

Ice Storm Causes Widespread Outages for IEC Members

The first major ice storm of 2002 rolled across Oklahoma Wednesday, January 30th creating damage from as far southwest as Hollis, tracking northeasterly to the far reaches of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve and into Kansas.

As freezing rain continued through the night, weighing down power lines, widespread outages began occurring across much of Indian Electric's seven county service area.

By the pre-dawn hours Thursday morning, nearly one-fourth of Indian Electric's 18,000 members were left without power. More than 300 poles were down at first count and ice-laden power lines, still clinging to poles, drooped precariously close to the ground, across fences, trees and homes. Damage is estimated to be around \$1 million.

"Initially we had nearly 5,000 members without power by early Thursday morning," IEC Operations Manager Paul Grantham said. "All our crews have been working in the field around-the-clock since late Wednesday along with contract crews and crews from People's Electric Cooperative out of Ada and Northeast Electric out of Vinita," Grantham said.

The members extensively affected by the ice-related outages were those north of Morrison, Red Rock, Otoe area, near Ponca City, Kaw Lake, Blackburn, and Skedee, near

Pawnee, Wynona, and west and north of Pawhuska.

"Our crews and those arriving from other areas made steady progress throughout the day on Thursday only to suffer major setbacks after nightfall," Grantham said.

Once daylight fell on Thursday and winds picked up, already stressed power lines came tumbling to the ground, cross-arms split and power lines snapped due to the weight of the ice and wind gust.

"We would restore power to homes in a given area, only to find out that new damage had occurred and we were back ... this time setting new poles and stringing wire in areas we had worked all day," Grantham said.

"Ice storms are horrible" Grantham added. "They create the worst of all possible damage to electric systems. With tornadoes, once you repair the damage and put the poles back in the air, they tend to stay on. That's not the case with ice storms. You get power restored, and then ice melts, falls on the lines and causes the lines to contact one another. This knocks power off again. We had crews going back to the same areas two and three times on Thursday night and Friday."

By Friday night, the majority of members in Noble, Kay and Pawnee Counties had power restored. Meanwhile, additional crews were called in to assist in northern Osage County, which received extensive damage.

The damage across Osage County was widespread and extensive with virtually all IEC members initially without power. More than 400 members remained without power well into the weekend in the rural Pawhuska area while several miles of power lines were rebuilt. Complicating the outage situation near Pawnee was the loss of major transmission lines, which had to be rebuilt into the area by IEC's power provider.

Power was restored to nearly all residents in Osage County late Sunday night, so that for the first time in nearly five days, people could return to their homes.

"Ice Storm" continued on Page 2...

