

KILOWATT

An Oklahoma Living Supplement

Published monthly for the Members of Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc. Cordell, Oklahoma • www.kiwash.coop

January, 2006



Your Touchstone Energy Partner

**Got a suggestion
for a story in a
future issue of
Kilowatt?**

**Call Lisa at
1-888-832-3362**

**Kiwash Electric
Cooperative's office
will be closed
Monday, January 16th
for an all
employee
training day.**

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Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100

Cordell, Oklahoma

www.kiwash.coop

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High School Juniors!

This Is Your Chance To.....

WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON!!!!!!!!!!!!

Youth Tour 2006

If you are a high school junior, you could be a winner of the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. for a week during June. It's free, it's exciting and it's fun! You'll join some 1300 high school juniors from across the United States to learn more about government, rural electrification, leadership and electric cooperatives.

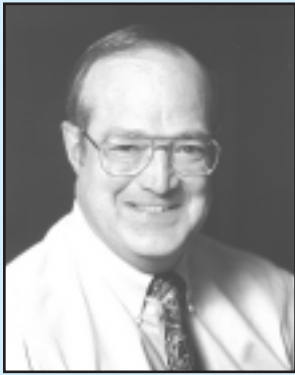
The trip begins with a "Get Acquainted Banquet" in Oklahoma City, where everyone meets, makes new acquaintances and has an evening of fun. After arriving in Washington, D.C., the tour of our nation's capitol includes days filled with sightseeing, a riverboat trip on the Potomac and breakfast with Oklahoma's Congressional delegation. Students also attend a series of educational seminars to learn more about government, the cooperative form of business, and the business of rural electrification.

Kiwash Electric's Director of Marketing, Lisa Willard will visit each of the schools in KEC's service area during the month of January. Lisa will distribute application forms and information packets to each student who would like to participate in the contest. From this information, a test, consisting of true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short essay questions will be given. Test dates will be announced at the time the applications and information packets are distributed. From these tests, the four finalists are selected and will be the guests of honor at a banquet where a panel of judges will conduct an oral test to determine the placement of winners. The top two students will be awarded the all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. The 2006 Government-in-Action Youth Tour will take place on June 9 through 16.

The Youth Tour has three main objectives:

1. To educate youths on all aspects of rural electrification in order to promote a better understanding of the value of rural electric cooperatives.
2. To provide an opportunity for youth to visit monuments, government buildings and cooperative-related organizations in order to become familiar with the historical and political environment of their nation's capital.
3. To provide an opportunity for youth to meet elected officials in order to better understand how their federal government works.

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives has been an active sponsor of the Youth Tour since 1963. More than 2,000 students have been sponsored on trips to the nation's capital in the last thirty-seven years. Kiwash Electric Cooperative has been offering the Youth Tour Program for the past 23 years.



Manager's Monologue
By Dennis Krueger



Moccasins

It's an old cliché that suggests we learn empathy by walking in another person's shoes. It is difficult to be able to share in someone else's emotions, thoughts, or feelings without having the same experiences in life. Not many of us are truly able to accomplish this feat. When we haven't experienced something, it's hard to imagine what may be involved. In this case, "imagining" is still seeing things from your point of view. The idea behind slipping on another person's shoes is to discover what it's like from his or her point of view.

It is difficult to me to envision life without electricity. A few of our customers still remember the emotions surrounding the day the "lights" came on for the very first time at the homestead. A few of our customers understand the hardships of life working a farm or living without electricity. A few of our customers can remember the back-breaking labor in setting a power pole by hand without the aid of heavy equipment.

The true pioneers of the Rural Electrification Programs are now part of the history books. The founders of this program, who with grit, sweat and vision transformed rural Oklahoma and America from the depths of despair and darkness to the splendor of hope and light. Kiwash Electric Cooperative was the twenty-first Rural Electric Cooperative organized in Oklahoma after the passage of the Rural Electrification Act on May 11, 1935. The decisions made by these visionary pioneers still influence us today.

An unknown Tennessee farmer, just after this farm became electrified in the 1930's, stood in his church during the service and gave this witness: *"Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you this. The greatest thing on earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house."*

Today's attitude toward electricity has changed dramatically. Instead of being grateful just to have electric service, we, myself included, think of electricity as a necessity in life. A blink in our electric lines causes the computer to lose a message or a digital clock to blink. While an electric outage might, heaven forbid, keep you off of the Internet or reduce your television time not to mention shut off the heater or air conditioner. Yes, times have changed. Our lifestyles weigh heavily on the convenience of electricity and most of us are spoiled to the fact that most of life's pleasures happen by the flip a switch.

