



The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative



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Frankoma Pottery

An Oklahoma Treasure Steeped in a Tradition of Artistry, Molded by History

A true Oklahoma treasure lies buried in the earth near Sapulpa.

It's not an artifact from an ancient civilization, or the answer to a mystery surrounding one of Oklahoma's famed outlaws. In fact, when pointed out you would probably scratch your head and think "That?"

Actually, it's not an Oklahoma treasure yet, but it's the beginning of one.

It's the clay that becomes Frankoma Pottery pieces.

Headquartered in Sapulpa, Frankoma Pottery is well-known throughout the United

States and even overseas for its dinnerware and collectibles, according to Joe Ragosta, president and general manager. Ragosta purchased the renowned company in August 2008. Martha Stewart says Frankoma Pottery is one of the Top 10 collectibles on E-bay, and it is used by the Food Network's Paula Deen.

Although he owned just one piece of Frankoma when he considered buying the manufacturing plant, Ragosta knew of the famed pottery. "I've always been a collector of antiques," he says, "and I recognize a great name when I see one."

Frankoma was created in 1938 when John and Grace Frank moved their

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Visit Frankoma at 9549 Frankoma Road in Sapulpa or on the Internet at www.frankoma.com. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m. each Sunday through Christmas. Phone numbers are (918) 224-5511 or 800-331-3650.

The Greatest Form of Business

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

The 2008 annual meeting of your cooperative was held October 25 at the beautiful Cleveland Event Center. We had a very successful silent auction of surplus equipment, great entertainment by Pake McEntire, and proposed amendments to the IEC bylaws were approved.

Patronage capital checks were given to members in attendance and the remainder were mailed. I get many questions on capital credit checks, the foremost being "What was the check I received from

IEC?" Capital credits are one of the unique trademarks that distinguish the cooperative form of business. IEC was formed by members who paid a small membership fee and obtained financing from the Rural Electrification Administration – a "new deal" federal program established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the U.S. Congress. Cooperatives are non-profit organizations which annually allocate to the members all profits, or "margins" that are left over after all expenses are paid, based

on the amount of power the members purchased in that year. Due to the need to maintain and expand the distribution facilities and keep borrowing to a minimum, the excess margins are kept for a time by the cooperative and are actually

paid, or "retired" to members as the financial condition of the cooperative allows.

Whether the amount of your capital credit check was large or small, take a look at the check and then take a minute to enjoy being a member of a cooperative. There are few businesses in this country that return all profits to patrons.

You have a voice in the operation of your cooperative. IEC is run by a board of trustees elected by you. They are all members of the cooperative and they reside throughout the system. If you have a question, comment, suggestion, or problem, they will be more than happy to discuss it with you. They are charged with keeping the cooperative in sound financial condition while meeting your needs for a reliable source of power at a reasonable cost.

I would like to thank you if you came to annual meeting and exercised your right as a cooperative member. I hope to see even more of you next year at the annual meeting as we celebrate the greatest form of business in this country.

Joan Ehler, (far left) of Fairfax won the Magtag washer and dryer at annual meeting. Other winners include Evelois Brisbin (center) and Mary Sneed, both of Cleveland, who each won \$500.



THE LAMP

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An Oklahoma Treasure...

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Norman-based Frank Potteries to a location on Route 66 near Sapulpa. Ragosta is the third owner of the company since the Frank family sold the business. A former factory operator in Broken Arrow, he says when he was considering buying the struggling business, he realized he could make some contributions that would help restore it to its former glory. He says the businessman in him wanted to update and improve the 'business end,' while the collector wanted to help Frankoma continue its high level of artistry.

When Frankoma began, there were a few artistic pieces – such as a puma and Indian chief sculpture that have become classics – along with a few dinnerware pieces. The line has expanded and today there are several dinnerware patterns, accent pieces, special pieces such as Oklahoma Centennial commemorative pieces, holiday ornaments, a 11-piece Nativity set, an annual Christmas plate, political mugs, and trivets. And in 2008, Frankoma produced a variety of pieces bearing a hummingbird and trumpet vine design commemorating the company's 75th anniversary.

