

“Hotlines”

Published Monthly
for the Members of
Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Cherokee, OK
www.aec.coop



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



AREA NEWS BRIEFS

**Nov. 1 Daylight
Saving Time Ends**
Turn back your clocks!

Nov. 4 Election Day
Don't forget to vote!

Nov. 11 Veterans Day
*Honor and thank your
military personnel.*

**Nov. 27
Thanksgiving Day**
*Give prayers of thanks
for the blessings in
your life.*

**COLD WEATHER IS HEADED
OUR WAY!**
**SCHEDULE A SERVICE
CHECK FOR YOUR HEATING
SYSTEM.**
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AEC SERVICES, INC.
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1-800-853-4969



Bonnie Haas enjoys life in her Stillwater home.

A lifetime of dedication to AEC

By Robyn Turney

In 1980 Manager Randy Ethridge secured one of his best hires for Alfalfa Electric Cooperative. Randy hired Bonnie Haas, a private contractor, to begin visiting high schools in the five Oklahoma counties as well as the two Kansas counties that AEC serves. Before long, Bonnie began writing articles for the Hotlines. Writing was a natural for Bonnie who was editor of both her high school and college newspapers. Bonnie revealed, “My third grade story, ‘The Pig Who Didn’t Want to Get Dirty,’ hooked me!” Bonnie’s humor as well as her writing began at an early age!

Boyd Lee, Manager of Marketing and

Public Relations, recognized Bonnie’s talents and launched her into training for the Safety Smart program, which teaches second and third graders about electrical safety. Toting equipment, Bonnie’s husband Chris traveled with her to about 20 schools where she and a lineman presented an entertaining, yet informative program. Bonnie recalls that the students loved it, and she did, too! “Second graders are hilarious, and the linemen are pretty funny, too!” After her husband passed away in 2007, the equipment became too heavy for Bonnie to manage; therefore, Ron Shafer took over the program.

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ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

Colin Whitley
Chief Executive Officer
& General Manager



Learning the Cooperative Principles

One of my favorite bumper stickers is, “If you can read this, thank a teacher.” The importance of education was drilled into me by my parents from my earliest memories around the age of 6.

The original seven co-op principles set forth in 1844 contained the simple phrase, “Promotion of Education.” Today Principle Five states that all co-ops should promote “Education, Training and Information.” This is intended for the employees, members, and the community at large.

It is based on the simple premise that if people know more about the cooperative business model, they will be in a much better position to understand the benefits and promote better use of the co-op and its resources.

While there are almost one million people in the U.S. that work for cooperatives of all types, very few of us learn about cooperatives in school. People understand that an investor-owned business is designed to make a profit or that a non-profit, like the Red Cross, is designed to serve the community. Co-ops have both an economic and social purpose. We operate on a not-for-profit basis so that we can pass along the best price for our good or service to you, the member-owner.

Due to the fact that the co-op business model is normally not taught by teachers, it is up to us at Alfalfa Electric Cooperative through publications like this one to ensure that you know about the differences and benefits of being a co-op member. Consumer surveys by Touchstone Energy and others consistently affirm that people prefer to do business with a cooperative if given a choice. In the coming months, AEC will be taking a long look at how we communicate with our members through this newsletter, our website, and social media. Our goal is to provide the best information so that we can continue to educate members about the cooperative differences.

We always welcome your questions and comments to help us promote the Cooperative Way of doing business.

con’t from page 1

When Boyd Lee left the cooperative in 2000, Bonnie became the Staff Writer for *Hotlines*, in addition to her other AEC responsibilities. Capturing many pictures, she also became the photographer for the newsletter. Continuing her home business of writing custom-designed baby announcements and maintaining her AEC duties for several years was very hectic at times. However, Bonnie managed both quite well.

In 2011 Bonnie moved from her Ingersoll four-story farmhouse of 40 years to Stillwater to be near daughters, Christine of Stillwater and Susan of Oklahoma City. A life-changing fall in 2013 produced some adjustments. One of those adjustments was learning to drive with a left-footed accelerator, which she wrote about in the August *Hotlines*. Riding with Bonnie in Stillwater, I was amazed with her ability to accelerate and brake with her left foot. After I returned to Cherokee, I gave my left foot a try on a side-street...let’s just say that I won’t be doing it again!

Bonnie has created wonderful *Hotlines*’ memories. She was privileged to meet many remarkable people throughout her years of interviews. The man who made knives from railroad spikes and the gentleman who was hit by lightning are two of her favorites. However, Bonnie’s most memorable one was the story of Mr. Schwab. He lived for 30 years in a railroad car that was parked on State Highway 64.

The history of the *Hotlines* personalities still fascinates Bonnie today.