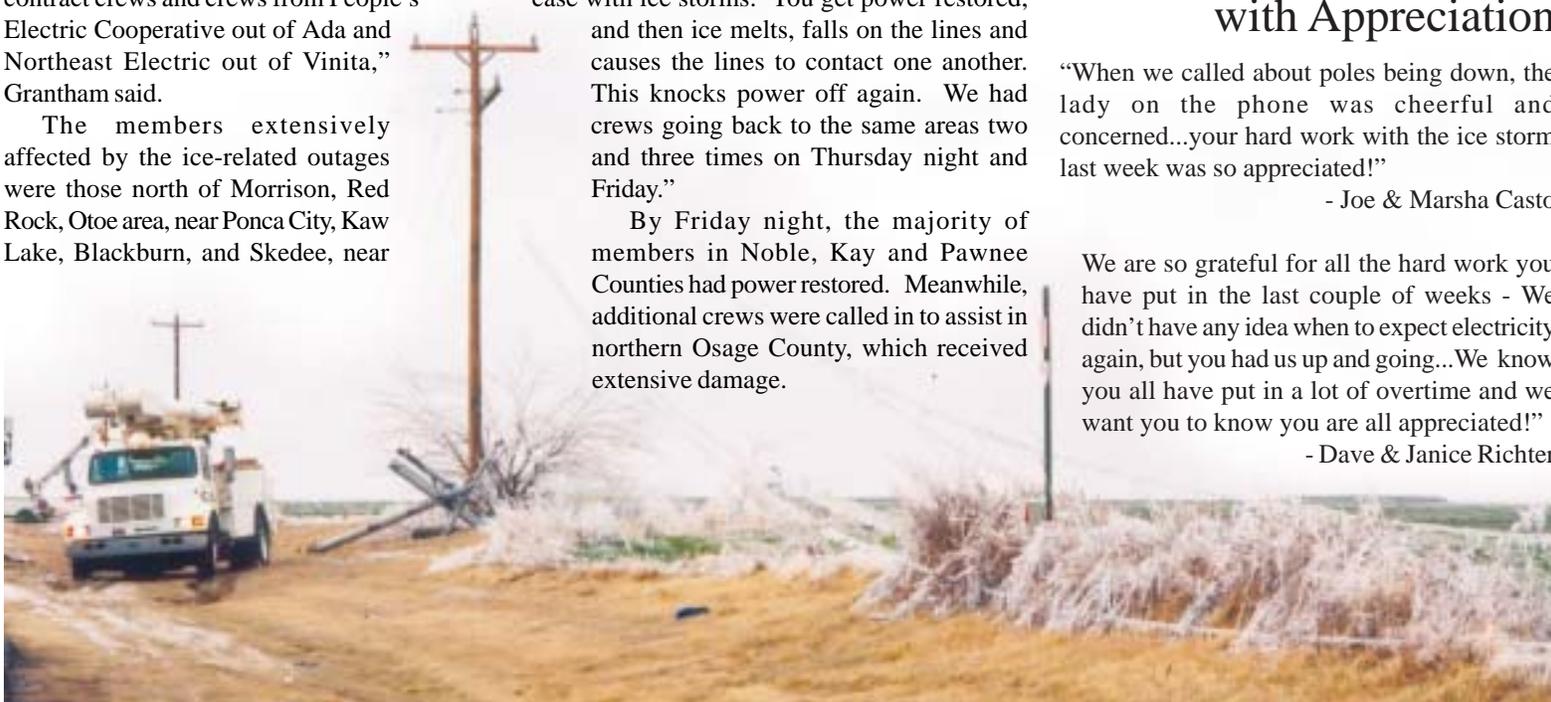
IEC Members Respond with Appreciation

"When we called about poles being down, the lady on the phone was cheerful and concerned...your hard work with the ice storm last week was so appreciated!"

- Joe & Marsha Casto

We are so grateful for all the hard work you have put in the last couple of weeks - We didn't have any idea when to expect electricity again, but you had us up and going...We know you all have put in a lot of overtime and we want you to know you are all appreciated!"

- Dave & Janice Richter



Ice Storm *continued*

"We are still assessing the damage to IEC's system," said General Manager, Terry Jech. "Much of our service territory has been declared a disaster area by Governor Frank Keating which should provide some indication of the severity of the damage.

"While the conditions were cold and the hours long, we were so encouraged by the many IEC members who remained understanding," Jech said. "Our crews were deeply touched by the many people who worked alongside our crews with dozer equipment, brought hot coffee and prepared meals at their own expense. We are so thankful and humbled."

As the Super Bowl hit the airwaves and power returned to IEC members across much of northern Osage County Sunday night, the IEC office in Fairfax was flooded with phone calls, according to Bob Stephens, District Office Manager.

"We received hundreds of phone calls Sunday night and Monday from members just calling to say 'thank you' and 'job well done' to our crews," Stephens said. "I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is to work for our members. They have been so gracious and patient throughout this ordeal."

To view area photos of storm damage or learn more about qualifying for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance, stop by our website at www.iecok.com.

Skiatook Methodist Men's Group Takes Mission Work to the Prairie

Six men from the First United Methodist Church in Skiatook hauled their smoker into the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Saturday, Feb. 2, to cook a hot meal for more than 100 Indian Electric Cooperative crew members who were working to rebuild power lines during the ice storm outages.