Since the Franks moved to Sapulpa, Frankoma has remained in the same location, although the plant has had to be rebuilt twice after being destroyed by fire.

The second fire occurred in September 1983 and registration gifts for Indian Electric's annual meeting were destroyed in the blaze. For many years, IEC gave Frankoma pieces (some were custom designed) as registration gifts to those attending the co-op's annual meetings. Since the molds were broken after the custom designed orders were filled, those pieces have become collector items.

Today all that remains of the original building is the stone fireplace in the showroom. Ragosta has made a cozy sitting area immediately in front of the fireplace, complete with comfortable chairs and free coffee.

The sitting area also serves as an official Oklahoma Visitor Center and offers printed materials about the region and state aimed at tourists traveling through the area.

Also of interest to visitors is a museum Ragosta has created highlighting Frankoma pieces from the company's beginning to present day. It showcases the Ray and Sherry Stoll collection, which is on loan to the museum, and pieces are displayed on a rotating basis.

A visit to Frankoma in December offers an open and airy remodeled showroom gaily decorated for the holidays.

Frankoma partners with the Made in Oklahoma (MIO) Coalition, so visitors find a variety of MIO items; many that go hand-in-hand with Frankoma pieces. Ragosta and his staff have

Frankoma owner Joe Ragosta holds this year's Christmas plate surrounded by the popular Frankoma Nativity set.



assembled unique gift items such as Oklahoma produced soups, salsas or dip mixes in Frankoma soup and sandwich trays or chip and dip bowls.

The highlight of the Christmas season is the introduction of the annual Christmas plate. This is the 33rd year Frankoma has offered the Christmas-themed plates which become collector items.

Although Frankoma is well known for using beautiful colors inspired by Mother Nature's color palette, the Christmas plates are available only in white.

The same applies to the Nativity set. The 11-piece set can be purchased in individual pieces or all together as one, but they are available only in white.

Frankoma also offers small disc-shaped Christmas ornaments that can decorate a tree or gift, or serve as a small gift itself.

Ragosta is just beginning to chisel out his place in Frankoma's history, but it's shaping up to be well-defined mark.

He is working to re-vamp the Web site, plans to offer an online bridal registry and is concentrating on offering highly artistic pieces, which he feels is a return to one of John and Grace Frank's original intentions.

Ragosta will tell you he's a businessman, but he guides this true Oklahoma treasure with the loving hands of an artisan.



RECIPE



Rudolph's Cookie Kisses

1 cup softened margarine
1 tsp. vanilla
2/3 cup sugar
1 & 2/3 cups flour
1/4 cup cocoa
1 bag (9 oz) chocolate kisses

Beat margarine, sugar & vanilla until it is creamy. In separate bowl, stir together flour and cocoa. Blend into other mixture, mixing well. Refrigerate for about 1 hour or until dough is easy to handle. Mold a scant tablespoon of dough around each kiss, covering completely. Shape into balls, then bake on cookie sheet for 10 to 12 minutes or until set. Cool, then roll in powdered sugar.

YIELD: 4 1/2 dozen.



For the fourth consecutive year, IEC is helping the Salvation Army by sponsoring an Angel Tree. Fifty angels are available now at the co-op's Cleveland office for anyone wanting to help make the holiday season a little brighter for those less fortunate.

The angels are young people 14 years old or younger.

Gifts for the Angels need to be in plastic bags with the angels stapled to them, and need to be returned to the co-op by Thursday, December 11.

IEC offices will be closed Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25 so our employees can spend Christmas with their families. We will also be closed Thursday, January 1 in celebration of the new year. Service personnel will be on duty during these holidays; please call (918) 358-2518 or 1-800-482-2750 to report an outage.

Merry Christmas
and
Happy
New Year