A friend of mine just told me that he sold his house and temporarily moved his family of five into a smaller home until another house is remodeled. He said things are cramped, bedrooms are small, and the living room by day turns into a bedroom at night. The family intimacy has changed. Yet, he made one wonderful observation when he said, "You know during the last few weeks all five of us have become more closely knit and do things more as a family than ever before." Can you walk in this family's shoes or feel their struggle?

The members of Kiwash are also a tight-knit family working together to keep the convenience of electricity a reality and, like many families, trying to keep everyone informed on the challenges ahead of us. Kiwash is midway through its sixty-seventh (67th) year of operations and look forward to sixty-seven more years serving its members. To our cooperative brothers and sisters I want you to understand and know that the employees, staff and management of your organization wishes you a prosperous New Year and we all hope that our Moccasins continue to walk the same path!

Going South for the Winter?



With Kiwash Electric Cooperative's Snowbird program, great low rates are available wherever your residence may be. Enjoy knowing you can call anywhere in the continental U.S.* anytime and remain under Kiwash Electric Cooperative's customer care.

Call us today and have a safe and enjoyable winter season!

1-877-859-3033



*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Domestic rates apply within the contiguous 48 states. Certain restrictions may apply. Please call for details. Services provided by TransWorld Network.

Valentine Rice Crispy Treats

1/2 c Butter
10 c Crispy rice cereal
9 c Miniature marshmallows
2 c Candy Heart (the tiny red spice ones)
Candy Hearts (the ones with messages)
3/4 c Miniature chocolate chips
Red food coloring



Melt butter and marshmallows; stir until smooth. In a large bowl, mix rice cereal, candy hearts (spiced tiny red ones) and miniature chips together.
To marshmallow mixture, blend in 2 drops red food coloring, adding more coloring if necessary to reach desired shade.
Add marshmallow mixture to cereal mixture; stir quickly to combine.
Spread on a large buttered pan; press with buttered hands. While warm, press on candy heart (with messages) spaced 1 to 1/2-2 inches apart. Refrigerate and cut into squares.

Attention 2006 Graduates... Win a \$500 Scholarship

Four \$500 scholarships will be offered through Kiwash Electric Cooperative's Youth Program to be used toward college tuition. This scholarship program is offered to all Kiwash Electric Cooperative members' children who will be a high school graduate from a school within KEC's service area.

The applicant must attend a two or four year university or a two year technical school to be eligible for this scholarship. Any student receiving scholarship funds must maintain proper minimum hour requirements according to the specific university or technical school he/she is attending in order to maintain a full time student status. The student must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 (on a scale of 4.0) each semester to remain eligible for additional scholarship funds. Any tuition refund must be returned to the cooperative.

HERE'S HOW TO ENTER:

Type a 500 word, double-spaced essay on the chosen subject – **Kiwash Electric Cooperative – Adding Value to our Members and our Communities.**

Prepare a cover sheet including your name, home, address, telephone number, name of school, email address (if available) and a recent photograph of yourself.

Have the essay completed and delivered or mailed to Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Attn: Lisa Willard, P.O. Box 100, Cordell, OK 73632, by April 1, 2006. Essays can also be emailed to lwillard@kiwash.coop. A scanned picture will also need to accompany the essay.

Essays will be judged on the student's understanding and knowledge of the subject, originality, creativity, composition, neatness and grammar. Relatives of KEC's trustees or employees are not eligible to participate. Relative is defined as child or grandchild by blood or in-law. For more information, contact your school counselor or Lisa Willard at Kiwash Electric at 1-888-832-3362.

BULLETIN BOARD

What's Happening In Your Community

January 20 – Western Oklahoma Christian School Soup Supper 11am–1pm and 5pm– 7:30pm. at the Custer County Fairgrounds.

January 30 – Cordell Chamber of Commerce Banquet

February 4 – Corn Bible Academy German Feast and Auction – Lunch will be served at 11:30 am – 1:30pm with the auction beginning at 1:15pm.

To report the events in your community, or for more information, call Kiwash Electric Cooperative.

1-888-832-3362