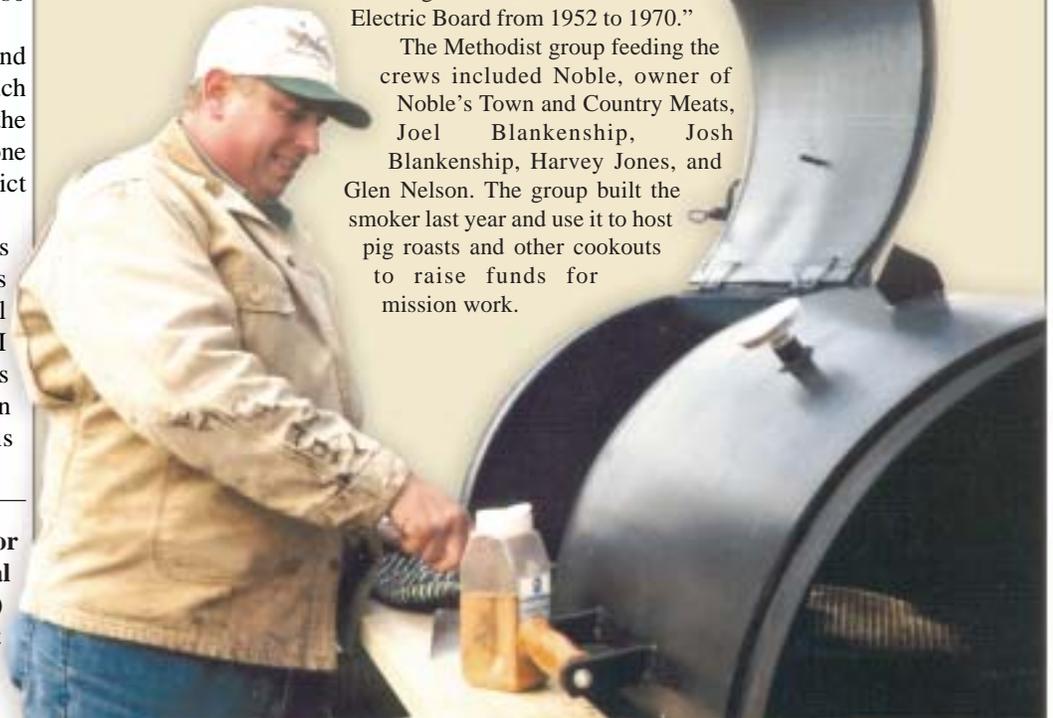
The men started putting their plan together on Friday when Chuck Alfred, one of the members, suggested they feed the crews because they were putting in 12 to 16 hours per day trying to get power restored to the area. By early Saturday morning they had their group rounded up, the smoker loaded and were headed to the Prairie Preserve north of Pawhuska.

Setting up several miles into the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve and surrounded by hundreds of buffalo and several miles of downed power lines, the six men served hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, and home-made French fries along with iced tea and hot coffee. They even brought fresh fruit for the workers to take as snacks for later when they returned to work.

"There is extensive damage here and we consider this part of our neighborhood," Alex Noble, one of the group, said. "I've been associated with Rural Electrics all my life. My

dad, George Noble, was on the Indian Electric Board from 1952 to 1970."

The Methodist group feeding the crews included Noble, owner of Noble's Town and Country Meats, Joel Blankenship, Josh Blankenship, Harvey Jones, and Glen Nelson. The group built the smoker last year and use it to host pig roasts and other cookouts to raise funds for mission work.



THE LAMP

Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
918-358-2514

To report an outage call
358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750
(if you live outside the expanded Tulsa
calling area)
24-hour Service Center
918-295-9520

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FEMA Relief Available for Area

Homeowners, renters and business owners who were affected by the winter ice storm that hit Oklahoma earlier this year and who live in any of the counties declared eligible for federal assistance may apply by calling the FEMA toll-free registration number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired.

Calling the registration number is the only way to apply for a wide range of state and federal disaster assistance programs that can include funding for temporary housing, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loans for individuals and businesses to repair or replace damaged property, disaster unemployment assistance, and grants for serious needs and necessary expenses not met by other programs.

Callers are advised to have the following information available to help speed up the application process:

1. Your current phone number
2. Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now
3. Your Social Security number, if available
4. A general list of damages and losses you suffered
5. Good directions to the property that was damaged
6. If insured, your insurance policy number, or

the agent's and company name.

7. General financial information
Eligible counties within the IEC territory include: Creek, Kay, Noble, Osage, Pawnee, and Payne.

THANK YOU!

IEC would like to send our sincerest thanks to the many businesses and individuals that helped during the ice storm. Everyone's time, patience, contributions and hard work were greatly appreciated.

Additional Crews: Red Simpson, Elliot Construction, Mark's Construction, Gordon Construction and People's Electric Cooperative.

Equipment & Materials: Bowker Ford, T&L Oil Co., ESC (Max & Larry Tuxhorn), Northeast Electric Cooperative Tree Service, Ray Robertson Dozer Service, J&J Dozer Service and Davis Dozer Service, Diversified, International Paper

Food, Gas and Lodging: Bad Brad's, Subway (Cleveland), Lazy "S" Bar-B-Q, Pizza Hut (Pawhuska), Mazzio's (Cleveland), Judy Ann's Restaurant, Hickory House, Pawhuska Convenience Store, Victorian Inn, Budget ZZZ, Jumps Inn & Restaurant and Wynona Grocery.

