

# THE LAMP



VOLUME 48 • NUMBER 8  
AUGUST 2009

## JR. SKIDGEL IS NAMED PAWNEE RODEO'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

BY CL HARMON

I wasn't sure what to expect while I sat in Click's Steak House in Pawnee with Chairman of the Pawnee Bill Memorial Rodeo, Ronnie Justes. What would this man I was there to interview look like? Would he be this giant of a man that words of Justes made my

mind conjure? Would I like him as much as Justes said I would?

It turned out that I did, and Jr. Skidgel was much shorter than I had pictured. But his words reminded me of those of a giant. They were firm, rooted in conviction and relayed by a man who was small in stature and yet giant in spirit.

"Clean dirt and hard work never hurt anyone," the rodeo's most outstanding citizen Nelson Walter Skidgel Jr. said. In many ways Jr. (as everyone calls him) is the poster child of hard work.

After having bailed hay until 2:30 that morning and then working a full day since, he certainly wasn't the tired, cranky codger most would expect...especially for 81 years old. He was funny and pleasant and as Justes had said, he was "tough as a boot and so much of what America doesn't see anymore."

But there is a legacy there. An "old school" legacy when a man's word was his bond and what he accomplished was not in a book hidden away on a shelf or on a student's desk waiting to be dissected, but in the thoughts and opinions others had toward him.

"He's a role model that everyone should follow and he stands for what he believes," Justes said of him. In many ways he has given himself to what made America great. And in doing so has come to symbolize how this country was built.

His hands were rough, bent and shaded in earth tones as though 60 years of farming and ranching in the dirt had become a part of them. They were steady though as he sipped on his soft drink between tidbits of his life experiences and the wisdom that came with them.

"You take care of the land and it will take care of you," he said. He loves to farm. It's apparent in every breath he takes. And the

hard work that goes along with it...well it's just a bonus. He explained that he made his first tractor out of scrap parts, quit his job as a mechanic making \$36 a week and told his wife Lois Lorene that they were going to be farmers. She cried and he planted 30 acres of cotton.

### JR.'S WORDS TO LIVE BY

- ◇ You don't get anywhere by quitting...keep going.
- ◇ Money ain't everything in the world. You got to have happiness.
- ◇ "Yes ma'am" is a man's key to a happy marriage.
- ◇ Treat everybody like you want to be treated.
- ◇ Remember your anniversary
- ◇ Always take time to pet and love on your dog.
- ◇ A rolling stone gathers no moss. You can't change jobs and move around every couple of years.
- ◇ Work!
- ◇ Hard work and clean living is the key to success.

"I got the will and here we go," he told her 60 years ago. Now after 62 years of marriage, she has been a farmer's wife and his best friend. She too will be honored with him at this year's rodeo and with good reason Jr. said.

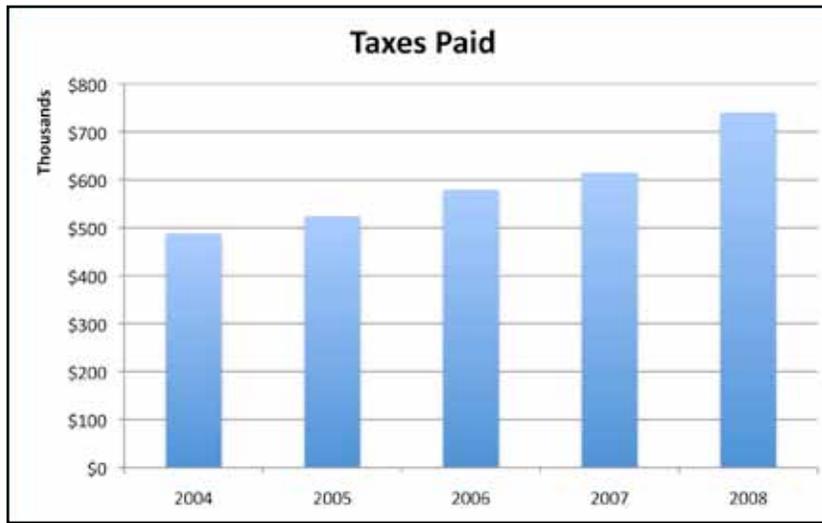
"She's worked like a dog all her life and she has made life worth living," he said. "I always told her that I will make the living if you make life worth living and she has done just

