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*This is Not a Children's Story; It's Real*

## We're Not in Kansas Anymore

Until Friday, Jan. 12 the article on the front page of this issue of The Lamp was about IEC crews spending time up north helping Lane-Scott Electric Co-op rebuild a part of its system following a debilitating ice storm that hit Sunday, Dec. 30.

Lane-Scott EC is located in Dighton, KS. While IEC crews there, additional crews from Oklahoma co-ops were helping other affected Kansas co-ops.

On Jan. 12 Mother Nature hurled a massive ice storm at Oklahoma also. Fortunately, IEC's system didn't sustain any real damage. But our crews were now needed closer to home. So, Monday, Jan. 15, four crews comprised of 15 employees, rolled out of Cleveland headed for Northeast Electric Co-op in Vinita.

According to information provided to the

Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) throughout the weekend of the storm, Northeast had more than 25,800 members without electricity, and more than 150 poles down.

"We waited until Monday morning to send crews," says IEC Operations Superintendent Doyle Whittenburg. "We wanted to make sure our system was ok and that the crews wouldn't be needed here."

The IEC crew members are setting new utility poles, attaching equipment at the top of those poles, stringing electric lines and clearing right-of-way.

At press time, Whittenburg wasn't sure how long the IEC crews would be at Northeast Electric. "We will try to be available to help them as long as they need the help," he said.

Although the storm covered the entire state, it was paralyzing to the eastern and southern portions. Almost 112,000 Oklahomans were without electricity, prompting Gov. Brad Henry to declare a state of emergency in all counties, and Pres. George Bush to declare Oklahoma a federal disaster area.

The electric co-ops were hit the hardest. OAEC released information saying more than 57,000 co-op consumers across the state were without service and more 1,500 poles were down.

"Luckily, we didn't have any problems this time," says IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale. "Maintaining our lines, equipment and rights-of-way has again paid off. And we are glad we could help a neighboring co-op when it needed our help."

*Overlooking snow scraped from Caddo Street, Cleveland's American Heritage Bank sign shows the temperature to be a bone-chilling 19 degrees.*

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publication  
of the members of  
Indian Electric  
Cooperative



# IEC Lends a Helping Hand

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

Many memories came flooding back on December 28. A monstrous blizzard hit western Kansas and the Oklahoma panhandle. Along with the snow came ice and strong winds – a deadly combination for electric systems. I spent a good portion of my career in western Kansas and eastern Colorado and I remember the savage force with which a northern blizzard can attack. It takes a toll on people, animals and equipment. This storm destroyed many miles of electric line including distribution and transmission lines. The hardest hit system in Oklahoma was Tri-County Electric Cooperative which serves most of the Oklahoma panhandle. Kansas systems receiving the most damage were Pioneer E.C. in Ulysses, Wheatland E.C. in Scott City, and my old system, Lane-Scott E.C. in Dighton.

Indian Electric received a call for assistance and we sent six men and several trucks. Crews were also sent from at least nine other Oklahoma cooperatives. It is not our crews' idea of fun to make the long drive to Kansas and work long

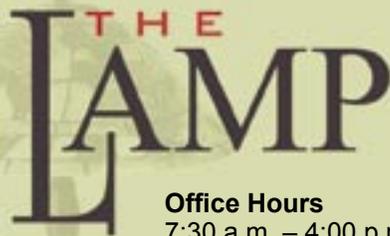
hours under adverse conditions in miserable weather, but not one of them complained when the call came. They exhibited the finest qualities of the "cooperative" spirit. They knew there were many people without lights, heat and water and their fellow cooperative "brothers" needed help. They didn't ask to wait until the holiday season was over; they willingly left their families and headed out.

Losing a significant portion of our work force can also generate some inconvenience at IEC. Some jobs must be delayed and more work is spread among those who remain. Supervisors must be creative and make sure our work gets done and we continue to provide our members with uninterrupted power.

While storm conditions routinely damage cooperative electric systems, it brings out the best in us and emphasizes the cooperative difference. While most rural electric systems are small by utility standards, there is strength in numbers. IEC is not just a small Oklahoma cooperative; we are part of a nationwide network of over 1,000 electric cooperatives that will come to our aid if

needed. We share resources and ideas so we can provide the best service possible to rural America.

I think of my many friends in Kansas and wish them all the best as they struggle to overcome the effects of such a massive storm and restore service to their members. I also want to thank all IEC employees who answered the call and worked so tirelessly without complaint. IEC members should be proud of the quality of our employees. I know I am!



## INDIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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(918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750

### 24-hour Service Center

(918) 295-9520

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Fishermen from near and far will converge on Lake Pawhuska Saturday, February 17, for the Ninth Annual Trout Tournament sponsored by the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce. The fishing event starts at 8 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m.

This official Oklahoma Centennial event offers cash prizes to be awarded to the top five fishermen catching the heaviest fish and the top five presenting the heaviest stringers, according to Barbara Smith of the chamber.

“There will be numerous tagged fish, sponsored by local merchants, that will net outstanding prizes valued at \$50 or more for the fishermen who catch them,” she says.

