



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Mark your Calendar!
 66th Annual Meeting of
 Kiwash Electric Cooperative
 Will take place on
 Monday, May 23rd
 6:30 p.m. in Cordell

When Power Goes Off

1. Check household fuses or circuit breaker box.
2. Check with neighbors to see if their electricity is off.
3. Call 1-888-832-3362 or 580-832-3361, Kiwash Dispatchers will answers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

KILOWATT

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 www.kiwash.coop
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The Thomas Gang



The Thomas Gang (left to right) Bill Haney, Larry Dobbins, Alan Deck, Randall Kourt, Vicki Litsch and Harold Gleason.

Are you old enough to remember the “Thrilling Days of Yester’ Year?” Those were the early days of television when Marshal Dillon, The Lone Ranger and Tonto, The Cisco Kid, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans patrolled the silver screen cleaning up the Wild West. The good guys always wore white hats and rode off into the sunset after bringing law and order into each town they visited.

The modern western heros are harder to find. Hollywood has not glamorized today's cowboys and cowgirls like they did in the 50's and 60's. Yet, we think we found a new bunch of modern day, white hat wearing, rough-riders right here in western Oklahoma. We call them “The Thomas Gang!”

Now, Thomas, Oklahoma is not a lawless community that has desperados running the streets, at least not to our knowledge. However, back in the late 1980's this town of approximately 1,200 people were in desperate need of keeping their community together without further decay and creating a new prosperous economy for their friends and family to enjoy.

The mission of the Thomas Gang was to create jobs and in turn create new economic wealth for their community. The odds of success in the 1980's were not good. In fact, they were in competition with cities with much greater population which are heavily funded; cities such as Oklahoma City, Ardmore, Lawton and Enid come to mind. Yet, they rode out in search of industry and businesses for their beloved town of Thomas.

It took over ten years of failures before the trail became hot with anticipation. Those ten years of struggles made victory even sweeter. Today we see their relentless search turn into reality by looking at the WW Livestock Manufacturing facility, J&C Enterprises Aviation building or Elder Designs. They lay claim to having created a little less than 100 new jobs in this small western Oklahoma town and they did it through hard work and determination. The Thomas Gang did what they could to assist these businesses, now, it is up to these businesses themselves to survive in the marketplace.

Who are these lone riders that braved a new and uniquely different world to bring success to Thomas, Oklahoma, you might ask? Well, they seem like humble, ordinary Oklahomans at first glance; but, do not let their mild manner fool you. The Thomas Economic Development Authority founders or TEDA as they preferred to be called are a unique gang. The Thomas Gang consists of Harold Gleason, Randall Kourt, Vicki Litsch, Bill Haney, Larry Dobbins and Allen Deck.

The next time you see one these modern day, community minded western heros you might want to tip your hat and say, “Thanks, partner for all your hard work.” The area surrounding the City of Thomas is economically in better shape today than they were in the 80's and so is Custer County. You might look for the Thomas Gang any evening as they might be riding off into the sunset searching for new jobs.



Manager's Monologue
By Dennis Krueger



A Letter to the Membership

Many people have commented on our rate structure with regard to our present unoccupied farm or non-residential accounts. This prompted me to show you some research that we found very interesting and quite stimulating to the historians in our cooperative family. The facts we are about to share are contained in the Kiwash financial records and the Statistical Abstract of Oklahoma 2000 book.

In order to properly go forth into the future and make the best decisions possible, we must have a firm grasp on the historical data. Here are some unique comparisons that we hope you find interesting.

The Oklahoma statistical Census data shows a decline in population for most of the counties that Kiwash Electric Cooperative (KEC) serves. Look at these facts:

Location	1960 Census	2000 Census	Percent of Change
Custer County	21,040	26,142	+ 24.2 %
Dewey County	6,051	4,743	<- 21.6 %>
Kiowa County	14,825	10,227	<- 31.0 %>
Roger Mills County	5,090	3,600	<- 29.3 %>
Washita County	18,121	11,700	<- 35.4 %>
Total Population Shift	65,127	56,412	<- 13.4 %>

The KEC financial reports show a meter shift and the statistical graph looks like this:

Type of Account	1960	2000	Percent of Change
Residential meters (gas & Electric)	3,081	1,161	<- 62.3 %>
Residential meters (All Electric)	0	808	+ 808 %
Sub Total	3,081	1,969	<- 36.1 %>
Unoccupied Meters	365	2,286	+ 526.3 %
Total	3,446	4,255	+ 23.4 %

Our analysis indicates that within the Kiwash service territory over the last 40 years we have seen a 13.4% population decline. We can also see that the rural areas, which is better defined as outside of city limits, has seen a 36.1% decline in residential customers. Thus, the trend we see is that many people have moved away from western Oklahoma and those who have stayed are more likely to make their residence inside the city limits instead of in the rural areas.

The statistics also show a 526.3% increase in unoccupied accounts, which are best defined as accounts serving fence chargers, water wells, remote barns, etc. and do not use kilowatt hours on a daily or regular basis.