---

IEC Pays Gross Receipts Tax to Local Schools.....	3
Cowboy Hats & Hard Hats: Election Time! .....	3
Recipe: Easy Key Lime Pie .....	4
Heating and Air Conditioning Tips & Office Closings .....	4

continued on Page 3

# IEC PAYS TAX TO LOCAL SCHOOLS FROM GROSS RECEIPTS



**A**ugust is upon us. School will be starting soon and children everywhere cry out in dread. But, education is important for children and IEC believes stongly in supporting school districts within its territory.

Many people may believe that since IEC is a non-profit organization, we aren't required to pay taxes. IEC doesn't pay income taxes, but we do pay what is called a Gross Receipts Tax. Ninety-five percent of the dollars paid to the gross receipts tax goes directly to our local schools.

IEC contributes two percent of its total gross receipts. Each school receives an amount determined by the miles of line in its district. The charts show yearly distributions and a break-down of 2008 per school district.

In 2008, IEC paid \$740,0423.67 on 3,505.44 miles of line to 28 schools in its seven-county territory. ♦



## Taxes Paid

School	Miles	Taxes
Allen Bowden	0.66	\$139.97
Billings	0.13	\$27.19
Bowring	15.04	\$3,175.17
Bristow	28.81	\$6,082.22
Cleveland	565.47	\$119,379.47
Cushing	59.65	\$12,592.99
Depew	0.04	\$8.44
Drumright	57.96	\$12,234.79
Frontier	160.16	\$33,811.56
Glencoe	4.43	\$935.64
Hominy	183.09	\$38,652.32
Jennings	59.14	\$12,484.59
Kellyville	3.52	\$742.39
Keystone	173.56	\$36,640.44
Mannford	279.93	\$59,097.29
Morrison	56.36	\$11,897.07
Oilton	57.08	\$12,051.32
Olive	204.71	\$43,216.83
Pawhuska	92.98	\$19,629.29
Pawnee	475.71	\$100,429.20
Ponca City	48.15	\$10,164.49
Pretty Water	45.56	\$9,618.31
Prue	46.49	\$9,814.43
Sandsprings	92.02	\$19,426.55
Shidler	105.71	\$22,317.43
Woodland	409.94	\$86,543.64
Wynona	110.09	\$23,241.18
Yale	169.05	\$35,688.46
	<u>3,505.44</u>	<u>\$740,042.67</u>

## JR. SKIDGEL (CONT.)

that,” he added.

As I listened to him, I could feel his sense of humor and see how it would have sustained him through the long droughts and late freezes that are so burdensome to a farmer. “I never had to go break ice in the winter time for my old tractor to get a drink,” he quipped. But if raising cattle made that living when farming alone couldn’t, then raising cattle is what he did.

So when those times would come, he added ranching to his list of chores and still runs cattle with the best of those ghosts that used to push the herds across the prairies in the old west. And now with 500 cows under his belt, he still considers himself a farmer who ranches on occasion.

But it’s being true to himself and a strong work ethic that has brought him this honor and the respect of so many others. He likes his story of a banker who asked him to take land and let the bank worry about financing when Jr. had no money.

And he relishes the person he has become when faced with adversity...and he has had his share. Just this year he lost vehicles and a shed to a tornado. But it’s so much more than these things that make him worthy of such an honor as Citizen of the Year.

It’s not even the fact that he would pick 400 pounds of cotton a day or sleep every other night so he could cut wheat for others during the day and plow for himself at night just to scratch out a living that sets him a step above and makes him worthy.

It’s the fact that he can see the opportunity to help himself and others through hard work and generosity as blessings, which is so apparent with statements like “people have been so good to us and if a man came through that door without shoes, I would buy him a pair.”