Thanks also to: Local newspapers, Scott Shepherd - Pawhuska Postmaster, the Skiatook Methodist Men's Group, Dale Kelly, Teresa Hutcheson, Davy Watts, Terry Chaney and IEC employees.

Energy Camp Entry Deadline April 10

Eighth grade students are invited to participate in Indian Electric Cooperative's annual Energy Camp essay contest. Two winners will be chosen to represent IEC at the Youth Power Energy Camp with students from across the state.

The Youth Power Energy Camp is a leadership camp put on by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives. The camp will be held at Canyon Camp, near Red Rock Canyon at Hinton, from May 28 through May 31.

Students will spend four days learning about leadership, community development, and safety demonstrations and have the opportunity to set up and run their own cooperative business. Students will also enjoy volleyball, hiking, swimming, campfires and newfound friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Energy Camp contest is open to eighth grade students who are children of Indian Electric Cooperative members. To enter, students are required to write a 125-word essay on: "How My Cooperative responded to September 11th." Contact IEC at 1-918-358-2514 for an official entry form. Essays and entry forms must be sent to IEC by April 10, 2002. Independent judges will select two winners based on content, style and accuracy.

March 12 Deadline for Youth Tour Contest

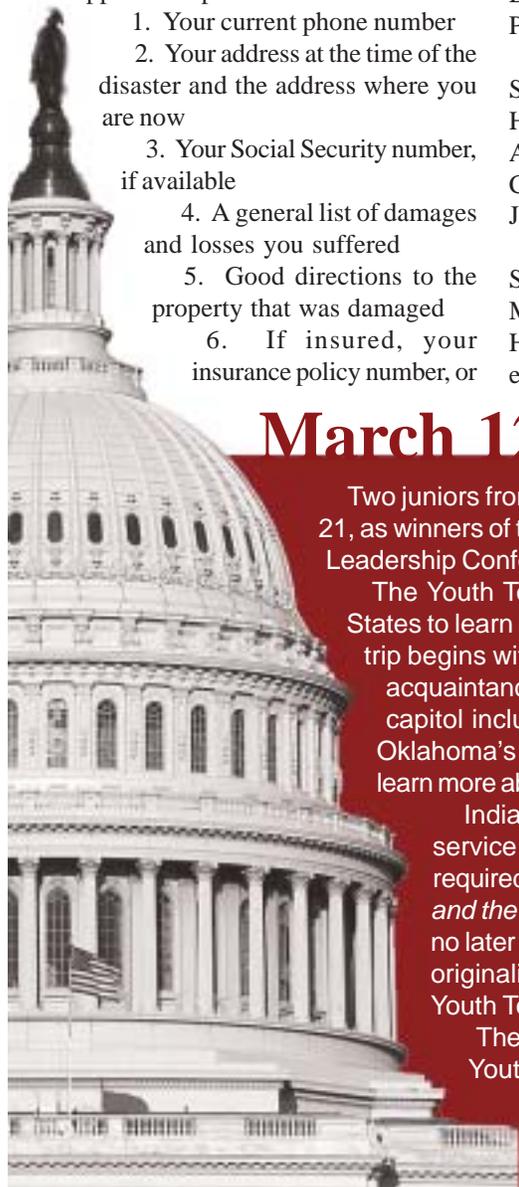
Two juniors from IEC's service area will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 14-21, as winners of the Youth Tour Contest. Two runners-up will receive an all-expense paid trip to the Youth Leadership Conference in Liberty, MO.

The Youth Tour Contest winners will join some 1250 high school juniors from across the United States to learn more about government, rural electrification, leadership and electric cooperatives. The trip begins with a "Get Acquainted Banquet" in Oklahoma City, where everyone meets, makes new acquaintances and has an evening of fun. After arriving in Washington, D.C., the tour of our nation's capitol includes days filled with sightseeing, a riverboat trip on the Potomac and breakfast with Oklahoma's congressional delegation. Students will also attend a series of educational seminars to learn more about government, the cooperative form of business, and the business of rural electrification.

Indian Electric sponsors the annual essay contest to select students who will represent their service area as well as Oklahoma during the Youth Tour trip. To enter the contest students are required to prepare and submit a 1000 word essay over the topic, "The Local Electric Cooperative and the Unique Role It Can Play in Community Development". Essays must be delivered to IEC no later than March 12 at 4:00 p.m. Impartial judges will grade the essays on subject knowledge, originality, neatness, and grammar. Finalists will be required to present their essays at the IEC Youth Tour Awards Banquet.

