

FEC. POWER *Source*

Vol. 19 No. 12

Christmas Memories from One Generation to the Next

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



It is hard to think about Christmas without thinking about Santa, shopping, Christmas trees and lights. When I was a kid, I remember coming to town and driving around looking at the lights. My parents also did a great job teaching us the true meaning of Christmas. We would light the advent candles and read verses about the coming of Jesus on evenings for four weeks leading up to Christmas. Most of my best memories growing up have something to do with the Christmas season. All of the family would come to the farm and we got to see all of our cousins. Then we would go to Granny and Papa’s house in Canyon and see all the cousins from mom’s side of the family. We still get to do that since I am so blessed to have most of my grandparents here with me.

The most special memories I have are the ones with just my parents and my brother and sister. Waking up on Christmas morning and seeing that Santa had come and filled the stockings and left us something special under the tree. We were always up before the light of day on that morning. Dad could hardly drag us out of bed to do chores and go to school the rest of the year. It never was the value of the gifts that were important to us. Looking back, it was the thought that went into them. The one gift that I remember receiving from Santa was a bike. He didn’t always have a lot of money so he had to get it second hand this particular year. He left a note on the packaging that said “The elves couldn’t stand not riding this bike before they loaded it into my sleigh and they slipped on the ice and tore the seat a little. I hope that’s ok?” I will never forget all the miles that bike carried me and the special story that went with it.



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire staff of Farmers’ Electric Cooperative, Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

Farmers’ Electric Cooperative offices will be closed December 24th and 25th and January 1st in observance of the holidays.

Now I have a wife and two little ones, Emma (4) and Evan (3) and we are making Christmas memories of our own. They are asking Santa for a bike this year and I have a pretty good feeling he will come through for them. We have an “Elf on the Shelf” named Elvis that is watching them to make sure they are good enough to get Santa’s gift. The good Lord has definitely blessed our family more than we will ever deserve and I hope that each and every one of you are touched in a special way by Him this season as well. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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Manager's Message

Lance Adkins, GM

Worthy of our Thanks

Well, here we are in the first week of December; the day is warm and sunny, much better than the freezing rain and ice we experienced over the Thanksgiving weekend. Many Farmers' Electric employees worked long hours repairing lines and restoring service over the holiday weekend. A number of others worked in the office through the weekend answering calls during the times when outage calls were heaviest. Some of our neighbors to the east, in the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma,

were hit even harder with some consumers out of service for more than a week.

For many, including the Adkins family, Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the "Holiday Season", a time filled with joyous family celebrations, feast and festivity. For me, it is also a time to reflect on the many blessings I have received this past year and how much I have to be thankful for. I am thankful for the Farmers' Electric employees who worked through the Thanksgiving weekend to answer calls and restore service to the member of the Cooperative. While I could not resist the

temptation to call in every so often to "see how things were going" I knew the members of Farmers' Electric were in very capable hands. I'm thankful for the dedicated, hard-working employees

who respond day or night, rain or shine to keep the lights on, as well as those who work behind the scenes in the office.

This year my family celebrated Thanksgiving at the Lubbock Heart Hospital, my mother going through open-heart surgery on "Black Friday". She is back at home now, recovering quickly, though not as quickly as she would like. I am truly thankful for the team of doctors and nurses responsible for her care and recovery, even as their families celebrated Thanksgiving without them. I did spy a family member of one of the nurses bring a couple of paper plates filled with turkey, dressing and all the trimmings for them to enjoy. I am also thankful for two other families we spent many hours in the waiting room with as our loved ones each went through a critical procedure. In the end, one family celebrated as we did; the procedure successful and a timely release from the hospital. Healing for the other family came in a different way, the procedure was successful, but other complications following surgery were too much to overcome; they are thankful for the care their father received and great memories of their husband and father. We were touched by their faith and their concern for others.

I am thankful for the men and women in the armed forces standing watch, both here and abroad, to keep us safe. Many will spend the holidays far from home, separated from family. As a nation we ask a lot from these folks and their families. I am thankful for Clovis resident Esther Steinle, who was determined to do more. Esther worked to establish the "Angel Arms" program to help young airmen, who otherwise could not afford to do so, fly home for Thanksgiving or Christmas to be with their families.

see **Thanks on PAGE 4**

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Scholarship Applications Available Now...

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Fort Sumner, or Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 762-4466 or (800) 445-8541. All cooperative members and their dependants are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February 3, 2014! Contact Your Guidance Counselor Or Our Office Today!

There are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the **"Graduating High School Student Application"** or the **"Returning College Student - Non-Traditional Student Application."** Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from the FEC website at www.fecnm.org.

The Farmers' Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals. Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2015, the foundation has awarded 1039 scholarships totaling \$702,080.00.



Energy Efficiency Radio Program!

Listen to the "Morning Buzz with the Energy Guys" every Saturday morning at 7:00 on KCLV 99.1 FM and again Sunday morning at 10:00 on KCLV "Talk" 1240 AM. We also have a Facebook page called "Morning Buzz with the energy Guys" where you can catch up on previous shows and find info on energy efficiency.

- Tips on Saving Energy and Money
- Electric Safety
- Mail Bag Section



THANKS from PAGE 2

If you would like to know more about the Angel Arms program, please contact Esther Steinle at 575-799-6348.

These days it seems too many are quick to look for a reason to disagree and be disagreeable. My challenge to you this season of thanksgiving and Christmas and throughout next year, look for a way to assist those who are struggling; go out of your way to thank those around you each day who work to make your community a great place to live; when you see someone in uniform, go out of your way to thank them for their service; take time to spend time with family and friends as often as you can.

Thank you too, for the support and encouragement you give those who work for you here at Farmers' Electric! Merry Christmas.

Until Next Month,



YOUTH TOUR 2016

In 2016, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors on the Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. on June 10-17. Applications are available online at www.fec.org or you can come by Farmers' Electric in Clovis and pick one up or call 1-800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity.



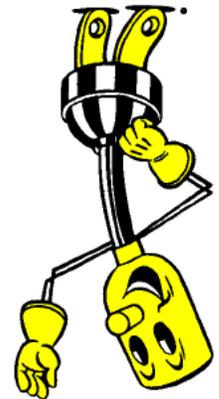
Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2015. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2015, through March 15, 2016, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

La protección del interruptor de invierno empieza el 15 de noviembre de 2015. Para evitar desconexión potencial de servicios contacta por favor al Humano Atiende al Departamento para la información de elegibilidad para los Ingresos Bajos que Calientan Programa de Ayuda de Energía (LIHEAP) en 800-283-4465. Su servicio no será desconectado del 15 de noviembre de 2015, por el 15 de marzo de 2016, si califica para LIHEAP y tiene no cantidad debida pasada ni hace el aceptó pagos.

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