This summer Bonnie began working with me in hopes of making my transition from public school teacher to *Hotlines* Editor a smooth one – her most challenging assignment yet. It was a difficult task “teaching this old dog new tricks”! She has to be one of the most patient and gracious ladies I have ever met.

Bonnie and I have been acquaintances for many years, first while working with her in my classroom for Youth Tour and then while working at AEC in the summer. I can honestly say that I have never seen Bonnie or talked to her on the phone when she wasn’t smiling or laughing. She has a special gift of brightening the day of everyone she meets. Her sense of humor is incredible and is what has seen her through some of life’s bumpy roads. Bonnie warned me, “I still see humor in way too many situations.” I, however, believe this is one her best assets.

Bonnie expects to continue doing the things she enjoys like reading books and writing hymns. She asked that I give her regards to all the special people at AEC. She would love to see or hear from old friends – stop by or give her a call. As I say “thank you” to Bonnie for assisting me and for her 34 years of relentless service to Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, I refuse to say “good-bye.” For you never say “good-bye” to a friend, you simply say, “See you later.” See you *soon*, my friend.

More capital credits waiting to be claimed

These are the remaining individuals with last names beginning with R through Z and the businesses. The post office has determined the following list of capital credits are undeliverable. If you have contact information regarding the estate or heir of any individual or business listed, please contact Christy Schanbacher at (580) 596-3333, Ext. 117 or Gina Waugh, Ext. 115. To have a discontinued business transferred to the former owner's name, call AEC to receive the proper form.

Individuals

RUMMEL, RACHELLE
RUSSELL, MONICA
RUST, LOIS
RUTHERFORD, PAUL
SALINAS, DIANE
SALINAS, JOHN
SANBORN, ALICE
SANDS, BOBBY
SARGENT, SANDY
SAYERS, TRESSIE
SCHANTZ, GLENETTE
SCHIECK, LOTTIE
SCHLUP, RON
SCHMIDT, HERB
SCHMIDT, RAY
SCHNAKENBERG, MARVIE
SCHNEIDER, B. J.
SCHNMEWEIS, DUAINE
SCHUBERT, STEVE
SCHUPBACH, EDWIN
SCHUTKESTING, WALTER
SCHWEER, LARRY
SCOTT, EDNA G.
SCRIPSICK TRUST, FRANK
SELLERS, CAROLYN
SEVERIN, ANTON
SHEKLAR, ROBERT K.
SHELTON, JIM
SHEPARD, TODD
SHOEMAKER, MIKE
SHOUP, MARY
SHULTS, ALLEN
SHULTS, GEORGE
SIMPSON, JESSIE
SLAVIK, W. A.
SLUYTER, AARON
SMITH, CLYDE P.
SMITH, DEVETA
SMITH, DWIGHT
SMITH, HERBERT D.
SMITH, LEROY J.
SMITH, MARK
SMITH, MURLYN
SMITH, NANCY
SMITH, WILLIS

SNOW, JOHNNY
SOUTHARD, JANE
SPARKS, KATHY
SPENCER, DEAN
SPENCER, EULA
SPICER, LUCILLE
SPINNEY, DEBRA
SPRAY, LOUISE
SPRIGGS, DJAY
STAKER, RAY
STAUFFER, EVERETTE
STEBENS, HAROLD
STEIN, PETE
STERNBERGER, GLEN
STEWART, GEORGE K.
STEWART, L. J.
STICE, MAURICE
STICE, PHILLIP
STINNETT, JANET
STONE, TROY
STOUT, CARL
STOVER, MAY
STRAIT, EDWIN
STRAIT, EDWIN
STRATE, VERA
STUBER, GLADYS E.
SULLIVAN, OLIVE
SUMMERS, JANE
SWALLOW, HAROLD
TARRANT, BENNY
TAYLOR, D. L.
TAYLOR, IVAN
THIGPEN, DAVID
THOMAS, DICK
THOMAS, HOWARD A.
THOMASON, STEVE
THOMPSON, STEVE
THORP, JOHN
TIDWELL, HENRY
TREJO, JACINTO
TRIBOUT, MATT
TUCKER, DEBBIE
TUCKER, TEMPLE
TULLIS, COWEESTA
TULLIS, EDNA
TUNNICLIFF, DAVID
TURNER, ROBERTS