The customer charge is intended to pay for the normal maintenance and materials associated with any account including such items as the meter, service wire, transformer, meter pole, etc. over a multiple year term. Normal maintenance includes installing or repairing these items after wind and lightning storms. KEC pays for their normal overhead items like employees, poles & wires, trucks, etc through energy sales. Yet, unoccupied farms in general do not use energy on a regular basis.

One member hit the problem right on the nose when they said, "... I don't live in your people's area" and "... \$7.00 increase from last month with no usage." Allow me better illustrate and expand on their comments.

Kiwash has just under 2,800 miles over line to operate and maintain. The majority of these lines (85% or 2390 miles) were built prior to 1960. Since 1960, Kiwash has seen a 36.1% loss in the number of residential customers and a 526.3% increase in "zero use" or unoccupied farm meters. This has caused a growing concern on the best method to maintain Kiwash's financial integrity while still serving our membership.

The dilemma for the Board of Directors is quite simple in which manner do they deal with a decline in residential customer meters while they know that unoccupied meters are steadily increasing. The method of choice was to raise the customer charge in disproportion to energy charges so as to equalize the effect of non-electric usage versus those who use energy. Believe it or not the rate adjustment seems logical to the staff and directors of KEC; however, we understand that change does not come easily.



Jason Smith



Robert Parsons



David Gray

Kiwash has hired three new employees in the past few months and we wanted to introduce them to our members.

David Gray was hired in September 2004 and is a long time resident of Cordell. He formerly worked with the City of Cordell as the Assistant Fire Chief. David is working on the construction crew as a second year lineman apprentice. David is married to Kari and has two children Kolt and Kristi.

Robert Parsons joined KEC as a construction lineman in February of this year. Robert is a former New Mexico cooperative lineman and will also be working on the construction crew. Robert, his wife Angela and two children, Carlton and Lucas, will be residing in Cordell.

Jason Smith is also a new employee since February 2005. Jason will be working as an apprentice lineman and will be working on the maintenance crew that covers the KEC area west of Highway 183 and north of Interstate 40. Jason grew up in Hydro and presently resides in Weatherford with his wife Wendy and three children Wacey, Jody and Jamay.

We welcome these employees and their families to Kiwash Electric Cooperative.

Stay warm and safe with electric blankets, space heaters

- An electric blanket and a space heater can keep you toasty-warm on the coldest winter nights. But use them safely.
- Follow these tips to stay safe as well as warm:
- Extension cords are not meant for long-term use, especially with heaters. If you must use one with a space heater, check that its power rating is at least as high as the unit's. Cords with lower ratings may melt or catch fire.
- Place heaters at least three feet away from anything flammable, and keep them off of furniture. Steer portable heaters clear of water, which means they're not safe for use in bathrooms.
- If you buy a new electric space heater, choose one with a switch that turns the unit off automatically if it falls over.
- Neither electric space heaters nor electric blankets are meant for overnight use. Pile on cotton blankets and turn your electric warmers off before you drift off to sleep.
- Don't fold or roll electric blankets while they're plugged in. Heat will build up in the wires and could set fire to the bed.
- For extra safety, replace the batteries in your smoke detectors at least once a year.



Save your pennies for a rainy day...

Kiwash Electric Cooperative is introducing a long distance program for just 4.9¢ per minute state-to-state, anywhere in the continental U.S. and 5.9¢ per minute for all in-state calls. There is never a minimum monthly fee or service charge to worry about. We can also offer a low 5.9¢ per minute rate for a personal Toll Free member and calling card benefits for only 9.9¢ per minute. So sure that we've made it easy to save on long distance, the only tough part is what to do with all that extra money.

Call 1-877-859-3033 for long distance savings from someone you know.



*In partnership with FSN TheWorld'sNetwork. Rates also include taxes and other regulatory charges. Certain restrictions may apply. Call for details.

Check Out KEC's Website

www.kiwash.coop

Whether you're needing safety tips, information about one of our electric grills or just wanting to see the latest KEC newsletter, you can find it all at your fingertips at www.kiwash.coop.

Kiwash recently revamped our website to make it more user friendly, more interactive and more informative. As a coop, one of our goals is to be able to communicate to our members in every form possible. Using the internet, is just another means of communicating with our members. Basically, it is just another avenue to reach us anytime, anywhere.

Information about our services such as residential and commercial service, bank drafts, average billing and information regarding KEC's products such as electric grills, long distance service, heat pump and water heater rebates, and the latest cooperative news to just name a few, are now available at the click of your mouse.

Be sure to visit us at www.kiwash.coop.

Recipe for Krispy Kreme Bread Pudding

Bread Pudding Ingredients:

- 2 dozen Krispy Kreme Donuts
- 1 – 14 oz. can of Eagle Brand Milk
- 2 – 4.5 oz. cans fruit cocktail – un-drained
- 1 – 9 oz. box Raisins
- 1 – 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 eggs beaten

Rum Sauce:

- 1 stick butter melted
- 1 lb confectioner's sugar
- Rum to taste

Method:

- Preheat oven at 350 degrees
- Cube donuts, mix and pour other ingredients on top of donuts and let soak.
- Bake approximately 1 hour.
- Top with Rum Sauce.



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

1-888-832-3362