



The official  
publication  
of the members of  
Indian Electric  
Cooperative



Great Summer  
in Store for  
Area Youth



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REA Act Brought  
Electricity  
to Rural Cleveland Resident



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Annual Meeting Plans  
Already Underway

## IEC Gives Students Unique Opportunities During Summer



Youth Tour winners are (above front row, left to right) Adam Bruns, Joseph Harp, Alexandra Smith and Michael Ben. Energy Camp winners are (back row, left to right) Samantha Insko, Alice Grantham, Danielle Mays and Sierra Davis. Not pictured is Laney Veteto.

A group of area students is looking forward to summer break this year more so than usual.

They will be attending camps and visiting the nation's capitol as winners of IEC's annual Energy Camp and Youth Tour programs.

Energy Camp is open to 8th graders, while Youth Tour is for 11th graders. Each program requires students to write and submit essays on specific cooperative-related topics.

Energy Camp winners are students of

Linda Bowen and attend Keystone Public Schools near Mannford. They are:

Sierra Davis, daughter of Robert and Gina Davis of Sand Springs; Laney Veteto, daughter of David and Lori Veteto, Sand Springs; Danielle Mays, daughter of Shawn and Dawn Mays, Mannford; and Samantha Insko, daughter of David and Kristi Insko, Sand Springs.

Alice Grantham, daughter of Paul and Tonya Grantham, of Cleveland, will attend

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# Co-op Youth Opportunities...

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Energy Camp as an ambassador. She attends Cleveland Middle School.

The students were asked to write a 100 to 300 word essay on "What is an Electric Cooperative and How have Electric Cooperatives Changed America?" They could write the essays as individual students or two-member teams.

Energy Camp is May 26 to 29 at Camp Canyon near Hinton.

Representing IEC on Youth Tour to Washington D.C. are Alexandra Smith, Jennings, and Joseph Harp, Ralston.

Alexandra is the daughter of Verlin and Gail Smith, and is a student of Julie Childers at Oilton High School.

Joseph is the son of Teresa Harp, and is a student of Heather Bledsoe at Woodland High School.

Alexandra plays softball and basketball, is vice-president of the Oilton FFA, where she shows goats, is active in the Too Much To Loose leadership program. She is vice-president of the Oilton High School Student Council also. Alexandra is on the school's academic team and is a former Special Olympics volunteer.

She attends the Oilton Free Will Baptist Church where she is active in the

youth group and volunteers in the church nursery.

Her plans are to attend Oklahoma State University and become a pediatrician.

Joseph serves on the Woodland High School Student Council, and prom committee, is listed in Who's Who Among Outstanding Students, and has been selected to represent Woodland's Student Council at state convention.

He also participates in Oklahoma State University's Upward Bound college preparatory program.

Following graduation, Joseph plans to attend OSU and earn a degree in engineering.

Youth Tour is June 12 through June 18. Winners of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, Michael Ben and Adam Bruns, will attend the camp in Glen Eden, CO. near Steamboat Springs.

Michael is the son of Michael and Lisa Ben of Fairfax. He is also a student of Woodland High School's Heather Bledsoe.

He is an athlete participating in football, baseball, basketball and track. A member of the National Honor Society, he is vice-president of his junior class, has been nominated to attend the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, and will be attending the American Legion Boys State

this summer. He has also been selected as a Who's Who American Scholar.

Michael plans to attend college and become a dentist.

Adam is the son of Vic and Jeanne Bruns. He attends Pawnee High School and is a student of Myra McCurry.

He is president of the junior class, is a member of Future Career and Community Leaders of America, Peacemakers, and Beta Club. He is listed on the Superintendent's Honor Roll, and is on the football, basketball and baseball teams. He attends the First Baptist Church of Pawnee.

He plans to attend college following high school.

The leadership camp is June 11 through June 17.

**IEC offices  
will be closed  
Monday, May 25  
in recognition of  
Memorial Day.**

Please call  
(918) 358-2514  
or 1-800-482-2750  
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in your electric service  
or a safety hazard.

## THE LAMP

INDIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

### Office Hours

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

(918) 358-2514

www.iecok.com

### To Report an Outage

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

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(918) 295-9520

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# Electricity Makes Member's Birthday Bright, Memorable

May 11, 1935 wasn't a day of any significance to Donna Batson. But 13 years later, on her 23rd birthday, that day in May when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Executive Order creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) had a profound effect on the life of her and her family.

Electricity came to the Batson home October 28, 1948, and changed the lives of Donna, her husband Oliver and their five children.

"That was something," she says, smiling. "Getting electricity on my birthday. That was real nice."

Donna and Oliver married in September 1941 and lived in a small wooden oil field house in the Dixie area near Cleveland.

"We lived there for about five months and then bought this 160 acres near the (Arkansas) river, next to his (Oliver's) parents," she explains, adding they moved the house with them when they moved to their new property.

"It was a small house," she says. "It was 24 feet by 36 feet and had six rooms. It had those old 2x2 walls," she laughs holding up her thumb and forefinger to demonstrate how small the boards were. "Boy, it was sure cold in the winter."

"I washed clothes on an old board and we used a kerosene lamp for light. And we used an old wood cook stove that he (Oliver) dug out of the ditch. His parents had thrown it out," she says.

The Batsons made their living like many folks did in the 1940s. "We were farmers," she says simply.

"We raised hogs. We made cream from the milk of our cows using our separator, grew corn, and hay. Oliver then became a pipe fitter, and I had to take over the farm," she laughs. "Me and the five kids."

"You get up by lamp light and go to bed by lamp light. You didn't go to bed until the chores were done," is how she explains their daily life.

