

SWRE



Southwest Rural Electric Association
Safety, Service, Satisfaction... One Member at a Time!

News

February 2012

Volume 59

Number 2

1939 Altus article addresses beginning of SWRE

SWRE was incorporated in 1937 and celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2012. The following article from the **Altus Times-Democrat**, November 17, 1939, provides insight into the co-op's earliest years.

Rural Electric Plans Started in April, 1937 Tom Moran Carried Project Through



Tom Moran

It will be three years next April since Tom Moran, farmer of the Tipton community, conceived the idea of securing electricity for use of his farmer friends. The idea took growth immediately and as a result about 1,427 farm houses of Jackson, Kiowa, and Tillman counties in Oklahoma and Wilbarger and Foard counties in Texas are now being served over an area of 569 miles.

It all was made possible through the Rural Electrification Administration with headquarters in Washington.

Grants and extensions have been made to the original project until at the present time the Southwest Rural Electric Association has received a total of \$535,000 for 569 miles of lines and with 1,427 members.

The first meeting for those interested in the electrification possibilities was held with representatives from three counties, Jackson, Tillman and Kiowa. The meeting was in Tipton and was presided over by Frank C. Higginbotham, secretary of the Oklahoma municipal league.

During the next few weeks Moran spent considerable time working on the project, securing easements from the farmers and getting them interested in the work.

Moran encountered both encouragement and difficulty as the project got underway. Some of the farmers were skeptical of the plan, some believed that the cost would be too much, some were enthusiastic over the prospects of securing electricity.

Another problem which caused much difficulty also was where to secure power. It was after several conferences with Mayor Bert Holt and the city council that Moran secured a contract with the city of Altus to furnish power for the electric line.

Not only does Altus at the present time furnish power for this particular line, but the town also will furnish additional power



SWRE's warehouse and office were located in downtown Tipton in this 1940 photo.

when lines now being arranged for are completed.

The original project for which Moran worked asked for \$300,000 for 32 miles of electric lines. The federal government has granted \$150,000 with which the 158 miles were completed and energized with approximately 400 customers being served.

A second loan in the sum of \$153,000 also was approved. This was to supply a 160-mile line. This line principally is in Jackson county, continuing north from Ozark through the Friendship community, to Blair, west and south to Victory. It also includes an area in Tillman county.

Later in the year two additional grants were approved by the federal government for use in this connection, one for \$89,000 and the second for \$156,000. The first was primarily for lines in Wilbarger and Foard counties in Texas, while the latter sum consists primarily of extensions throughout Jackson, Kiowa, and Tillman counties, work on which is well underway, and portions of which have been completed.

Farmers who are members of the co-operative formed through the Rural Electrification Administration were required to make a deposit of only \$5, to take service for a period of 12 months at a minimum cost of \$3 per month and to give easement for the right-of-way for the line.

As long as the city of Altus is able to furnish electrical current and is interested in making a contract, all current will come from the Altus plant, Moran said.

Power for the lines and customers in Texas will be furnished by a station near Vernon but all customers in Oklahoma are being served by the municipally owned plant in Altus.



by Mike R. Hagy
Chief Executive Officer

Holiday Consumption has Consequences

It seems that before Santa had time to get back to the North Pole and while the leftovers from Christmas dinner were still edible, we were besieged through the airways and printed ads about how fat we were and how we immediately needed to lose weight.

By Christmas evening all the news media began showing pictures of fat bellies and rears bouncing around as people walked. Even though faces were never shown, I am certain that I saw myself in many of those news stories and weight loss teasers. Yep, I am pretty sure that was my stomach and rear that just flashed on the screen as an example of what the national obesity crisis looks like.

During the entire months of November and December we were overpowered with ads encouraging us to eat turkey, ham, stuffing, desserts, etc. Party, party, and party some more! And then, just as we put down that last bite of leftover stuffing, we were lambasted for having no self-control!

Here came the weight loss infomercials, the news programs, and the various foolproof diets! Of course the “Biggest Loser” TV program kicked off a new season at that time as well!

Seriously, it is very hard to keep myself from expanding during the holidays! There is more Mike now than there was before Thanksgiving and Christmas! Due to my diabetes, I have exercised nearly every day for a long time, but it is really depressing sometimes. In the winter, when I really can't brave the elements outside, I run on a treadmill at my house. I have discovered that this is not an exercise machine. Oh, No... it is a torture device that a very slick salesman convinced me to buy in a weak moment, and I am now too cheap not to torture myself with it! So I run and walk fast for an hour and I look down and I proudly see that I have burned 500-600 calories. Wow—I am good, right?