This attitude from a man who has worked for everything he has and thanks the good Lord for allowing him to work so hard to get it all is what Justes and those who voted him this honor believe America doesn’t see much of anymore and why he is their Citizen of the Year.

Nelson Walter Skidgel Jr. and his wife Lois will be honored in a ceremony at this year’s Pawnee Bill Memorial Rodeo. The rodeo will be on August 6th through the 8th at the Pawnee Lakeside Arena. ♦

---

## COWBOY HATS & HARD HATS

BY JACK CLINKSCALE

# ELECTION TIME!

By the time you read this column the smoke will have cleared and the Trustee elections will be completed at IEC. Every year three trustee positions are open and each trustee holds three-year terms. This year, Board President Dr. Greg Fielding along with Trustees Wanda Foster and Michael Spradling, were up for election. The only thing I know at this time is that Mr. Spradling will serve again since he drew no opponent. Dr. Fielding and Ms. Foster drew opponents and no one in their right mind predicts political elections with any degree of certainty. Election results will be posted in the next issue of The Lamp.



While elections can sometimes be cumbersome, it is one of the greatest expressions of the cooperative form of business. Almost any member of an electric cooperative can have a direct influence on the operation of their cooperative by running for the Board of Trustees. Trustees make many difficult business decisions and spend a significant amount of time attending meetings both locally and nationally, to receive training and stay abreast of current issues and challenges facing our industry. They have the great responsibility of preserving a successful member-owned business formed by local citizens over 60 years ago. They must set policy and direction for IEC to continue to prosper and provide quality electric service at a reasonable cost. It is a job that requires time and diligent effort and carries a great amount of responsibility. At IEC we are blessed to have eight members who are willing to make the commitment and sacrifice to ensure that IEC continues to carry on the proud tradition of success that has required the diligent effort of so many before us. ♦

# Recipe: Easy Key Lime Pie

Crust for 9" pie

1 1/4 cups finely crushed pretzels

1/4 cup sugar

6 Tbsps Margarine (Melted)

Mix and press into 9" pie plate

Filling:

1 can sweetened condensed milk (Eagle Brand)

1/2 cup lime juice

1 envelope Koolaid Lemon Lime Mix

1 Tub of cool whip

Mix and pour into pretzel crust. Freeze 2 hours. Let Thaw about 10 minutes. Decorate with lime slices and a dollop of cool whip.

# Office Closings

**IEC offices will be closed Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in honor of Labor Day. Please call (918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750 to report an outage.**

## HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING TIPS

- Set thermostats to 78°F in summer, 68°F in winter.
- Run ceiling paddle fans on medium, blowing down in summer.
- Run ceiling paddle fans on low, blowing up in winter.
- Change HVAC filters monthly.
- When installing new air filters, make sure they are facing in the correct direction. (Look for arrow on side of filter.)
- When heating or cooling, keep windows locked.
- Insulate electric wall plugs and wall switches with foam pads.
- Caulk along baseboards with a clear sealant.
- Close fireplace dampers when not burning a fire.
- Caulk around plumbing penetrations that come through walls beneath bathroom and kitchen sinks.
- Caulk electrical wire penetrations at the top of the interior walls.



(918) 358-2514

(800) 482-2750

WWW.IECOK.COM

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

Greg Fielding, President .....District 4  
 Wanda Foster, Vice-President ..... District 5  
 Berry Keeler, Sec.-Treas. .... District 1  
 Loris Peckenpaugh - Ass't. Sec.-Treas. .... District 3  
 Robert Burk..... District 6  
 Mike Spradling..... District 7  
 Bill Boone ..... District 8  
 Jim Hadlock ..... District 2  
 Jack Clinkscale..... General Manger

*The Lamp* (USPS 942-940) is published monthly by Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Highway 64 Southeast, Cleveland, Oklahoma 74020 for the interest of its membership. Subscription price was \$0.25 per month in 2008. Periodical postage paid at Cleveland, Oklahoma and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Lamp*, P.O. Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020.



### Energy Efficiency

## Tip of the Month

Keeping your tires properly inflated improves gas mileage for the average vehicle by around 3 percent, saving up to 20 gallons of gasoline per year.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy