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*The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative*

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Volunteers of
a Special
Kind



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Want it?
Bid on it



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Spend Vacation Close to Home this Summer

Don't let soaring gasoline prices ruin your family vacation plans this year.

Staying close to home can save you money and create memories for your family.

There's no better place to enjoy the beauty of northeastern Oklahoma than at one of the many lakes sprinkled throughout the area. Two of those – Kaw Lake in the northwestern part of the service territory and Lake Keystone in the southeastern part – offer a variety of activities.

Both lakes offer campsites, fishing, boating, swimming, water skiing and other water activities. Keystone State Park offers cabins, also.

The campsites are for tent and RV camping. Kaw Lake has almost 300 family campsites, many with water and electricity, while Lake Keystone offers 142 sites. And throughout both lake areas, visitors can find picnic shelters, designated swimming beaches, toilets and showers, hiking and fitness trails, and fishing and courtesy docks. Some of the sites charge fees to camp and take reservations, so call ahead.

If you're planning to fish, be sure to get a

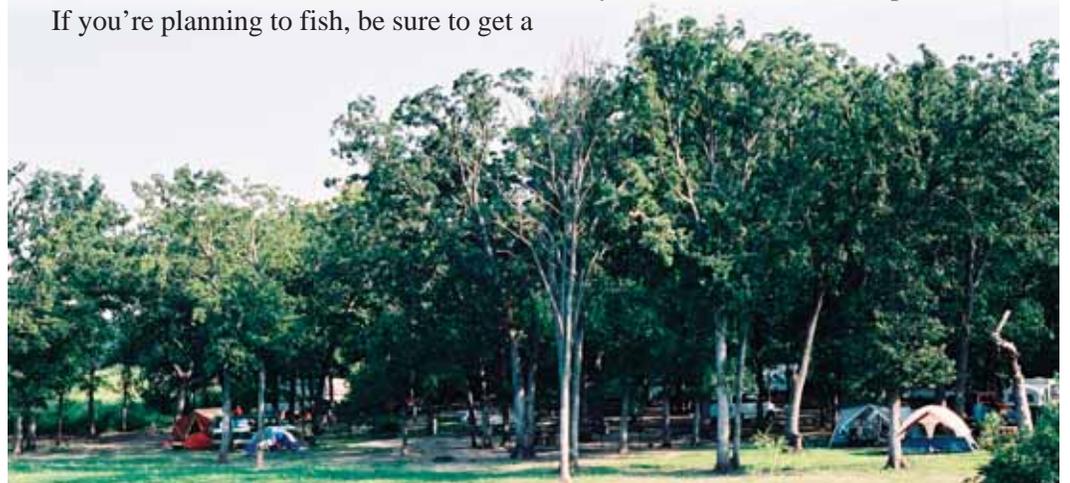
fishing license. They can usually be purchased at businesses in and around the lakes.

The areas around the lakes offer activities for all ages. Near Kaw Lake are museums, Sun 'n Fun water park, the Marland Mansion, Pioneer Woman statue and the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. The towns of Blackwell, Fairfax, Kaw City, Newkirk, Ponca City, Shidler, Burbank and Tonkawa offer unique places to shop and eat.

New Keystone Lake visitors can enjoy Discoveryland, the Tulsa Zoo, and Gilcrease and Philbrook museums.

In addition to shopping and eating in Tulsa, the cities of Sand Springs, Prattville, Mannford and Cleveland also have several interesting places to visit.

For more information on these two lakes and nearby attractions contact the Kaw Lake Association at 1-877-671-6985 (toll free) or Kawlake@kskc.net; and Keystone State Park at 1-800-654-8240 or Keystonecabins@oklahomaparks.com.



Happy Birthday! REA Reaches 70

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order signed on May 11, 1935. REA was just one of the "alphabet soup" of federal agencies started by Roosevelt's New Deal Program to aid the country in the Depression-ravaged 1930s. REA would go on to become one of the brightest stars of that New Deal program.

In 1935, 90 percent of America's urban population had electricity, but only 10 percent of rural Americans did. The following year, under the Norris-Rayburn Act, Congress authorized \$410 million for a 10-year program to electrify America's farms and ranches. Less than three years later, 350 co-op projects in 45 states were providing electricity to 1.5 million farms. By the mid-1950s, nearly all American farms had electricity.

REA provided both technical support and low-interest loans to help the fledgling cooperatives build lines.

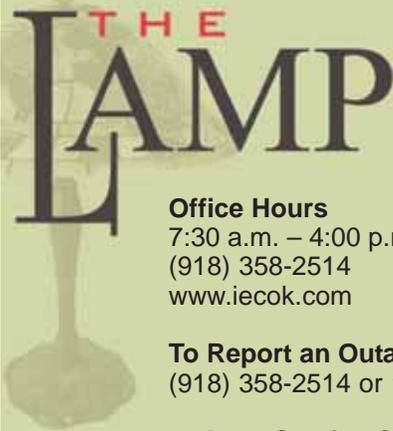
It has survived many changes in its 70 years. It is still making loans to electric cooperatives today and the repayment record for these loans to the government has been excellent. It has undeniably been a shining example of everything a successful government program can be. It provided a valuable necessity to allow rural areas to develop and helped level the playing field between urban and rural areas of our growing country. I think today everyone would agree electricity has changed from being a luxury to a necessity.

REA has undergone some changes in its 70 years. It is now known as the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), but it will always remain REA to me. The original 2 percent low interest loans became 5 percent loans and are now tied to municipal government loan rates. Several administrations have unsuccessfully tried to kill the program, claiming the job of electrifying rural America was finished. The technical support staff of the agency has greatly decreased as electric cooperatives become stronger and more technically proficient.

As we look across the country and see strong, successful electric cooperatives providing reliable electric power to 99 percent of rural America, one wonders if the program is still needed. Why were only 10 percent of rural Americans receiving electric service in 1935? Because private power companies found it much more profitable to serve highly populated areas than to build long lines to serve the sparsely populated rural areas. It is still that way today. Consumers per mile of line for the average rural electric cooperative today pales in comparison to that of the investor-owned utilities that serve the cities and towns. They are able to sell much more electricity with less investment in poles and wire.

The rural electric cooperative movement was conceived with vision and foresight and a clear mission. It has helped bring the rural regions of this country out of the dark ages and improve the quality of life for count-

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IEC has Largest Employee Volunteer Group at State Special Olympics Games

It's hard to tell who is enjoying themselves more, the athletes or the volunteers.

It's like that every year. There are smiles all around, shouting, applause, and a lot of 'high-fiving' as athletes of all ages from across Oklahoma compete at the state Special Olympics on the OSU campus in Stillwater. Also there each year is a large group of volunteers who are employees from Oklahoma's electric co-ops.

"Frequently, the co-op group is the largest volunteer group there," says Clara Eulert, coordinator for IEC's volunteers. "And this year IEC had the most volunteers at the games," she says, adding there were 55 IEC employees and/or family members.

Eulert says 130 volunteers were on hand May 11 through 13, working all areas of the track and field events.

"We were an easy group to spot in our bright yellow t-shirts," she laughs.

"Special Olympics is just an awesome experience. It is one of the few experiences where we get so much more out of it, than we put in to it."



IEC employee Amanda Ramsay (left) shares the excitement of Special Olympics with one of the athletes at the state games in Stillwater.

Revolving Loan Fund Helps Rural Development

Helping the co-op's service territory develop is the motivation behind IEC's rural development revolving loan fund program.

"Loans are available in amounts ranging from \$3,000 to \$100,000," says David Wilson, IEC's director of member services, adding the fund does not loan more than 80 percent of the total amount needed for any one project. Applicants are responsible for securing the remaining 20 percent.

Wilson says the program funds the following types of projects:

* Industrial/commercial development

- * Small business expansion
- * Small business startup
- * Business incubators
- * Community infrastructure
- * Community facilities
- * Medical facilities
- * Training /educational facilities
- * Tourism

Repayment terms will not exceed 10 years.

Wilson says applications are available at IEC headquarters in Cleveland. Once they are completed and submitted to the co-op, the applications are then reviewed by the board of trustees at a

regular monthly meeting.

For more information, contact Wilson at (918) 295-9557 or Clara Eulert at (918) 295-9558.

Happy Birthday REA...

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less Americans. Electric cooperatives have faced many challenges in the past and continue to do so today. The mission is still vital and I hope I'm around to celebrate REA's 100th birthday.

Blackburn Retires after 21 Years



Co-workers, friends and family were on hand May 10 as longtime employee Lois Blackburn ended her career with Indian Electric and began her retirement.

Blackburn came to work at the co-op in March 1984. Throughout her career she remained in the office services department, but held numerous positions.

“Lois has been a delight to work with and we wish her well,” says IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale.

RECIPE



This is a great recipe for cooking outside on your electric grill!

Grilled Chicken

1/2 cup white vinegar
1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
1/2 cup water
1 tsp. chili powder
1/2 tsp. dried whole oregano

1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 bay leaf, crushed
4 chicken breast halves, skinned and boned

Combine first 7 ingredients in a zip-top heavy-duty plastic bag. Add chicken, and marinate 20 minutes; remove chicken from marinade, reserving marinade. Grill chicken, covered over medium coals 8 to 10 minutes on each side, basting twice with marinade.

YIELD: 4 servings.

Bucket Truck for Sale; Bidding Closes June 22

IEC is selling a 1999 Ford F450 bucket truck to the highest bidder.

“We want anyone who is interested in this vehicle to understand that it is being sold **as is**,” says Rick Davis, IEC director of operations and engineering. “There is no implied warranty.”

Davis says the truck has over 121,600 miles, with a manual transmission, an aerial device (bucket) with a working height of 37 feet, all hydraulic, with a diesel engine.

The truck is currently at IEC headquarters in Cleveland and can be seen by calling the co-op at (918) 358-2514.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 22. They can be submitted by mail or in person.

Anyone with questions about the vehicle can contact Davis at (918) 358-2514 or (918) 295-9518, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