Within twenty minutes, though, I realize that the innocent snack food that I ate before dinner was more calories than it took me an hour to burn, and

that was before I had eaten dinner! It seems that those calories just sneak up on me!

I realize that some of those same things happen to me when I try to cut down on my electricity bill. Sure, during the holiday season I had Christmas lights on, a lot of company using more hot water, ovens and ranges burning constantly, the thermostat set at a high temperature so Aunt Whoever wouldn't get a chill, and a whole lot of extra power usage. So just like those extra calories that sneak up on me during the holidays, those subtle extra watts can multiply very quickly.

Space heaters in the well house, computers and electronic devices that are never turned off, water heaters that work harder in the winter, as well as colder temperatures outside – those extra watts can really mount up! For instance, using a 1500-watt space heater in the well house or utility room is like burning fifteen 100-watt bulbs around the clock!

At my house I have one of the new meters that we are presently deploying across our system that will eventually allow each member to view their own usage by the hour, day, and month. My electricity usage with and without company over the holidays was very interesting compared to the month before. It was no surprise that my January bill for December was higher than other months.

I can direct you to a lot of good energy tips on our website at swre.com or touchstoneenergy.com about ways to conserve energy and reduce your usage. On the other hand, I don't think you want me to advise you much concerning weight loss! Though our vision of safety, service, and satisfaction – one member at a time we will do our best to keep the lights on.

Reducing the magic number on those bathroom scales will have to be on your side of the meter!

Mike R Hagy

Eighth and 11th grade students who live or attend school within the SWRE service area are invited to participate in the co-op's 2012 youth essay contests.

Top prize in the 11th grade Youth Tour Essay Contest will be an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. this summer. There will be one Oklahoma winner and one Texas winner. Two runners-up will participate in the Touchstone Leadership Summit during their senior year. All participating contest finalists will earn \$250.

Oklahoma and Texas winners in the 8th grade Energy Camp Essay Contest will attend the Touchstone Energy Camp this summer near Red Rock Canyon in Western Oklahoma. Eighth grade finalists will receive \$50 cash prizes.

Full details about both contests can be found at the SWRE web site (www.swre.com). Entry forms which contain the essay topics can also be downloaded from the website.

Inquiries and requests for entries may also be directed to SWRE by calling 1-800-256-7973.

Deadline for 11th grade essay entries is February 15. The deadline for 8th grade essays is February 29.

Does SWRE have your Number?

Have you dropped your land line in favor of a cell phone? Or... Has your number changed?

It is important that SWRE has your correct current number(s) for contacting you relating to outages or emergencies. If your number has changed, please call SWRE at 1-800-256-7973 to provide an update.

Mapping Project Continues

Davey Resource Group is working with SWRE to complete GPS mapping of the co-op system and inventory.

DRG began the mapping process in Texas a few months ago and has now also moved into Oklahoma.

Worker's trucks will bear both SWRE and Davey logos. ATVs will show the Davey logo and SWRE placards.

What's Cookin' in the SWRE Kitchen...

This is an award-winning recipe from Texas Co-op Power's "60 Years of Home Cooking"

Coca Cola Cake

1 cup Coca-Cola	1 teaspoon baking soda
3 tablespoons cocoa	½ cup buttermilk
2 sticks margarine	2 eggs, beaten
2 cups unsifted flour	1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups sugar	½ teaspoon salt
1-1/2 cups small marshmallows	



1. Combine cola, cocoa and margarine in pan and boil.
2. Mix flour, sugar and marshmallows.
3. Pour hot mixture over flour mixture. Mix well.
4. Put soda in buttermilk. Add the buttermilk, beaten eggs, vanilla and salt to chocolate-flour mixture.
5. Pour into 8x12x1-inch pan that has been greased and floured. Bake 30 to 35 minutes at 350 degrees.

ICING:	3 tablespoons cocoa	1 teaspoon vanilla
6 tablespoons cola	1 stick margarine	1 box confectioner's sugar

1. Bring the first four ingredients to a boil. Pour over powdered sugar. Mix well.
2. Pour over cake just as soon as it comes out of the oven.