The two runners-up will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to Farmland Industries National Youth Leadership Conference in Liberty, MO from June 5-9.

For specific requirements, rules, information, entry forms, and materials, contact IEC's Youth Tour Coordinator at (918)295-9583. Additional information is also available on the IEC website at www.iecok.com.



Ro-Tel Ranch Chicken

Serves 4

1/4 cup Oleo
1 Med. Bell Pepper-Chopped
1 Med. Onion Chopped
1 can Cream of Mushroom Soup
1 can Cream of Chicken Soup
1 can (10 oz.) Ro-Tel (Hot or Mild)
12 Corn Tortillas, torn into bite size pieces
2 cups Shredded Cheese (Colby & Monterey Jack)
2 cups Cubed cooked Chicken

Heat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large saucepan cook pepper and onion in melted oleo until tender. Add soups and Ro-Tel, mix until well blended. Stir in chicken

In a 13X9X2 baking pan layer tortillas, 1/2 soup mixture and 1 cup of cheese. Repeat and bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until hot and bubbling.

This recipe was provided by the Cleveland Opportunity Center and will be included in their Special Olympics Cookbook scheduled to go on sale April 1st for \$10. Proceeds from the cookbook sale will go to sponsor 2002 Special Olympics athletes from the Cleveland Opportunity Center and the Pawnee County Workshop. To order your copy, call 358-9201.

Getting Ready for Spring Online

It might still be a little cool outside, but Spring fever is not far around the corner and that means it's time to start thinking about what you're going to do with your lawn and garden this year. We've looked through a number of gardening resources on the web and have come up with a few we think you'll find helpful and interesting.

Better Homes and Gardens has an extensive garden section on the website at www.bhg.com. It includes garden plans, a plant and flower index, a materials estimator, zone maps and a variety of gardening guides.

If you're interested in water gardening check out www.watergarten.com. Their site claims to be a one-stop spot for resources on water gardening and pond keeping.

The National Gardening Association has an impressive site at www.nationalgardening.com and features information about fruit and vegetable gardening, lawns and landscaping, and regional reports for gardening tips. They also offer a membership for \$19.95 that provides additional benefits.

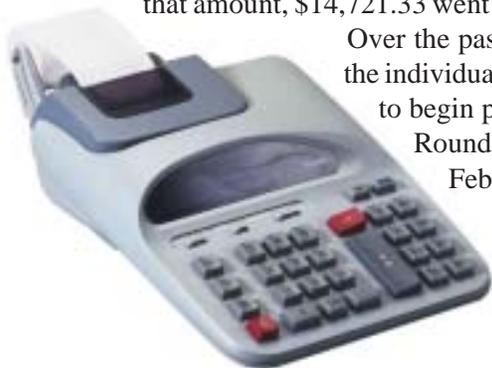
For gardening with children, explore www.kidsgardening.com. It is also sponsored by the National Gardening Association and features information for parents, teaching resources, classroom stories and articles, as well as grants and resources.

IEC Foundation Thanks Operation Round-Up Participants

Indian Electric and those who received assistance from the IEC Foundation would like to thank the members that participate in IEC's Operation Round-Up program. All funds for Operation Round Up are contributed by participating members of Indian Electric Cooperative, and are deposited into a trust fund separate from the IEC electric accounts. An independent board of directors, the IEC Foundation, comprised of people from across the IEC area, administers the trust. The Foundation meets monthly to review and act on grant requests.

Last year, Indian Electric members who voluntarily rounded up their electric bill provided \$44,622.75 for the IEC Foundation. Of that amount, \$14,721.33 went to organizations and \$23,424.37 went to families in need.

Over the past few months, the IEC Foundation board of directors has been hard at work researching the individuals and organizations that have requested money from the Foundation. The board would like to begin providing a monthly report of the wonderful work that is being done with your Operation Round-Up dollars. Listed below are the organizations that received money over in January and February.



Tiger Wrestling Booster Club
Pawnee County Casa
Cleveland 4-H & FFA
Pawnee County Deputies
Yale Chamber of Commerce

purchase of singlets
purchase 2 new computers
help with building construction
purchase 2 handheld radios
help with event insurance

For information about how you can participate in Operation Round-Up, please contact IEC at 918-358-2514 or 800-482-2750.