"I used that wood stove to make light bread. We both came from families that were heavy bread eaters, so I had to make a lot of bread," she explains.

"I baked every other day," she says as she details the process of having to make the dough, kneading it, letting it rise so she could make several loaves at a time.

By the mid- to late-1940s, electric cooperatives were springing up all across rural America following the creation

of President Roosevelt's REA. Although Indian Electric Cooperative was created in 1939, World War II delayed the building of power lines. Following the end of the war in 1945, the need for electric service in the rural areas grew dramatically as Americans resumed their lives.

"We went and asked to have electricity brought out here. We paid our \$5 membership and told them we wanted electric service.

A man who worked for IEC came out and wired the house. We had already bought an electric range. And we had an electric washing machine."

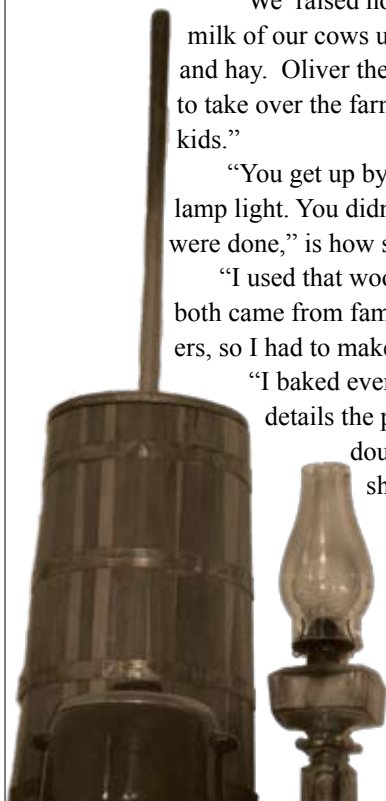
Donna laughs as she remembers Oliver going in to town and buying a toaster. Through the years their purchases included electric mixers, a food processor, hot plate, slow cooker and a pressure cooker. "I don't think I could have raised my family without a pressure cooker," she says. But the appliances she says she appreciated the most were the electric water heater and submersible pump in the water well.

Of course, they bought lamps, TVs, and her children bought her an electric bread maker so she didn't have to make bread by hand anymore. Today Donna watches her favorite programs on a big screen TV, cooks on a glass-top electric range and enjoys a life easier than she could have imagined 60 years ago, even after IEC brought electricity to their home.

"Those of us who grew up in homes with electricity, have a hard time imagining what life was like for people like Donna," says IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale. "I don't think we realize just how life-altering it was when co-ops brought electricity to the rural areas. It's good to be reminded how fortunate we are to live the type of life that allows us to take for granted something as precious as electricity."



*Donna Batson enjoys several electric appliances in her kitchen today.*



*Her grandmother's wooden butter churn and an old glass kerosene lamp rest on a shelf in Donna's home as reminders of the life without electricity.*

## Reminder

# Rate Increase Appears on May Bills

Don't forget your May electric bill reflects a rate increase on electricity you used in April.

For the average member, who uses about 1,600 kWh per month, the monthly bill will increase by about \$6.

Associated Electric Cooperative, who generates and distributes electricity to IEC through KAMO Power, is increasing what IEC pays for that purchased power by about 14 percent.

IEC is absorbing about nine percent, so members' bills are increasing by about five percent.

The funds generated from this increase are not remaining at IEC, but will pass through to Associated to pay for the power IEC purchases.

IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale says the increase is due to costs associated with producing power going up and governmental regulations.

"New power plants are desperately needed as current facilities are old and becoming inadequate," he says. "But EPA regulations are so expensive to implement and change so frequently, that it is difficult to build plants to meet those regulations."

"We realize this could be a difficult time for electric rates to increase," says Clinkscale. "That is why we are absorbing the majority of this increase. I encourage anyone with questions about how the increase will affect them to contact us. We will be glad to discuss this with them. I also encourage them to call us to learn how to use electricity more efficiently so they can get the most out of their energy dollars."

Clinkscale suggests members contact IEC at (918) 358-2514 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

# RECIPE



## Chicken Tortilla Casserole

- 6 chicken breasts, boiled & cubed
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 small can mild chilies
- 1 small onion, diced fine
- 8 oz. Jack cheese
- 8 oz. cheddar cheese
- 1 doz. corn tortillas (or 10 flour)

Tear up 6 tortillas, place in bottom of 9 x 13 pan. (Spray with Pam first.) Mix soups, chilies, and onion together. Smear half soup mixture over tortillas. Top with half chicken and cheese mixed. Repeat layers. Bake uncovered 350° for 30-40 minutes.

## We are Already Working on Annual Meeting

We don't wait until the last minute around here. Not for something as important as annual meeting. That is why preparations are in full swing. We want your annual meeting to be as informational and as enjoyable as we can make it.

There are going to be a few changes to the meeting this year, and you will want to take note of them. First, the date of the meeting is changing. It will continue to be in October, but is changing from a Saturday morning to a Thursday evening.

**The date this year is Thursday, Oct. 8.**

We are really excited about our featured speaker this year. America's leading energy expert Doug Rye will be here to visit with you about the importance of energy efficiency and what you can do to increase your home's efficiency.

Rye hosts the popular "Home Remedies" radio talk show that has been broadcast for 15 years in 14 states. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in architecture, conducts over 150 energy saving seminars per year across the country, is responsible for the construction of more than 50,000 geothermal-cooled homes, and has helped hundreds of thousands of people reduce heating and cooling bills in their homes, schools and military bases.

Annual meeting is a huge event, so we will be working on it right up until the meeting date. Our goal is to make it an event you'll enjoy. So make sure you join us Thursday, Oct. 8 at the Cleveland High School Event Center.