Anglers are encouraged to pre-register at a cost of \$20, or register on tournament day (beginning at 6 a.m.) for \$30, Smith says. All fishermen are required to have a current state fishing license and a trout fishing license. Registration forms, rules and related links are available at [www.pawhuskachamber.com](http://www.pawhuskachamber.com). For state laws and regulations, refer to [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com).

Lake Pawhuska has offered trout fishing for 11 seasons and boasts of being the second best sunfish lake in the state, as determined by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, Smith explains.

The lake was built in 1936 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. It is stocked annually with 30,000 Rainbow Trout during the season, which runs from November 1 through March 31.

This centennial event will be held regardless of weather conditions, and registration fees are non-refundable. Check-in is from 6 a.m. until 8 a.m. and weigh-in is from noon until 4 p.m. Hot coffee and some really tall fish tales will be available at the headquarters tent, located on the east side of the lake, Smith says.

More information is available at the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce located at 210 W. Main or by calling 918-287-1208.

## Ninth Annual Pawhuska Trout Tournament



**Saturday Feb. 17  
Lake Pawhuska**

## AMR Meters Installed Near Mannford in February

IEC contract employee Chris Cesar will be north and east of Mannford in February replacing current residential meters with new automated meters, according to IEC Meter Technician Charlie Taylor, who is coordinating the meter changeout program.

“Chris is driving a white cargo van with a black and white IEC logo on it and he carries IEC-provided identification,” says Taylor. “He attempts to visit with homeowners before changing the meters, to explain what he’s doing, how long he will be on site and answer any questions the member may have.

“Changing the meter is a quick and simple procedure – usually he is on site less than 15 minutes,” Taylor says.

Taylor goes on to say there is a brief interruption in electric service, so members will need to reset clocks on their appliances and electronic equipment.

“Even though the new meters are being installed, members will have to continue sending us their meter reads. We will send them a letter telling them when we are ready to begin reading their meters electronically,” he says.

If you have any questions about the meter change out program, please call Taylor at 295-9544 or Director of Member Services David Wilson at 295-9557, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.



# RECIPE



## Haystack Eggs

1 & 3/4 oz. can shoestring potatoes  
4 eggs

4 oz. (1 cup) shredded Cheddar cheese  
6 slices bacon, crisply cooked, crumbled

Heat oven to 350°, and butter 8" or 9" glass pie plate or round baking dish. Spread shoestring potatoes evenly over bottom of pan. Make 4 indentations into potatoes down to bottom of dish, each about 1-1/2" across. Carefully break 1 egg into each indentation. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until eggs are almost set. Sprinkle with bacon and cheese. Return to oven; bake until cheese melts and eggs are set. Cut into 4 wedges. Serve immediately.

## Counterfeit Electrical Products Pose Hazards

Trademark counterfeiting has reached the electrical sector. Counterfeiters have targeted well-known industrial and consumer brands, and registered certification marks of testing and certification laboratories. Counterfeit electrical products can pose significant safety hazards and left undetected, can cause death, injury and substantial property loss in the home and the workplace, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

Electrical products targeted by counterfeiters apply to those used by both consumers and industries. The list includes control relays for industrial equipment, lamps, electronic lamp ballasts, dry cell batteries, lithium ion batteries, smoke detectors, fuses, circuit breakers, electrical receptacles, ground fault circuit interrupters, conduit fittings, power strips and surge suppressors, extension cords, power cords, telecommunications cable, and electrical connectors.

ESFI noted the following tips could help avoid potentially dangerous counterfeit electrical products:

• Look for the CSA, UL or ETL-SEM-KO Certification marks. If you have con-

cerns about the marks, contact the certifier.

• Buyers should beware of bargains that seem too good to be true. Products may be cheap because they are counterfeit or defective.

• Use established vendors who purchase their goods from legitimate distributors and genuine manufacturers. Fly-by-night vendors may not be willing to grant refunds for electrical products that do not perform as they should.

• Check the warning label. It should be free of grammatical errors and not conflict with information elsewhere on the package.

• Look for the name and contact information of the manufacturer. If this information is missing, consider purchasing electrical products elsewhere.

February is Bake for Family Fun Month

## Bake for Fun, Efficiency

You may have tired out yourself—and your oven—with holiday baking, but at least you had fun. Or did you?

If you were too hurried and stressed to enjoy the process, here's your second chance. February is Bake for Family Fun Month, and it's time to crowd into the kitchen with your kids and pass on generations of family traditions—or at least your favorite recipe.

As you stir, shake and bake, keep energy efficiency in mind. Here are a few tips for saving a bit of energy while cooking and baking:

- Lower the temperature by 25 degrees when you use glass or ceramic pans in the oven. Your dish will cook in the same amount of time.
- Use the microwave, which uses less energy than a conventional oven, to prepare small meals and side dishes.
- Experiment with crock pot recipes for soups and stews. The handy countertop appliance uses less energy than the stovetop.
- Skip the preheating. Except for breads and pastries, you do not need to preheat the oven.
- Turn off your electric oven or burner a couple of minutes before the cooking is finished. It will still radiate heat.
- Avoid peering into the oven. Each time you open the door, substantial heat escapes.
- Double your recipes. Cooking or baking two dishes at once saves energy. Freeze the leftovers and reheat them in the microwave.

## REMINDER

Youth Tour and Energy Camp essays are due by noon, Thursday, Feb. 8.