie for so long, I was not at all surprised to find the residents of Kokomo hard at work rebuilding their homes, their community and their lives. It seems somehow to me that the smaller the community, the harder it is to bring it down. These people are loyal to each other and to the area where they have been born and raised.

My first stop was to take pictures of the church, cemetery and community center that had been totally destroyed by the fire. But instead of finding ruins, I found a group of people hard at work rebuilding. I spoke with Woodrow Browning and Norma Webb and asked a few questions concerning the community, but they informed me that they were "newcomers" to Kokomo. They had only been in the community for 30 to 40 years. They referred me to F.D. Eaves, whose family had helped settle the community. I met with Mr. Eaves,

and what a joyful day I had. We visited the cemeteries, the community center, the 4-H building and the church, and I was privileged to hear a wealth of history on this once-thriving town and its inhabitants.

Kokomo is located 6 miles northwest of Gorman, at the intersection of FM 2526 and FM 2689. It was founded (unnamed) in the early 1880s by people from Indiana, Michigan and Mississippi, who came

boasted a cotton gin, a photo gallery and a barber shop, as well as three doctors. It had its own consolidated school district from the 1880s to 1942. The 4-H clubhouse, which still stands but has been ravaged by storms and fires, was the first of its kind in the United States. Pictures of it appeared in newspapers in the Eastern states. All the original 18 boys who helped to found the club participated in World War II. Two



The old Kokomo 4-H Club building, ravaged by tornadoes and fire, still stands nestled within a grove of oak trees.

to purchase land at 35 cents per acre for half a section. Eaves' family came mostly from Alabama (through Arkansas) to Kokomo. His great-grandfather was a senator from Arkansas during the Secession, who relocated due to the changing times and a society that he no longer fit into in his Southern state of Arkansas. His dad's family moved to Kokomo in 1916. His mom's family had moved there in 1892.

In 1883, M.B. Comer opened a general store selling groceries, dry goods and hardware. A few years later, Minnie Wheeler opened another store in a two-story building that also housed a WOW Hall. The town

were killed in the war.

A post office was established in the Comer Store and the people of the community wanted to call the town Comer. However, the postmaster general informed them that there was already a Comerville and they could not use the name. He suggested Kokomo, which was the name of the county where he was raised, and the name was adopted. The post office closed January 31, 1908, when free rural delivery was extended to the community from Gorman.

Simpson Cemetery was originally founded for the Simpson family and their sharecroppers. It is an extremely interesting place to visit, with a

wealth of history written on each gravestone. Eaves knows the history of almost every gravesite there and is happy to share that history. It is a tour worth taking.

Kokomo's school was actually the largest school in Eastland County from the late teens to the early '20s. The original log schoolhouse was first built at what is now Simpson Cemetery. The first school was named Nash Creek School District #9. In 1907 the name was changed to Kokomo Rural School District. It consolidated with Carbon ISD in 1942. The school building itself was still standing until this year's fire. A 1969 tornado picked the building up and moved it about 18 feet from its original location. Instead of moving it back to its original location, the townspeople simply put a new foundation underneath it and straightened it back up. In 1970 the Kokomo Community Club was organized and was given the old school building to serve the community.

The Baptist church was founded in the very late 1800s, as was a Methodist church, a Church of Christ and a Presbyterian church. The Baptist church is the only one still in existence. On December 29, 1969, almost 37 years to the day before these current fires, the Kokomo Baptist Church was destroyed by an electrical fire. It was rebuilt and services were still being held there when it was once again destroyed by this year's fire.

The church is now in the process of being rebuilt, and based on the progress that I saw, should be back in operation quite soon. Comanche Electric Cooperative was able to restore service to the church within two weeks, and an Operation Round Up donation was made to assist with the building expense. Plans are being drawn to rebuild the community center back in its original location. The 4-H clubhouse, unfortunately, cannot be remodeled due to the crumbling nature of the sandstone it was built with. It still stands, however, as a shell of its original self, an impressive building even without its roof or doors.

Kokomo is an outstanding tribute



F.D. Eaves stands among the graves of his relatives at Simpson Cemetery.



The site of the old schoolhouse/community building after the fire. All that remains is a shell of the old bathrooms that stood behind the building.



Construction of the new Kokomo Baptist Church is well underway.

to Eastland County as well as our big state of Texas. Like many small communities, it stands for fortitude, loyalty, dedication and honest, hard-working labor. Just like Comanche

Electric Cooperative, Kokomo and the people who live there are not just a community, they are a family. A family that sticks together and takes care of each other, people helping people.