SWRE News

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Southwest Rural Electric Association

P.O. Box 310
700 North Broadway
Tipton, OK 73570-0310
1-800-256-7973

SWRE News is published monthly for distribution to members of Southwest Rural Electric Association.

24-Hour Dispatching

Emergency Service

1-800-256-7973

Payment Sites

Payments can be made at SWRE

700 North Broadway
Tipton, OK 73570

Online payments can be made at www.swre.com

NOTE: E-mail address must be on file with SWRE.

Payments may also be made at the following area banking institutions:

Altus – First National Bank, National Bank of Commerce
Blair – Peoples State Bank
Chillicothe – First National Bank
Crowell – State Bank
Electra – Waggoner National Bank
Frederick – BancFirst, First National Bank
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Return Service Requested

SWRE Trading Post

Ads are online for 45 days & updated daily at www.swre.com

FOR SALE: Crocheted names. \$5 per letter. Call 580-563-9470, Blair

FOR SALE: Registered Golden Retriever puppies. \$375. Will be ready for Valentines Day. Born on Christmas Day. There are six males and three females. To reserve a puppy for a Valentine gift, call Barb or Ken Patton at 940-631-2603 or 940-733-3174. Pictures of both parents and puppies available on request.

FOR SALE: Concrete roof tile. Skandia USA brand. Approximately 2,000 tiles available. \$6 per tile, OBO. Call 580-305-5534

FOR SALE: Two propane heaters. Both have automatic ignite and were bought at Atwoods. Have been in storage: 20-inch Pro-Com propane heater used one winter, \$100; 27-inch Pro-Com propane heater used three winters, \$125. Call 940-632-0511 or email horses3709@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: 50-inch industrial fan. Bought at Tractor Supply, used for three months and then put in storage. On wheels, has 2 handles, black. \$200. Pictures available. Call 940-632-0511 or email horses3709@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Four steps, 32-inches in height at 4th step and platform. Fiberglass w/ aluminum hand rail. Good condition. Pictures available. \$150 obo. Call 940-632-0511 or email horses3709@yahoo.com. [Ad 2012.01.17-03]

FOR SALE: 2004 KFX 400 four-wheeler. Runs very strong. Five-speed, reverse, extensions and nerf bars. Comes w/ a full set of sand paddlesw/ rims. Needs a tune-up to run. Asking \$2,250 OBO. Call 940-839-3843.

FOR SALE: Nearly new Remington 300 Ultra Mag. rifle w/ Leopold scope. \$550 firm. Call 940-839-8943.

FOR SALE: Two 15-inch saddles. One is nearly new, ridden twice. The other is a roping saddle, in really good condition. Call 940-839-8943. If no answer, please leave message. Will text pictures if needed.

FOR SALE: Old but nice house with about one acre in Odell, Texas. Three bedrooms/or den, two baths, kitchen w/ open dining, living room. New roof. Large two-car carport, water well. Window AC in all rooms except dining and baths. Ceiling fans throughout. House needs repair on outside. \$39,000. Call 817-235-1756 or 817-237-6178.

FOR SALE: 2009 Stallion trike motorcycle. Ford 2.3 liter 4-cylinder engine w/ 5-speed automatic trans. 150-HP. 9.5 gal. fuel cell. Steering wheel, air lift suspension, progressive shocks, trailer hitch, front and rear billet wheels, 7 cu. ft. trunk. Rated for 35-45 MPG. Only 3007 miles. Color is beautiful black cherry. Asking \$28,000. Call Brenda at 940-357-9714.

FOR SALE: Alamo switch grass, small square bales. Call 580-335-4126, Frederick.

FOR SALE: Commercial Polled Hereford bulls. Excellent quality, 20-24 months old. 940-852-5181 or 940-839-5551 (cell). Chillicothe.

FOR SALE: 1991 Chevrolet pickup. 129,000 miles. Clean. Runs well. \$2,000. Call 580-305-2556.

FOR SALE: Plumbing and electrical parts/supplies. Left over from an unfinished in-ground sprinkler system installation. Many PVC connectors in different sizes. Also, lots of electrical stuff. Can e-mail photos. Call Jill at 580-563-2252. Located near Blair.

FREE classified non-commercial ads available for SWRE members only

MAIL ADS TO JOE WYNN AT P.O. BOX 310 TIPTON, OK 73570. E-MAIL THEM TO JOEW@SWRE.COM, OR CALL 1-800-256-7973.