UMBARGER, JOHN E.
UNRUH, LEONARD
UNRUH, OLIVE
UNRUH, SANDY
VALDEZ, ISIDORE H.
VANCE, EMMA
VANCE, TOM
VANDRUFF, E LUCILLE
VINCENT, HERMAN
VINCENT, RACHEL
VOGEL, LAWRENCE
VOGELSONG, KEITH
WAGER, WILL
WALDROP, GLENN
WALKER, JOHN
WALKER, V. E.
WALLACE, KAREN K.
WALLS, CHERYL
WALTERS, MARK
WARBURTON, HAZEL
WARD, JOHN
WARD, STEVE
WARREN, C. E.
WARREN, EVERETTE
WATKINS, JAY
WATSON, RICK
WEATHERS, ANGELA
WEATHERS, DWAIN
WEAVER, JASON
WEDEL, ELIZABETH
WEHERNBERG, DONNIE
WHEELER, LORETTA
WHITE, HARLAN
WHITTON, ANN
WHITTSIT, DON
WICKEY, JOHN
WIECHMAN, ROBERT L.
WILCOX, MATTIE
WILLIAMS, EDWIN
WILLIAMS, GARY L.
WILLIAMS, LEE
WILSON, ASHLEY
WILSON, BOB
WILSON, KARLA
WILSON, RICHARD C.
WINBOLT, TODD
WINTERS, WALTER

WION, LLOYD
WITHERS, ALANA
WOLFE JR, JOHN W.
WOLFE, ROGER L.
WOODBURY, ROY D.
WOODMANSEE, RUTH ANN
WRIGHT, HILDRED
WRIGHT, PATTI
YEAGER, JIM
YOHAN, THERON
YOUNG, BILL
ZAHORSKY/SHOUP, MARY
ZVOLANEK, MARY
ZWEIFEL, NORMAN

Businesses

ALLIED PETROLEUM INC
AMERICAN EXPLORATION
AMERICAN TEL & TEL
AMERICAN TRADING &
PROD
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
CHURCH WALDRON, KS
ASSOCIATED TRANS &
TRADING
ATCHISON TOPEKA & S F
AVRA OIL CO
BELCO ENERGY CORP
BENSON-MCCOWAN & CO
BOGO ENERGY CORP
BRAXTON OIL & GAS CO
BRISTOL RESOURCES CORP
CALICO CLOSET
CARMEN FIELD LTD PRTSP
CEJA CORPORATION
CHEROKEE INSURANCE
CHEROKEE LOCKER PLANT
CLASSIC CABLE OF
OKLAHOMA
CORWIN CATTLE CO
CUSTOM COMPUTER
DESIGN
DAIRY BOY
DAVENPORT SENIOR
C ITIZEN CENTER

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AEC offices will be closed on Thursday & Friday November 27th and 28th so our employees can spend time with their families this Thanksgiving holiday.



The **Hotlines** is published monthly by Alfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 PO Box 39, 121 E. Main,
 Cherokee, OK 73728
www.aec.coop

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- EQUILON ENTERPRISES LLC
- FAULKNER CORP
- FINLEY ENERGGY
- FISHER WEBB INC
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FREEDOM, OK
- FOREST ONE DEVELOPMENT
- FRANKS OIL & GAS INC
- FREEDOM ECONOMIC DEV CORP
- GEMINI OIL CO
- BILL GINDER ESTATE
- GOODPASTURE
- GRAHAM-MICHAELIS CORP
- GRAVES DRILLING CO INC
- HADA, FAYE - ESTATE
- HI-PLAINS VET SERVICES
- INVOIL INC
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- KOCH GATHERING SYS INC
- KOCH MIDSTREAM SERV CO
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- LIEDTKE OPERATING CORP
- LINDLEY LAND & CATTLE
- M&B TOWER RENTAL
- M&E INVESTMENTS
- MAGUIRE OIL CO
- MEDICINE RIVER RANCH
- MESA OPERATING LTD PARTNER
- MIDWEST MOBIL COMM
- ML MEDIA PARTNERS LP
- NAZARENE CHURCH
- NICOR EXPLORATION
- OCEAN ENERGY INC
- OIL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- OLSTEN HEALTH
- ONEOK RESOURCES CO
- OTC PETROLEUM INC

- PARK AVENUE EXP CORP
- PERMIAN CORPORATION
- PETCO OIL & GAS CO
- PHIBRO ENERGY INC
- PINTAIL PET LTD
- QUALITY LIFESTYLES HOME HEALTH
- QUESTAR EXPLOR & PROD CO
- RAM RESERVE CONSOLIDATED
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- SCANA PETROLEUM RES INC
- SMILEY DRILLING CO
- SOUTHGATE LANES INC
- SUN EXPLORATION AND
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- TORCH OPERATING CO
- TOTAL PIPELINE CORP
- UNION PACIFIC RESOURCES CO
- WARREN NGL INC
- WESTERN GAS RESOURCES INC
- WESTPORT OIL & GAS CO
- WORD OF LIFE CHURCH
- YEWED METHODIST CHURCH

The following names were inadvertently left off the capital credits list in the October Hotlines.

- ANDREWS, JANET
- BRADFORD, LYNNETTE
- DAYKIN, KENNETH
- HELMLEY, MAGGIE E.
- HERBST, RICK
- HOPKINS, MAMMIE L.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy – and help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy